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REVIEWS

SWISS RAILWAYS IN THE SIXTIES - VOLUME 3

From archive film by Alan Snowdon.

Those of you who have the previous two in Alan Snowdon's series will know what to expect. Footage was taken on 8mm cine film and comprises snapshots of railways in the South and West of the country and around Lake Geneva. Those of you expecting MITV quality will not get it and will have missed the point. These are shots showing scenes that no longer exist and are fascinating. There is a long sequence about the Blonay-Chamby at the very start of its life as a preserved line, views of the Chamossaire Chairlift and the highlight for me at least was the rack monorail on the Emosson line. You need to see it! The voice over was provided by Paul Russenberger, who incidentally attended the meeting and was suitably embarrassed, although he need not have been. The general consensus was that it would be a very suitable addition to a library. Alan deserves a hearty pat on the back for making the material available to a wider audience.

The video is available exclusively through the SRS Sales department and will be on sale at the AGM. It costs £10 including postage and is well worth it.

Reviewed at the regular, monthly SRS -West Midlands Group meeting.

THE VEREINA LINE - MITV

Another beautifully shot, expertly presented and well packaged video from Sue Knight and Chris Harnett. The history of the line, construction details, including the breakthrough together with great scenic shots from the ground and the MITV trademark helicopter. Superb technical quality underpinning the artistic. I know it has all been said before but MITV stand head and shoulders above the rest of today's video producers. The programme also reviews developments on the Prättigau and Lower Engadine to Scuol lines showing how some services will alter as a result. The consensus, need I say, was when, where and how can I get it?. Now. It is available from MITV, your local stockists and SRS sales (see page 19 in this issue).

MITV will also be at the SRS AGM, get them to autograph a copy!

Reviewed at the regular, monthly SRS -West Midlands Group meeting.

MOUNTAIN RACK RAILWAYS OF SWITZERLAND by J R Bardsley

Published by Oakwood Press, PO BOX 13, Usk, Monmouth, NP15 1YS

A5, thread sewn 128pp, 54 colour and 73 monochrome photographs.

This is one of Oakwood's few ventures out side Britain in their 60 years and is their first in Switzerland. It maintains their standard with a short history and description of 23 lines, grouped as wholly rack and rack and adhesion. The large number of excellent photographs are by the author and other well known photographers including SRS Joint President, Alan Pike. Rolling stock is not listed but is adequately described in picture captions.

SRS members will find the use of Imperial measurements strange. Some interesting details have been missed including the large lift at Lausanne Flon and the evenly spaced stations on the LO recalling its origins as a funicular. More details of the different types of rack would also have been of help in understanding a complex subject.

In conclusion it is a reasonably priced book and encourages one to discover more for oneself. Recommended. **A.G.R.B.**

SNCF SOCIETY OMNIBUS PUBLICATION

The SNCF Society was founded some four years before our Society and like ourselves publishes a quarterly Journal. Towards the end of 1999 they produced an Omnibus edition of their Journal containing 52 pages of articles selected from past issues, and have kindly offered to make this available to our members. Naturally the articles are on French subjects, but there is one of particular interest to us which deals with the Chemin de Fer de La Mure the home of some railcars obtained from the Nyon-St Cerque-Morez and the now recently repatriated Bernina "Crocodile" 182. Other subjects include A Potted History of French Railways, A Basic Guide to French signalling, Pre SNCF Liveries, the Gare d'Orsay, André Chapelon, Locomotive 242 A 1, The Montparnasse Accident of 1895, Wine wagons, The "Saucisson" coaches, and a couple of modelling articles.

Copies of this A5 booklet "Omnibus 1999" can be obtained at £2.50 post free (cheques payable to SNCF Society) from: John Wood, Cedarhurst, Packham Hill, Rotherfield, East Sussex TN6 3HR

Brian Hemming

MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS AND REQUESTS

FOR SALE

Roco H0: 43710 BLS Ae6/8 no. 206, £110. 44320 EWII Salonwagen, nos. 610-8 and 611-6, £22 each. Roco Club Edition EWIV Telefonwagen with antenna (not scale length) £20. Lima H0: Re6/6 "Uster", green, £80. Re4/4 no. 11152, green, no box, £50. Post extra or buyer collects.

John Atkinson, 36 Barley Ponds Road, Ware, Herts. SG12 7EZ. Tel./fax 01920 420954

HO BLS models by APC, HAG, Lima, Roco etc. All mint/boxed. Also Bemo MOB items and HO Zürich trams with Hartel track. For lists - Peter Bowen, 121 Chapel Croft, Chelford, Cheshire, SK11 9SU. Tel: 01625 861987

Bemo Rhb. Contact Roy Pakeman for list. Tel - 01608 659859 or email - rs.p@virgin.net

Lemaco MOB BDe 4/4 3004 Panoramic Express livery 9129/1500, Bemo MOB locos and rolling stock. For list telephone: 01684 310652



A digital image by Stuart Frost of the DampfBahn Furka Bergstrecke snowplough. The inscription reads: "Geplanter Endpunkt der renovierten Furka-Bergstrecke. Bereits in betrieb Realp-Furka. Ab Sommer 2000 zudem Furka-Gletsch."