

The reviews

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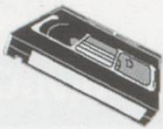
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THE REVIEWS



Continental Miles & Chains (Km by Km) – Volume 2 - Switzerland

Author – S Clarke. Published by the author and available from him at 45 Fellowes Way, Broadwater, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG2 8BS at £3.00 plus 50p postage. 147mm x 210mm, card cover.

This 78-page booklet is the second of a series being produced by this author including Benelux and Austria (in preparation.) It has a colour cover with a delightful picture of RhB Ge4/4¹ 609 on a Bergün to Preda *schlittenzug*. Inside, after a foreword, there is a list of all the *Kursbuch* table numbers showing the title of the table and the operating company. All the data, which covers both the Federal and private railways, is set out in the order of the stations in each of the table numbers in the SBB *Kursbuch* with additional references to specific locations such as loops and junctions. Four columns show kilometres from point zero, the accumulated distance in kilometres from the first point in the table and the equivalent accumulated distance in miles and chains as well as the name of the station or location. The coverage is comprehensive and includes a number of freight and closed lines as well as the new, as yet unopened, line from Zürich Hb to Thalwil. Even included is table 2143, the TTE funicular-rail-funicular route from Le Châtelard Giétroz to Emosson Barrage. There are a few spelling mistakes of place names and slight differences in distances in a few instances from the major reference work *Schienenetz Schweiz*, but these do not detract in any way from the excellence of this book which is thoroughly recommended as a reference work and in addition represents excellent value for money.

CHERNEK

Swiss Narrow Gauge featuring steam in the Alps

Author-John Organ. Published by Middleton Press. March 2003

172mm x 240mm 96pp Hardbound ISBN 1-901706-94-X £13.95

I purchased this book on a recent visit to the Severn Valley Railway at Bridgnorth. After a general history of Swiss narrow gauge locomotives, every railway operating steam was featured including the Blonay-Chamby, Rochers de Naye, Dampfbahn Furka as well as the regular culprits; RhB, BVZ, FO and others. A brief history together with maps are given on each section but the majority of the text is given over to the locomotives that worked the lines together with a description of the current survivors. Whilst not an exhaustive text book, the publication offers enough information to give the general enthusiast a feel for the remaining steam in Switzerland as well as a pictorial feast in the mountains. The photographs are generally well produced but there are rather too many lacking detail and having a look of over exposure. I think it is more to do with the printing than the photographer but it could do with rectification on re-printing. Whilst this is an annoyance the general feel of the book is excellent and I was particularly pleased with the shots of 2-6-0T no.213 at Brienz in the late 1930s and 204/5 in store at Volos, Greece 1961 after sale from the SBB in the 1940s. To my delight around 35% of the book is of the Rhätische Bahn and does include some historical E-Loks. A definitive guide to Swiss narrow gauge steam it is not but it is a pleasurable experience and with several surprising and interesting photographs. Did I buy it? Certainly and worth every penny, thoroughly recommended.

G&T

BVB Winter Cab Ride

Produced by MITV. VHS/PAL. Digitally Mastered. No commentary. 56 minutes.

£19.95. Available from MITV or SRS Sales, see the adverts in this *Swiss Express*.

Having been asked to review this video we sat down to watch it with great expectations already knowing some of MITV's previous videos. True to form there is the usual MITV weather with wall-to-wall blue skies and sunshine. As the video unfolded it became very apparent that this was going to be a "cab bash" with a static camera and alas no commentary, with the exception of the occasional Swiss French dialogue between the driver and control. The amazing thing about this line is its integration with the road and there are one or two interesting altercations with cars and with the train squeezing through the towns parked traffic!

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We found it disappointing that some of the truly magnificent panoramic scenery is not shown because of the limitation of a fixed camera. No background information is given on the area despite there being several locations where we think it is needed. People purchasing this video to learn about this area we feel would be disappointed, but for someone who just wants to see the line unfold in front of them the video must rate very highly as we feel not an inch of the line is omitted from the video.

The Phelps

(Editors Note: this is the first in a series of programmes from this area. Usually the first one to appear is the more general Iron Road-Granite Way series. This video is purely a cab-ride. The scenic one is on its way I am assured.)

THE CLASSIFIED SECTION - Members Adverts

For sale: Hag Cat. no. 168, Re4/4^{II} no. 11220, green. As new, £180 o.n.o. John Atkinson, 01920 420954, email: johnatkinson_editor@yahoo.co.uk

Looking For: BEMO 1265 134 - RhB railcar #504. Do you have one of these that you would like to sell? If you do, please contact Andrew Curtis on 01323 645060. Many thanks.

Looking For: Roco 44332 SBB baggage van with old markings in excellent condition. Martin Engel, email: mengel@collex.com.au

SOCIETY GREETINGS CARD

SRS is going to produce a greetings card and we would like a member's picture on it. Landscape or portrait format, it doesn't matter. What does matter is that it is a good picture. We know that there are loads of good photographs and photographers out there so please search out your archives and send some in.

Ideally a snow scene, for Christmas obviously, but this is not set in ice. It is also our intention to produce a calendar in the nearish future and it may be that some of the images will be suitable for this as well. If they are we will ask your permission, alternatively let us know when you send in the photograph that you are OK about this and that will be fine.

Send your photographs to:

Swiss Express Greetings Card

Nhulunbuy, May Tree Road, Lower Moor, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 2NY

FORMATS:

Film/Print: Prints of any size up to 10"x8", 35mm slides or negatives, APS slides or negatives. If you do have larger negatives or slides please ring the Swiss Express Editor first.

Digital: Images must be suitable for reproduction at 7"x5" with a minimum 300dpi resolution. Do not alter the image in any way; if it needs tweaking we will do it. Because the image size is likely to be large please do not use email but send them in on CD or 100mb Zip Disk. If you send in a jpg image please make sure that is a copy of the original.

Enclose some details of the picture, who, where, when and what etc.

They will be returned as quickly as possible as we now have the ability to retain digital files suitable for reproduction and print. We are looking forward to seeing as many as possible contribute to this project. Thanks in advance.