

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Railways Society  
**Band:** - (2009)  
**Heft:** 100

**Artikel:** Swiss Post and "The little red one"  
**Autor:** Farr, Michael  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854325>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 20.03.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# SWISS POST AND "THE LITTLE RED ONE"

Michael Farr



As Swiss Express celebrates its one hundredth issue, it seems appropriate to feature a stamp issued twenty years ago to mark the centenary of possibly the most popular Swiss railway – “The Little Red One”. The Rhätische Bahn appeals to both followers of the metre-gauge prototype and those who spend their time modelling HOm-gauge examples, helped no doubt due to its attention to making the public – and especially we railway enthusiasts – most welcome. For those who like facts, the RhB is the largest private narrow gauge railway in Switzerland which each year carries more than 9 million passengers and moves 700,000 tonnes of freight. The highest altitude on the system is reached at Ozpizio (2253m) and the lowest at Tirano (429m) both on the Bernina line.

In readiness for the centenary in 1989 of the first line from Landquart to Klosters Swiss Post produced an 80c stamp illustrating a train crossing the 285m long Landwasser Viaduct. This is certainly one of the most famous of the 494 bridges on the 397km system, although some may prefer the Brusio spiral viaduct. First day covers were cancelled at Filisur with a hand-stamp which included a sketch of the viaduct.

Ten years later the company started

publicising another milestone with the number puzzle 191111999 which appeared on all sorts of publicity. This was the date when the first new RhB line for 85-years years – the Vereina Line and Tunnel - was due to open and, this being Switzerland, it naturally opened on time with due pomp and ceremony! Chris Harnett and Sue Knight recorded the events for *Swiss Express* in the March 2000 issue. Now there was a direct route through to the Lower Engadine so the population of that splendid area no longer relied on the road over the Fluela Pass, so often blocked in winter. The opening of the tunnel resulted in huge time savings for many journeys. For instance, Chur to Scuol-Tarasp now took only 90-minutes instead of 190, and Lower Engadine residents could visit Zürich just for the day (160 minutes instead of 255). Fares also saw considerable reductions – the record being Klosters to Susch which fell by 66%!

Instead of issuing a special stamp to mark this important event Swiss Post decided to print a pre-paid picture postcard with an imprinted stamp showing RhB loco No 623. First day covers for collectors were stamped with a circular cancellation at Klosters. This also carried the names of Lavin and Susch, the stations at the other end of the Vereina Tunnel.