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BERNINA 100 STAMP

Michael Farr

As forecast in the March issue, Swiss Post has issued a CHF1.00 "Prioritaire" stamp to mark the centenary of the Bernina line. Instead of illustrating one of the older trains, Swiss Post has chosen the latest multiple-unit – the Allegra. If you prefer older rolling stock then you will need to buy a set of the two postcard reproductions, one of which shows a train on the Brusio spiral.

Probably the most popular of all RhB routes, the 61km line was built in record time to open in July 1910. This is all the more surprising when the many challenges which faced the builders – 196 bridges and viaducts plus 55 tunnels and galleries – are considered.

The stamps will be available at post offices while stocks last and can be bought singly or in sheets of ten. However, the postcards can only be bought from Swiss Philately who will also continue to sell the stamps until the



middle of next year - or until all are sold out. www.swisspost.ch/philashop

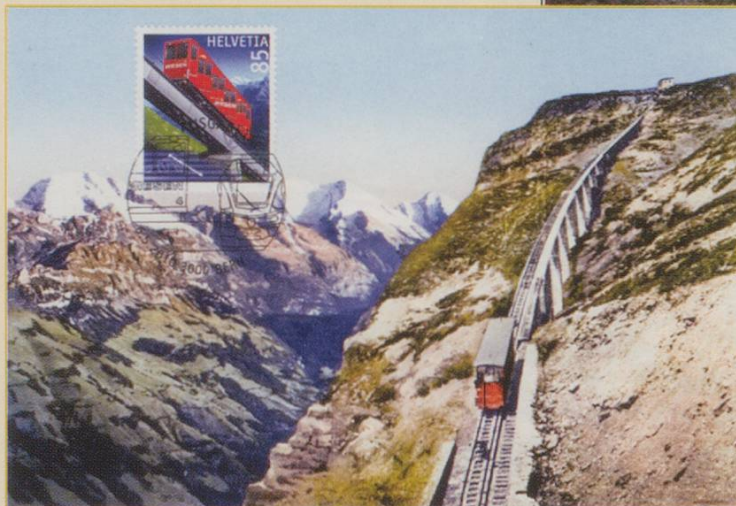
The second postcard in the set is an old view of the Niesenbahn, whose centenary has also been marked with a CHF0.85 stamp for normal internal mail. See SE 101 P42. New Swiss postal rates for overseas mail.

Members may like to know that the price of sending letters and postcards from Switzerland to other European countries has increased. The minimum rate, up to 20g, is now CHF 1.40 for Priority mail and 1.30 for Economy. Between 21 and 50g the prices are 2.60 and 2.20 respectively and 51-100g letters

will cost 3.70 and 2.90. Beyond Europe the 20g rates are 1.90 and 1.60.

Swiss Express is grateful to Pascal Mathis of Swiss Philately for providing this information, as he does regularly with details of new stamps of interest to our members.

Neisenbahn stamp and post card.



Ge4/4II, 619, stands on "Bernina 100 bill-board" duties alongside the Bernina line at the south end of Pontresina station on 12/06/2010. PHOTO: David Adams

MONTANA MINIATURES

George Hoekstra takes the Funi to the Model Railway Museum

PHOTOS: George Hoekstra

Although I obviously knew the long Funicular which runs from Sierre to Montana/Crans in the Valais quite well, it was my British friend John Griffiths who drew my attention to the model railway museum in Crans, a few hundred yards from its summit terminus.

The base terminus of the SMC Funicular

in Sierre is only a few hundred yards from the station, but it is hidden in a narrow road off the Avenue General Guisan. It is quite easy to find though. All you have to do is to follow the (slightly faded) red line which is painted on the pavement in front of the station. Follow the line up to the Avenue, turn left and after a few hundred yards it will