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tempt you. It is advisable to telephone before visiting the shop to ensure someone will be on hand, but if you cannot get to Lenk they are always happy to supply by mail order. Friho had intended to mark the 35th anniversary in style but sadly Fred junior has been far from well over recent months and so they chose a low-key celebration instead.

Their future models list is available at www.friholenk.ch and it offers many more temptations for us, so keep saving hard to buy that unusual wagon, van or coach which the mainstream model companies cannot justify producing. Small firms like Friho meet a need for those of us with limited modelling skills; long may they continue to flourish.

PHOTOS: *Michael Farr*

NUREMBURG TOY FAIR – 2010

John Jesson

The financial status of various model manufacturers continued as a topic of discussion at this event. It looked as though there was a buyer for Märklin although how much will survive was yet to be learned. During 2009 Falter was also in difficulty for a time; Kibri is now

part of the Viessman company; and after Modelleisenbahn (Roco) bought Fleischmann they now appear to be in trouble. What they are offering for 2010 is mostly a collection of re-releases, re-working of existing models and re-liveries.

However, not all is doom and gloom. The ability to design and produce limited runs has enabled several manufacturers to fulfil many modellers' desires. Although the process

started in the Low Countries, it has spread, with the "less popular" (in big-boy German manufacturer terms) countries now getting a wide choice of models. Switzerland may have received a fair amount of attention from the more well-known manufacturers, but we are now seeing plenty of gaps filled. Rivarossi, for example, producing some older Italian locos and BLS Re 4/4 and Ce 4/4 models. A welcome development from several manufacturers is that of producing both locomotives and coaches with different numbers, something that Bemo has been very good at for many years.

HAG were showing the GTW railcar and Hobby Trade, a Danish company, are making Die Post containers on wagons and stating the individual container numbers. Liliput have surprised everyone by venturing into N-scale with a model of the Stadler FLIRT emu. In 2009 L.S.Models announced the SBB UIC-X coaches and this year there is a detailed and very lengthy list of variations, together with a huge quantity of other Swiss models.

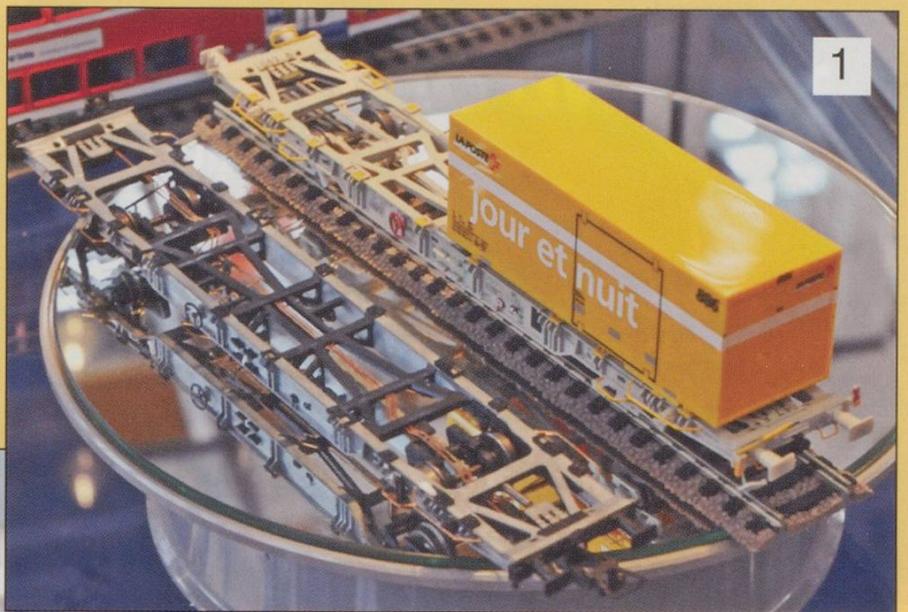
Editor's note. This is an abbreviated version of John's full report that is available on our website. A hard copy is available from the editor on receipt of an A4 SAE.

PHOTOS:

John Jesson

1. HAG/Hobby Trade:
2-axle wagon with Post
container.

2. Rivarrosi HR2058:
BLS Re 4/4 163 "Grenchen".



3. TPrehm: G scale Alpine horn
blowers.

4. Rivarossi 2136: Early stages
of the BLS Ce 4/4.

5. Liliput 133992: SBB RABe
526 "FLIRT" win Seehas livery.

