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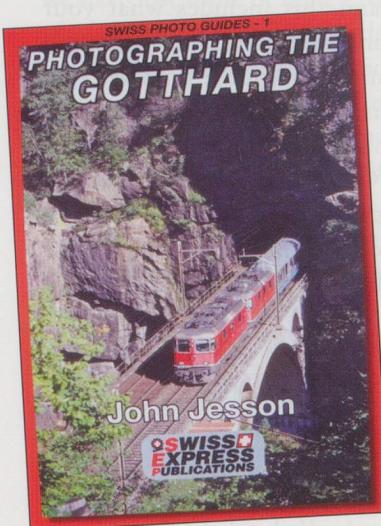
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BOOK REVIEW

Swiss Photo Guides No. 1 – Photographing the Gotthard

Author: John Jesson : ISBN 978-0-9563436-6-65:
Published by the Swiss Railways Society.
Paperback A5 size. 28 pages with numerous colour
illustrations.
Price: £6.00 by mail order from Society Sales,
or £5.00 from our stand at exhibitions.



Many of you will know John Jesson's interest in the operations of the railway running on the famous engineering works on both sides of the Gotthard Tunnel. Some may have been on SRS Study Tours to the Gotthard that John has been involved with. Most SRS members will have seen some of his excellent images of trains on the line in *Swiss Express*. Many will have been entertained by presentations that have been illustrated by his

superb collection of photographs. Now is your chance to follow in the master's footsteps. This book sets out to show anyone with a good camera and a stout pair of walking shoes, how and where to get splendid shots of trains on both the north and south ramp approaches to the tunnel. John takes readers to 14 locations on the north side of the alpine barrier, and 9 on the south, where with a little luck and a lot of patience you can emulate his photography. Many of my colleagues in Switzerland do not know of these places. I found his style of writing to be very readable and his descriptions of routes, etc. very clear. Unfortunately, some of the captions on the photographs were difficult to read and my eyesight is quite good. To get sufficient illustrations into this slim volume, in order to comprehensively illustrate all the potential viewpoints that John suggests people should visit, the production team have resorted to using quite small images. Perhaps fewer and larger photographs would have been better. Despite that, I consider that it is worth its asking price, and it will make the perfect companion for anyone who wishes to enjoy the remaining few years of busy operations on Switzerland's most famous trans-alpine route.

Jakob Jäger

Eisenbahnatlas Schweiz

Published by Schweers + Wall GmbH, Eupener
Strasse 150, D-50933 Köln,
Deutschland: ISBN 978-3-89494-130-7:
Hardback A4 size: 108 pages, with all maps in full
colour:
Price around £30 from Platform 5 Publications, but
check various other suppliers and always try your
local bookshop.

This is the enlarged and improved second edition of the atlas, which is an essential volume in the library of anyone, professional or amateur, who is interested in Swiss railways. As the editor of *Swiss Express*, it is a constant companion on my

desk and I really do not know how any of my predecessors managed this job without it. As much as I thought I knew Switzerland, when the first edition of this book came out I was glued to its informative pages, as I discovered far more about Swiss railways than any worded volume could ever communicate. The new volume now has 21 enlarged maps of busy areas, or of locations where the layout of the railway infrastructure is complex - such as the convoluted alignment over the Bernina Pass. The main maps are much clearer with much more detailed information about railway facilities, industrial sidings (naming the organisations served), etc. They also show important projects that are currently under construction, especially in urban centres like Zürich and Genève. Background information is also clearer. For example Canton names and their boundaries are far easier to interpret than in the previous edition. Also on each double spread there is a miniature map of the country identifying the location of the study area as well as the informative sidebars, which the first edition had, that give details of the current and abandoned lines in the area. The indexes at the back of the book are also much clearer to read. If you have the first edition you really should upgrade to this one. If you do not have the original then this is almost a must have.

Malcolm Bulpitt

Peter's Railway Series

Author and Publisher: Christopher Vine, PO Box 9246, Bridge of Weir, PA11 3WD.
English.32 pages in full colour.
Format: 150mm x 138mm softback.

Peter's Railway – Now and Then

ISBN 978-1-9088970-0-8

Peter's Railway – A Big Smellie Bogie

ISBN 978-1-9088970-1-5

Peter's Railway – Molten Metal

ISBN 978-1-9088970-3-9

Little Peter's Railway – The Picnic

ISBN 978-1-988970-22

All are priced at £2.99 each plus £0.50 p&p from the above address. Also available at many heritage railways' book/gift shops, good local bookshops or via www.petersrailway.com

The first three books are aimed at 6 to 10 year olds whilst the fourth book is in the author's "Little Peter's" series of books that are aimed at a reading audience of 3 to 6 year olds. These are small books for small people at a small price - £2.99 - and they are based around the characters in the Peter's Railway series that we have discussed before. All the books meet their target audiences and are a welcome addition to the limited railway-themed reading material available for these age groups. The books contain a nice spread of material from well-presented basic technical information to adventures and escapades on railways. Chris Vine has now sold over 50,000 copies of the titles in the Peter's Railway series and these four new books should see this total substantially increase. If you have children or grandchildren, nieces or nephews, or just know children who like trains, these books should be on your to-buy list for birthdays, Christmas, or just as a simple gift to encourage the next generation to like railways as much as we do. Every child we have introduced to these stories has thoroughly enjoyed them – as have adult readers too! 