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Autor: Farr, Michael
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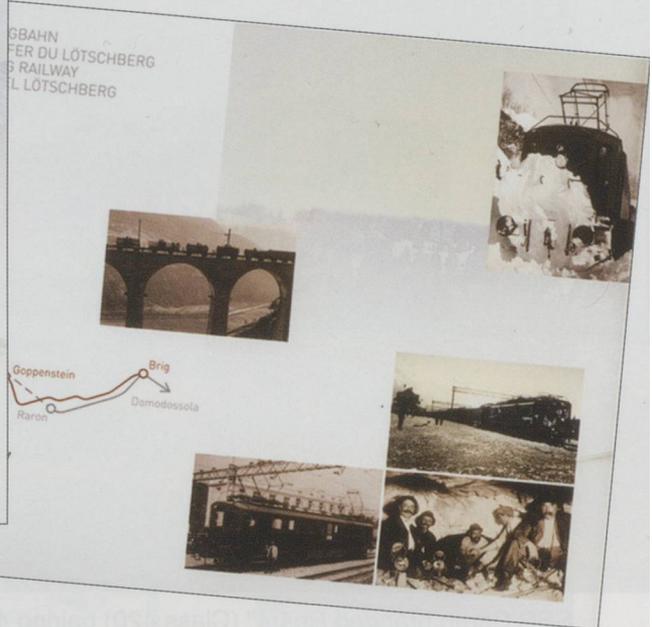
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BLS CENTENARY STAMPS

Michael Farr



The BLS Centenary was marked by SwissPost on 7th March with the issue of a special CHF1 stamp. They will be available from post offices for use as part payment on your postcards either individually, or in sheetlets of 10 stamps. For collectors there is also a maximum card with a 1930s photo described as “An international express train powered by a Be 5/7 locomotive on the Kander viaduct in Frutigen”. The postal authorities reckon the importance of this centenary rates the issue of a “combi-folder” illustrating a Be 5/7 alongside a Lötschberger unit at Spiez. The folder contains a brief historic description with several photos and comes complete with the new stamp, and also one of the 2006 BLS commemorative issues which was also designed by Marc Weller of Bern. The special items are available from philatelic counters or www.swisspost.ch/philashop. If you have children or grandchildren you want to initiate in the ways of Swiss stamp collecting, Swiss Post issues an attractive full-colour ‘Fred and Fun’ collection booklet each year. The 2013 edition is now available with information on a variety of topics related to special stamp issues, as well as games and quizzes; three versions are published – in German, French and English. For more information visit stamps@swisspost.ch.



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Also on 7th March SwissPost issued another stamp to mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of Gottlieb Duttwiler. If his name is unfamiliar, I'm sure that any member who has visited Switzerland will have used one of the shops he founded – MIGROS. Beginning in 1925 with a fleet of five vans, Duttwiler revolutionised the grocery business in Switzerland before spreading the MIGROS wings to include 90 companies with 86,000 staff – and even a complete rack railway, from Capolago to Monte Generoso.

