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With a progressive move to air brakes on the new trains, this suggests expensive modifications or replacements. This traffic is already subsidized by the Canton, which may be reluctant to incur further expenditure. Even in Switzerland resources are finite.

Not specifically Swiss

For those who did not know, following the demise of the "Cookbook" (the Thomas Cook International Timetable), the

rights to this publication have now been transferred to a new company headed by one of its former compilers, and backed-up by a number of former Thos. Cook employees. The timetable is expected to be re-launched in February 2014. 

Swiss News is compiled by Bryan Stone and includes input from Mario Gavazzi, Michael Farr, Jakob Jäger, Michael Donovan, Dick Carter, s'Murmeli, Mario Stefani, Ron Smith, Roger Kemp, Christian Ammann and others.

A MODEL SET OF STAMPS

Michael Farr



The Swiss Pro Juventute foundation supports young people and their parents and every year they anticipate that over 300,000 children and 100,000 parents benefit from its wide range of services. A major source of income for the foundation is the proceeds of their annual issue of charity stamps through SwissPost, where buyers pay a surcharge on top of the normal postage rate.

In 2013 they selected an ever-popular subject – railway locomotives. However on this occasion the illustrations are based on models and not the real thing. The set is made up of three different designs, the 85 + 40rp value illustrates the Rae 2/4 'Red Arrow' while the two stamps at CHF1.00 + 50rp illustrate 'Krokodil' Ce 6/8 No 14316 and one of the Ae 6/6 locos carrying a canton name. The designer, Laszlo Horvath, chose 11414 carrying the name of his home canton, Berne. Although issued in November, these stamps will be available at post offices until the end of January 2014 and through www.swisspost.ch/philashop until the end of June (or in both cases so long as stocks last). In the publicity blurb SwissPost reckon the birth of model railways was Märklin's display at the Leipzig Toy Fair in 1891. It is interesting to read

how they suggest our Swiss friends look upon their collections of models; "... the value of today's model railway components is stagnating. . . now it is only rare items . . . that command high prices". No mention is made of the pleasure I get from looking at the accumulation of HOm models in a glass case in our study!

It is worth noting that SwissPost's 2014 programme of special stamps includes one of railway interest. On 8 May a CHF 1.00 value will commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Pilatusbahn as well as a maximum card costing CHF 2.00. For further information check online nearer the date of issue (www.swisspost.ch/stamps) or request a subscription to their free quarterly magazine 'Focus on Stamps'.

I would like the opportunity to mention our Halifax member Tony Hoyle, a former President of the Helvetia Philatelic Society, who has kept me informed of interesting new (and old) stamp issues for many years. Sadly Tony was recently ill and unable to make his annual pilgrimage to Switzerland, so I wish him improved health in 2014; the good news is that he tells me he has already booked a holiday, no doubt in his beloved Jungfrau region! 

Swiss Tips: Good ideas and information about Switzerland from travellers.

Visiting the Verkehrshaus, the Transport Museum in Luzern? If you arrive at the main station you can get there in three different ways. Firstly, by the frequent trolleybuses on Lines 6 and 8 from over on the left outside the main entrance. Secondly you can continue by train. This is special, for not only is there a fairly new station 'Luzern-Verkehrshaus' just a 6 min. trip away, but it is on the original Gotthardbahn main line from Luzern to Küssnacht and Immensee. The main-line trains now mostly use the old Nordost-Bahn line, slightly further north via Rotkreuz, but you can take a Voralpen-Express, going to St Gallen, with SOB coaches and usually headed by a Cl.446 or Cl.456. These are hourly at xx.40, with a local at xx.06. Finally in high summer (check - the timetables are complex), there is a ship leaving at xx.12, and normally at 09.12 and 11.12 it is a stately paddle steamer. The first stop is 'Verkehrshaus-Lido'. The SwissPass is valid on all options. After a day at the museum, it's nice to return on the ship - sailing times are in the Museum lobby. 