

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2014)
Heft: 118

Rubrik: And finally... Heidi's Postcard - a postscript from the editor

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 04.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>


And finally...

Heidi's Postcard – a postscript from the Editor

In *Swiss Express* 117 (March 2014) we showed a postcard of the Vierwaldstättersee that Heidi Marriott had found in a charity shop in Totnes. The date of the card was unknown, it had never been written or posted, and the only clue to its age was a stamp-square stating a 5-rappen stamp was required. We asked if there was a philatelist out there who could help with dating Heidi's find. Fortunately one of our members is Werner Gattiker, not only a philatelist, but also the proprietor of SWISSSTAMPS, a specialist stamp dealership. He has informed us that the 5 rappen rate was in use from the introduction of the tourist postcard in 1870 right up to the end of 1917. From January 1918 the postcard rate went up to 7½ rappen. This would appear to indicate that the postcard was published between the opening of the Treib Seelisberg Bahn (TSB) funicular on the 31st May 1916 and the end of 1917, meaning that the publishers were quite quick off the mark. However, there are other alternative scenarios. The basic card may have been in circulation for some time before 1916 and with work on the TSB having started in April 1914, the publishers added the small detail of the TSB to the bottom right-hand corner of the earlier drawing at this time. Another



possibility is that the original drawing was made as far back as 1910 at the time of the Federal concession for the TSB being granted. Funiculars were quick and relatively cheap to construct and it may have been considered in the area that it would have been up-and-running in just a year or so. Although this was the era of the Belle Epoch, when tourists were flocking to Switzerland, by 1910 the events that would lead to war

in 1914 were already brewing-up over Europe. In the circumstances perhaps investment money was not as forthcoming as the promoters of the TSB expected, hence the delayed start four years later. Without local knowledge we will probably never know the reasons for this, or the actual date that the card was manufactured. Werner tends to agree with me that the line of the TSB was drawn-in 'in anticipation' of its opening. Incidentally, it is not generally realised that in many tourist areas of Switzerland the total numbers of visitors that arrived in the pre-WW1 boom time were not reached again until the end of the 1950s. The TSB survived this period and is still working today serving residents, and visitors to this corner of the Vierwaldstättersee. No doubt there are more modern postcards showing it, the postage is dearer though! 

TODAY'S RAILWAYS EUROPE

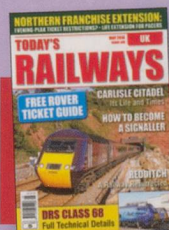
Every issue contains the latest news from France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Austria and more than 20 other countries.

In-depth articles cover a wealth of subjects including location features, rolling stock profiles and much more. Regular columns contain useful tips for getting the best out of visits to Europe. Heritage lines and tramways are also included every month.

Today's Railways Europe is compiled by a network of correspondents based throughout the European continent.

Available from good newsagents or save money with a post-free direct subscription.

£4.45 Every month or
£46.80 for a 12-issue subscription



**INTERESTED IN BRITISH RAILWAYS?
ASK ABOUT OUR SISTER MAGAZINE –
TODAY'S RAILWAYS UK.**

PLATFORM 5 PUBLISHING, 3 WYVERN HOUSE, SARK ROAD, SHEFFIELD, S2 4HG, ENGLAND
TEL: 0114 255 2625; FAX: 0114 255 2471; EMAIL: SALES@PLATFORM5.COM