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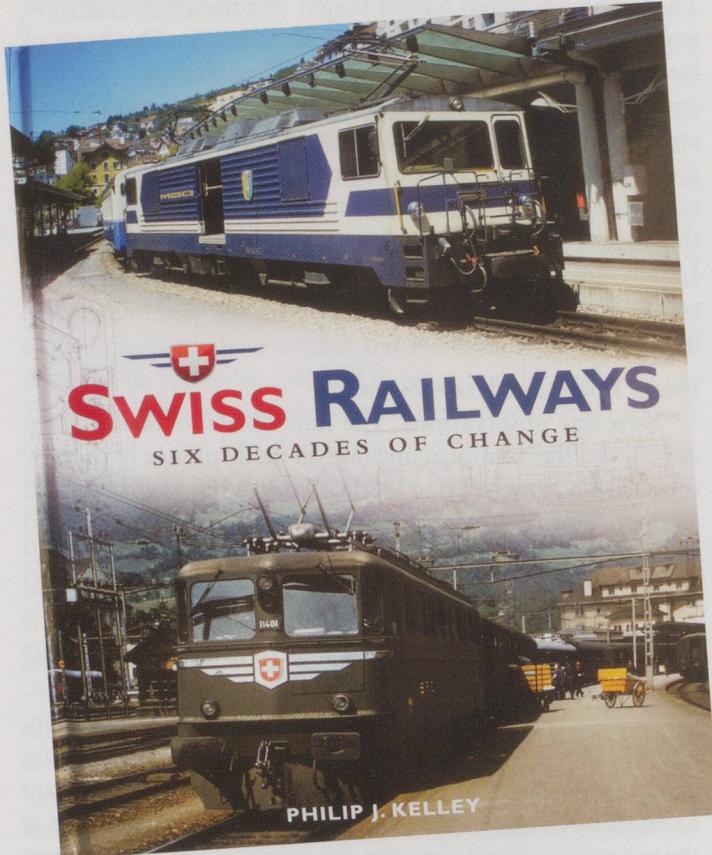
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Swiss Railways – Six Decades of Change

Author: Philip J. Kelley.

Published by: Shrew Dale Publishing, 25 Monkmoor Road, Shrewsbury, SY2 5AG;

Hardback. 224-pages, 28cm x 21cm. Some 450 B&W and colour illustrations: £30.00.

ISBN: 978-0-9575898-1-0.

Available from Swiss Railways Society sales post-free.

When you first open some books you know straight away that they're going to be interesting. This offering from a long-standing SRS member certainly fits this category, and having read it, that initial impression is confirmed. This is very much a book of photographs, although each geographical section does have short details of the railways, particularly opening date information etc., whilst a few lines are written about more profusely. The sections, for example, cover the Gotthard Line, Bern & BLS, Luzern and its Environs, Glacier Express Route and the RhB and most of these areas tend to be the more popular ones in the southern half of Switzerland. During the 1950s the author worked in the British Transport Commission Archives in London and met the then Manager of the Swiss National Tourist Office and this eventually gave him privileged access to some of the Swiss railways. Most of the images were taken by the author, a fair percentage of them in the 50s, but also at various times since then. But the book is also profusely illustrated by other period items - maps, original line drawings of locos, stock and trackwork, old postcards and posters and much more. Each image has a detailed caption and thus this is the sort of book you can dip into as and when you want, rather than to be read from cover to cover. Some of the locations many

members will know well, but it is enlightening to see how they looked in times past.

If any criticism was to be made, some of the older colour images have a slight colour cast on them, but in a way this gives them the period feel. This book recalls times past when the railways of Switzerland were very diverse, each line having its own particular character, a state that is sadly disappearing fast under the guise of modernisation and standardisation. The author is to be congratulated for the mammoth effort that must have gone into producing this extremely interesting and worthwhile book. Put it on your Christmas list. TB



Swiss Narrow Gauge, Volume Two: East

Author: Jason Sargerson.

Published by: Charaxes Publications, 17 Muirfield Park, Hull, East Yorkshire HU5 3JF.

Softback, 36-pages. A4. Fully illustrated in colour. ISBN: 978-0-9575048-2-0.

£10, including postage, direct from the publisher. Cheques to be made payable to Jason Sargerson.

Jason Sargeson's new book complements his' Volume One: West, which we reviewed in the March *Swiss Express*. Like its companion volume it introduces the reader to the network of narrow-gauge lines, which play such an important part in the public transport system of Switzerland. It covers twenty-one different lines, most being allocated a single page, some a double-page spread, and the Rhätische Bahn getting ten-pages to itself, the author having separated it into seven different sections. As the previous reviewer noted the descriptions of

the operations are brief but give a selection of basic details. The gauge and electrical system are described with details of the depots. Details are given of the normal rolling stock used and a description of the route highlighting interesting or important places along the way and notable scenic features. Finally the journey times and service frequency are outlined. There is a glossary of useful websites and the Swiss Travel System map is reproduced inside the back cover to relate the various lines to the main Swiss transport networks. Jason supplies a good spread of photographs for each section, and although most are quite clear unfortunately some detail is lost in a few due to their reproduction being too dark. Like the first volume the book is a good quality production at a reasonable price and would be a welcome addition to the bookshelves of anyone interested in the Swiss transport system. If you have Volume One then Volume Two is a must. **Calex**

Peter's Railway - Holiday at Lunan Bay

Author & Publisher: Christopher Vine,
PO Box 9246, Bridge of Wier, PA11 3WD.
Paperback. 48-pages, 15cm X 14cm. Well illustrated.
£4.99.

ISBN 978-1-9088970-46.

Available in good book shops, at many heritage railways, or direct from www.petersrailway.com.

This is the ninth paperback aimed at the 6 to 12 age group in the Peter's Railway series that has now sold over 100,000 copies. As with all of Chris Vine's books it is a good way to get children interested in how railways work and how they operate. It, along with the companion volumes, would make a splendid Christmas present from parents, grandparents, etc. for the younger members of their families who like railways, engineering or simply finding out how things work. Any member searching for Christmas gifts for hard-to-please children should search the website above for the complete range of these great publications. **MB**

Eisenbahn-Reiseführer Schweiz

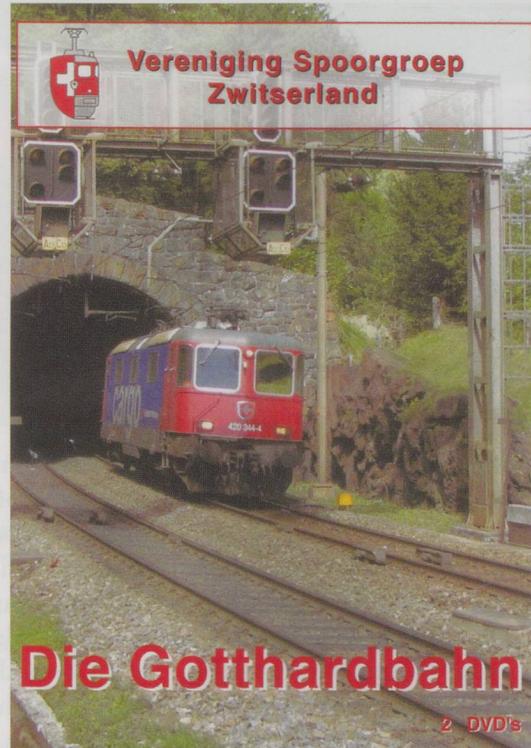
Author: Ronald Gohl.
Publisher: GeraMond Verlag GmbH, Postfach 40 02 09, D-80702, München.
Paperback. 192-pages, 18.5cm x 12cm. German text.
Copiously illustrated in full colour.
CHF27.90 in Switzerland/€16.99 in Germany.
ISBN 978-3-95613-014-4.
Available at bookshops in Switzerland and through www.amazon.de

Browsing through the excellent collection of transport-related books in Basel's Freiestrasse branch of the Swiss bookstore chain Thalia I came across this just-published (August 2014) pocket book that has short explanatory pieces on all Swiss railways and tramways. Obviously some knowledge of German is needed to get the most out of this mine of information, but with its superb collection of up-to-the-minute photographs and clearly laid-out 'Info' panels even those with little or no German will find this a useful volume. There are chapters on the

development of Swiss railways; information for mobility impaired travellers; details of museum and tourist railways; details of some walks-with-railways; and the inevitable information about special trains such as the Glacier Express, etc. At £18 the book is not cheap but it is worth it for the illustrations alone.

MB

DVD Review



Die Gotthardbahn

Filmed by members of the Vereniging Spoorgroep Zwitserland (VSZ).

As mentioned in the article about the VSZ, nine of their members using five cameras and a lot of co-ordination with mobile phones and forward planning, made this wonderful record of trains operating over the Gotthard during four days of perfect weather in the summer of 2011. This 2-DVD set runs for 180min. Although the title pages, and the individual pages showing the location names, are in Dutch, there is a very little Dutch commentary – all the sound is the ambient noise of trains running and birds singing, so you do not need to have any knowledge of Dutch to follow the programme. As well as sequences of the trains, filmed by the five cameras as they pass the various well selected locations, there are occasional shots of the members in some heroic locations with mobile phone at the ready to forewarn the cameramen, a meeting with some Swiss cows, and several other surprises to keep the interest going. The filming starts in Airolo, and continues at Faido, Göschenen, Wassen, Amsteg and ends at Erstfeld. There is some zoom, but it is discrete. There is a great variety of trains, which has always been a part of the attraction of the Gotthard, and something that will be missed after 2017 when the new base tunnel opens. This is a valuable record of the route and will be appreciated by all those with an interest in this line. This DVD set was produced for the benefit of the VSZ members but they are generously making it available to SRS members and it is available from SRS Sales for just £20 including postage. See the Society Sales page. **+**