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Swiss station personnel by Noch.



Railway modellers by Noch!

Noch latest HO-scale figures

Noch is well known for producing a large range of figures for modellers in all of the popular scales but these two packs are a little different. One is a set of railway modellers and the other is of Swiss station personnel, one of whom carries an illuminated train despatch disc. There are seven railway modelling figures including two children. Four of the figures are wearing glasses and three of them are holding controllers.

Two of the figures are seated presumably doing some modelling. The layout on legs has some brightly coloured buildings and these figures show how others see us modellers! The station personnel would be a welcome addition on every model of a Swiss railway platform. Available from www.gauge-master.com and other Noch dealers the figures cost £10.25 for the seven railway modeller figures plus part of a layout, and £21 for six station personnel figures including one with an illuminated despatch disc. 

SOCIETY PAGES

AGM Update

Roger Ellis writes: 'Members are reminded that by the time they read this magazine the 2015 AGM Event at the Hallmark Hotel in Derby on 14th March will almost be upon us. In addition to the trade support mentioned in previous magazines, I am pleased to note that NScaleCH will now also be there. Alan Wardman is bringing his new Italian layout to the AGM and this will be accompanied by the Stand of the Italian Railway Society. They are welcome as many members have 'a foot in both camps'. At noon in a side room Duncan McKay will be giving an illustrated presentation that covers 15-years of observing the railways of Genève. This will be followed by a showing of some Swiss railway DVDs. Do please try and make the journey to Derby if you can, as it is always an enjoyable day and it is good to meet-up with people who may only be a name in your magazine. Better still it is not too late to join us at the Hallmark for the whole weekend. You can never see too much of your Publicity and Exhibitions Officer!'

Members Area of the Society Website.

The Username to access the "Members Area" of the Society website is 2015@swissralsoc.org.uk, this will be valid throughout 2015. You will find the password on your 2015 Society Membership Card.

Malcolm Hardy Randall

The Society – through the Editor - would like to receive any information about Malcolm Hardy Randall, at one time the Editor of this magazine, as correspondence to his last known address in Aberdeenshire has been returned "Not Known".

SRS at Exhibitions

The SRS will be represented at the following events in the next three months: London Festival of Railway Modelling at Alexandra Palace – 28th/29th March; Derby Model Railway Exhibition at The Roundhouse – 9th/10th May; and Mirfield

(Yorkshire) Model Railway Show at the Parish Church – 16th May. If one of these is in your area please come along and support Roger Ellis and his team.

The Kithead Trust

Martin Fisher writes: "Members engaged in historical research may wish to know of this Trust. It grew out of concerns that records of the UK bus industry would be lost when the National Bus Company was about to be privatised. Based on two privately held archives, in 1990 it became a Charity (328257) and has gained the confidence of some notable organisations. The records include those of the Association of Public Passenger Transport Operators; the Birmingham Transport Historical Group; the Signalling Record Society; the Library formerly held by the Department for Transport (which contained material from 1800 onwards) and a lot of information relating to motor vehicles held by Local Vehicle Taxation Offices that passed to the Department when Vehicle Registration Offices took over that work. The Trust received financial assistance from National Express and Stagecoach Holdings, to ensure the correct heating and air conditioning for preserving the archives. There is more background at www.kitheadtrust.org.uk The Trust is relevant to SRS members as it holds a lot of historical publications – mainly timetables and promotional material – for many European countries, particularly Germany, Italy and France. So far as Switzerland is concerned there is material relating to post buses plus old copies of the Kursbuch going back to 1949 and other Swiss documents. It is based in Droitwich Spa and run by a small group of volunteers (at least one of whom is an SRS member). The site is manned on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10am – 4pm. To arrange a visit, ring 01905 776681; email kitheadtrust@live.co.uk; or send a SAE to the Trust at De Salis Drive, Hampton Lovett, Droitwich, WR9 0QE, explaining what you would like to see. Documents are not released, but photocopies can be taken on payment of a contribution to costs".

MEMBER'S ADVERTISEMENTS

For Sale

Storage space constraints mean I must cull my accumulation of mostly unused Bemo HOM (mainly MOB) stock and accessories, Lemaco BDe 4/4 (18) and a few HO (s.g.) items including a HAG BLS Re 4/4. Also film overlays for MOB special coaches (see CM, Jan 2010). List available by email (pandmfarr@talktalk.net) or post (C5 s.a.e appreciated). Contact Michael Farr, 1 Trethurgy Gardens, Callington, Cornwall. PL17 7RH

For Sale

Swiss Kursbuch (S) Summer (W) Winter. Used, but in good condition: 1965(S); 1968(S); 1970(S); 1972(S); 1981/2(W); 1982(S); 1982/3(W). Mint condition: 1987/8 Year (includes separate bus and Int. volumes); 1990/1 Year (includes separate bus volume). Also 1991/2 (W) - a one-off that SBB produced of train services in France, but which SNCF objected to and refused to sell. All at £10. Swiss transport maps. 1925 (SBB) pictured; 1926; 1976; 2004 (Kümmerly & Frey). All at £5. Available for collection in Merton Park, SW London, or posted by arrangement. Contact Robert Vidler at robert_vidler@blueyonder.co.uk

MEMBERS' LETTERS

From: Mel Barnes – by email

Regarding the article by Alan Jackson in issue No.120 of *Swiss Express* some readers may be surprised to know that Pilatus Aircraft Company built some of their aircraft on the

Isle of Wight between 1978 and 1998 under the name Pilatus-Britten-Norman. I believe the present Company of Britten-Norman may still be producing parts for Pilatus here on the island.

Alan Jackson has supplied the following useful notes: Pilatus-Britten-Norman was the name of the company on the Isle of White while the Swiss engineering conglomerate Oerlikon-Bührle, who also owned Pilatus in Switzerland, had ownership of it. Oerlikon-Bührle subsequently sold both Britten-Norman (around 1998) and Pilatus (in 2000). I am not aware that any complete Swiss Pilatus models were ever built by the facility at Bembridge, home of the famous B-N Islander range of aircraft, although some parts may well still be sub-contracted out to them.

From: Tony Lamdin – by email

I wonder if members of the SRS are aware of the Book Depository - bookdepository.com. This offers quite exceptional deals on books with worldwide free postage. I order quite a few railway books but I am quite often put off by the huge cost of postage living as I do in South Australia. For example: The "Eisenbahn-Reiseführer Schweiz" reviewed in *Swiss Express* No.120 can be had for £12.08 through the Book Depository instead of the £18.00 quoted in the review. I recently bought a copy of Ian Allan's Pre-Grouping Atlas and RCH Junction Diagrams for £23.00. This would have cost me £39.00 had I gone through Platform 5 Publishing. 

DVD REVIEW

Gotthard Northbound Cab Ride

by Perren Films – Double DVD

price £36 from SRS Sales including UK postage

This is the 25th DVD in the series and marks the halfway point in the project to produce a cab ride of every Swiss line. This was filmed in mainly good sunny weather (there is a brief shower of rain just beyond Wassen), partly in 2012 and partly in 2014 and being northbound, the sun is behind the train for the majority of the journeys. The first DVD covers the routes from Chiasso to Bellinzona, Luino to Cadenazzo and Locarno to Bellinzona. The second DVD features the rest of the route, from Bellinzona to Arth Goldau a total running time of well over three hours. The shorter journeys are filmed from the cab of a TILO FLIRT multiple-unit, whereas the principal route from Locarno is filmed from a Re460. There are a few establishing shots at the start of each route and several chapter points are featured, allowing a journey to start from selected intermediate stations. Filmed in High Definition to the usual high standards expected of Andreas Perren the camera is set to quite a wide angle so the view not only shows the track ahead but plenty of the surrounding countryside. The routes are shown in their entirety, including the Gotthard tunnel, apart from the stationary time in stations, which has been reduced. There is no commentary,

just the actual sound recorded within the cab. Each section starts with a map showing the route and all stations, and some tunnels have on screen captions in German, but are easily understood. This double DVD can be recommended not only as a cab ride over this most important of Swiss lines, but also as a scenic record of the view from the train and as a reference for modellers. 2015 will be a busy year for Perren Films with plenty of new releases planned. The 26th production

will be a single DVD of the Gotthard route in a southward direction and later in the year a double DVD of the railways of the Jungfrau Region, which was filmed in exceptionally good weather. So there is plenty to look forward to. For more information their website is www.fuehrerstandsmitfahrten.ch

Brienzsee 



Führerstandsfilm

Gotthardlinie
(nordwärts)

Chiasso – Bellinzona
Luino – Cadenazzo
Locarno – Arth-Goldau



Doppel-DVD