

**Zeitschrift:** Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Railways Society  
**Band:** - (2015)  
**Heft:** 121

**Artikel:** 50 years of the Luzern-Stans-Engelberg  
**Autor:** Gavazzi, Mario  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-853949>

### **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:** 05.01.2026

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





## 50 years of the Luzern-Stans-Engelberg Mario Gavazzi

**O**n 19th December 1964 the first through service trains ran on the newly formed Luzern-Stans-Engelberg (LSE) line, after the completion of the link between Hergiswil and Stansstad that enabled trains from the former Stansstad-Engelberg-Bahn (StEB) to run through to Luzern along the SBB's Brünigbahn. The StEB was built as a metre-gauge line utilising sections of Riggensbach rack, opened in 1898, and was electrified (3-phase @ 800V) from the beginning. At the opening it was the longest electrified railway in Switzerland. The connection to the rest of the Swiss rail system was by steamer from its lakeside station at Stansstad to Luzern. However it was always its intention to have a physical link to the network, but it was only in 1956 that it obtained a Federal Concession to build this. After some years spent raising the necessary capital, work on the 1780m Lopper tunnel commenced in 1960 and this was completed in early 1964, along with the track to link the new line to the original at a relocated Stansstad station. The last StEB train ran on

the 27th August 1964 and in the next 3½ months the old section of line was upgraded to Brünigbahn standards, and the electrical supply was converted to the SBB standard of 15.000V, 16.7Hz. New rolling stock arrived to replace the original equipment that was still soldiering-on 66 years after the first opening of the line. The LSE remained an independent company until 2005 when it was merged with the SBB's Brünigbahn operation to become the Zentralbahn (ZB), in which the SBB has a two-thirds shareholding. The 50th anniversary of the opening of the LSE was celebrated by the ZB between 19th and 21st December with various events and decorated trains. On each day all passengers on the IR trains between Luzern and Engelberg were presented with a small book outlining the history of both the StEB and LSE, and ZB staff distributed jubilee chocolate and postcards of the rolling stock to everyone using the line. At Engelberg the cinema showed a special film about the development of the LSE. +

Photo: Mario Gavazzi

## Puzzle picture on page 11 – an explanation

**T**he third rail, inside the standard gauge running rails, is not a running rail but a check-rail. If a train or vehicle were to derail in the station, it might severely threaten the stability of the overall roof that is carried on the elderly cast iron columns shown in the picture. The check-rail is therefore a precaution. It could not be a narrow gauge running rail, as it is on the wrong side, and would remove a narrow gauge train from the platform face. No metre-gauge service was ever planned here. Thanks to Bryan Stone for this. +

### SOCIETY CONTACTS - WEBSITE [www.swissrailsoc.org.uk](http://www.swissrailsoc.org.uk)

**PRESIDENT** A.J. Pike, O.B.E.

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chairman:** John Jesson, 27 Campbell Road, Croydon. CR0 2SQ  
**Secretary:** David Stevenson, 3, Aldersey Road, Worcester. WR5 3BG  
**Treasurer:** Malcolm Job, 8, Hill Farm, Inkberrow, Worcestershire. WR7 4JE  
**Editor:** Malcolm Bulpitt, 23, Bray Gardens, Loose, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 9TR  
**Membership:** Steve Buck, 55, The Boulevard, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield. B73 5JB  
**Sales:** Glyn Jones, 13 Welland Close, Dalebrook, Winshill, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs. DE15 0AG  
**Webmaster:** Glyn Jones,  
**Publicity & Exhibitions:** Roger Ellis, 3, Peacemarsh Farm Close, Gillingham, Dorset. SP8 4XQ  
**Committee:** Roger Kemp, 3, Blackwell Gardens, Edgware. HA8 8QA  
**Committee:** Neil Wheelwright, 7, Weavers Orchard, Arlesey, Beds. SG15 6PD  
**USA Membership Co-ordinator:** James R. Easley, 10907 176th Circle NE, Redmond, WA. 98052, USA

**E-mail:** [chairman@swissrailsoc.org.uk](mailto:chairman@swissrailsoc.org.uk)  
**E-mail:** [secretary@swissrailsoc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@swissrailsoc.org.uk)  
**E-mail:** [treasurer@swissrailsoc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@swissrailsoc.org.uk)  
**E-Mail:** [editor@swissrailsoc.org.uk](mailto:editor@swissrailsoc.org.uk)  
**E-mail:** [membership@swissrailsoc.org.uk](mailto:membership@swissrailsoc.org.uk)  
**E-mail:** [sales@swissrailsoc.org.uk](mailto:sales@swissrailsoc.org.uk)  
**E-mail:** [webmaster@swissrailsoc.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@swissrailsoc.org.uk)  
**E-mail:** [exhibitions@swissrailsoc.org.uk](mailto:exhibitions@swissrailsoc.org.uk)  
**E-mail:** [rogerkemp@swissrailsoc.org.uk](mailto:rogerkemp@swissrailsoc.org.uk)  
**E-mail:** [neil.wheelwright@swissrailsoc.org.uk](mailto:neil.wheelwright@swissrailsoc.org.uk)  
**E-mail:** [jreasl@yahoo.com](mailto:jreasl@yahoo.com)