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Book & Video Reviews

The Jungfrau Railways; Part 2 WAB/JB

MITV, (address in their Ads.) £19.95 (plus £1 p&p) or £36 (plus £2 p&p) for parts 1 & 2.

This 50 minute broadcast quality video production concentrates on the Wengeralpbahn (WAB) and Jungfraubahnen (JB) narrow gauge lines of the Bernese Oberland area. As readers will be aware these lines culminate in the ascent to the 'Top of Europe' at Jungfrauoch. Part 1 of the Jungfrau Railways MITV two part series covered the BOB, Schynige Platte and BLM lines of the same region.

The history of the WAB and JB lines are covered using various black and white still photographs and clear network maps. Details about the locomotives and rolling stock are supplied and pictures are included of historic WAB stock now in use on the Schynige Platte and Brienz Rothorn Bahn lines. During the recording there is an informative narrative interspersed with music. As with all MITV recordings the pictures include in the cab footage, trackside shots, recording made within the carriages and helicopter views of the trains, stations and adjacent landscape. The film footage was mainly taken in glorious summer sunshine with some snow scenes. The video production certainly proves Switzerland does have some clear blue skies!

The WAB ascents to Kleine Scheidegg are chocolate box images of Switzerland at their best. The chalets and hotels standing amidst green pastures are visually appealing. even the trackbed looks spotlessly clean as the short trains wind their way past cows, marmots and walkers. It is interesting to learn that the JB has 40 huskies and a kennel-man on its payroll - the dogs and their driver leave the Eigergletscher kennels on the first train of the day and then take passengers on a 500 metre circular course on the Aletsch glacier.

Watch out for the lace-making in Lauterbrunnen, dramatic alpine scenery, the eagle in the ice palace, some superb footage of the glacial and mountain terrain and the Sphinx terrace. Picture quality on this digitally mastered tape is very good as is the HI-FI sound. The recording has been made in collaboration with the Jungfraubahnen. the sleeve has a useful diagram of the railway

routes leading to Jungfrauoch.

Those who are unfamiliar with the area will be encouraged to visit by this video recording. Those who have already experienced the magnificent railway climb to Jungfrauoch will be pleased to add this tape to their collection as an aide-memoir to what is probably the most spectacular railway day-out in the world. In summary, a first class travelogue of a remarkable railway journey.

Peter Marriott

EUROSTAR by Simon Pielow

ISBN 0711024510 Ian Allan Publishing

It is now over three years since official Eurostar services between London Waterloo and Paris/Brussels/Lille commenced. This 160 page book was released to mark the third anniversary of the high speed cross border Eurostar rail services.

The book covers the history of cross Channel passenger services, the construction of the Channel Tunnel, infrastructure, the trains in service, a tourist guide to Eurostar destinations and the future of Eurostar services. There are two appendix; one is an extensive chronology (including the various aborted attempts to build the Channel Tunnel). The other comprehensively covers the technical specifications of the trains.

EUROSTAR appears to be aimed at the travelling public souvenir market rather than a railway enthusiast publication. Whilst the railway aspects of the book are well covered they have been expanded by the addition of few rather familiar photographs of Parisian, Brussels and London sights. There are an enormous number of photographs in the book - there is hardly a page without a picture. There are some nostalgic black and white pictures of Golden Arrow and night train ferries which are contrasted with colour photographs of the Eurostar sets. Some of the colour night views are superb but, for me, there are too many black and white photos of the trains.

The book has a multitude of facts and figures about the Eurostar sets; each train is as long as 47 London double decker buses, is longer in length than the Eiffel Tower in height, each train cost £23 million and carries nearly 800 passengers, one emergency stop would supply sufficient

continued on Page 52

Exhibitions Report by Andy Nelson

By the time you read this our AGM at Stevenage will be around the corner. I will be attending to help our Sales Officer, Steve Horobin with the Society sales stand.

The Exhibition stand will be taking a summer break until September 98, returning in the Autumn. We will not be attending the Warley show this year, the costs incurred are too great.

I have an appeal for a Swiss layout to attend the Chiltern Model Railway Show at St. Albans on the 9-10 Jan. 1999, please contact David Crossely on 01438 715580 if you can assist.

Should you require any Society item and cannot make the AGM or wait until the Autumn, then contact Steve Horobin (Ad page 27) who will be happy to help.

Do you have a Swiss layout you are exhibiting? Then let me know on 01753 534313 or write. but

remember copy date is some three months ahead.

SRS stand attendance

12 Sept. Oxford GRS

29 Nov. Letchworth

Andy Nelson

Swiss Layouts on View

"BIMBLEBAHN" (HOM)

16-17 May Chippenham

24-25 May Brockenhurst

"VIA MALA" (HOM)

1-5 April Dortmund, Germany

Mike Polglaze

"ALPENHOF" (N)

18 April Mid Suffolk Leisure, Stowmarket

10 Oct. Sudbury.

Members Advertisements

FOR SALE

HO Swiss Roco: EW IVs (SBB, BLS, BT) and more. Also Austrian, French, German by Roco/Lilliput/Fleischmann etc. Tel: for full list of 120+ items David Howes 01296 713251

FOR SALE

Marklin 'Z' and Fleischman 'HO' hardly used in Mint Boxed sadly NO Swiss. Call Steve, Tel: 01462 670487

WANTED, GOOD HOME.

For Swiss (HO) end to end railway layout. This has come about due to sudden death of owner Keith Lewis. Quantity of rolling stock and books

(very fair prices). Layout size, approx. 18' x 2' (nominal price) Further details from, Mike Lewis, "Old Hedges", 122 Victoria Street, Wall Heath, West Midlands, DY6 0LX. Tel: 01384 293201 (answerphone).

FOR SALE

HOe portable layout 10 feet x 1.5 feet, suitable for exhibition, complete with scenery and buildings, Lilliput HOe rolling stock and locos for sale. Send SAE for list c/o The Editor, Swiss Express.

FOR SALE

Various Bemo items (100 plus). Please send SAE for list. John Stokes, 18 Maud Avenue,

Book & Video Reviews (continued from Page 50)

energy to boil over 14000 pints of water etc, etc!

The future for Eurostar looks good. The high speed line in Belgium opened in December 1997 and the proposed high speed Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) through southern England is hopefully to be opened in 2003. The long promised Regional North of London services are anticipated to commence operation in 1998 subject to further technical difficulties on Railtrack's

lines. Weekly Ski-trains to the French Alps commenced in December 1997. When will ski-trains run directly to Switzerland? It is envisaged that better connecting service timings will be offered for those wishing to use Eurostar from Waterloo or Ashford to Lille and then change onto TGV's to Swiss resorts.

Peter Marriott