

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Band: - (2009)
Heft: 98

Artikel: Swiss Post celebrates 50 years of the Transport Museum
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854278>

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SWISS POST CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF THE TRANSPORT MUSEUM

Michael Farr



Members of the Swiss Railways Society will no doubt be disappointed that none of the three special stamps issued on 5 March to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Swiss Museum of Transport, *Verkehrshaus der Schweiz*, features a rail-borne vehicle. Instead they have chosen a car, a boat and an aeroplane and one wonders what proportion of the annual total of 870,000 visitors go to the museum primarily because of the country's railway history.

The 85c stamp (for internal second class mail) shows the paddle steamer Rigi which is now grounded at the museum, while for internal priority mail the CHF1 stamp illustrates the Dufaux racing car. The CHF1.30 stamp features air transport with the Lockheed Orion 9C Special.

As usual Swiss Post is not only providing stamps but also collectors' sheets and maximum cards with an A6 enlargement of the stamp image and one of the actual

stamps cancelled with the special mark.

If it is any consolation to rail enthusiasts, the motif on the first day covers illustrates No.7, the vertical-boilered locomotive of the Rigibahn, whose 2009 exploits were previewed in the March *Swiss Express*.

When Swiss Post issued a 5rp stamp to commemorate the opening of the museum in 1959 line drawings of a rather futuristic train (with three pairs of wheels on the leading vehicle) were included, along with a ship, a plane and a bus.

The new stamps are available from Swiss Post who issue a quarterly magazine in English, *Focus on Stamps*, which they will post (free of charge) to anyone interested. Details of new issues are announced in good time to order first day covers before the date of issue. To obtain a copy contact Swiss Post, Stamps and Philately, Ostermundigenstrasse 91, CH-3030 Berne or e-mail stamps@post.ch. © SWISS POST