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On Landlocked Seas – Part Two: Ships of the Swiss Lakes and the French Alpine Lakes

Author: Brian Patton.


Published by the Author.

ISBN: 978-0-9955497-3-9

English, Softback, 224 Pages, over 300 photographs, mostly in colour, 216mm x 243mm.

Price £15.00 from the Swiss Railways Society Sales Stand at exhibitions or £17.00 by post from SRS Sales or our On-Line Shop.

At a first glance, this book could be thought of as a rival to the Society's publication "*The Swiss Lakes – Their Scenery and Ships*" but it is far from the case and in many ways, the two books complement each other. The Society's book describes all the Lakes in Switzerland and their communities, along with the ships on those that have a scheduled boat service, whereas the book being reviewed here features only

the seven principal lake groups in Switzerland and two of the French Alpine lakes plus details of their current fleet. There are seven chapters featuring Swiss Lakes, covering: Lac Lemman, the Lakes around Neuchâtel, Thunersee and Brienersee, Zürichsee and its neighbours, Vierwaldstättersee, Swiss ships on the Bodensee and Rhine, and the southern lakes. Each chapter starts with a brief description of the lake in question, along with a good quality map to put the area in to context, followed by the history of navigation on the lake. There is then a description of all the ships in the present fleet, along with details of shipyards and cargo boats. The text is completed with details of present passenger services. This is followed by a good selection of photographs, some historical, including postcards of the ships. These are not only photos of the complete vessels but also some interior and detail shots. Brian has compiled an interesting and comprehensive book with an excellent selection of photographs and it can be recommended for anyone interested in the main Swiss Lakes and their navigation. 

Brienersee



And finally...

Even the Swiss get things wrong some times! One of our alert readers spotted this on the platform signs at Brig whilst awaiting their train. No doubt it would be technically possible for a Swiss EMU to travel from Italy to the German

Capital but we suspect that someone, somewhere, punched the wrong information into a computer. Bern and Berlin are probably next to each other on a touch screen. Changing to one of DB's ICEs would offer a quicker and more comfortable ride. 