

Editorial

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By now, we trust, members will either have visited Switzerland, or be looking forward to their forthcoming trip. A fortunate few will fit into both categories, but inevitably some will have not found it possible to make the journey this year. They, more than anyone, rely on Swiss Express to keep them in touch with what is happening on the Confederation's railways. Whilst our news columns go some way to meeting this need, there is little doubt that photographs are the preferred medium, one properly captioned picture is worth a thousand words.

Most members not only take their cameras with them, but make good use of them whilst travelling over the system. By now many of us have a sizeable collection of prints, negatives and colour slides. With a few exceptions, these will be in colour for the simple reason that for a good many years, black and white photography has become increasingly difficult and expensive. Whilst the new Ilford b/w film, which can be processed by colour D&P machines, will certainly allow those of us with darkrooms to continue with the older medium and retain the convenience of a quick, painless method of processing and proofing the film, the majority of us will continue to work in colour. It would be ridiculous to do otherwise since much of the glory of the Swiss scene lies in its magnificent colour.

Since Swiss Express is printed in black and white it is a natural assumption that we need black and white photographs. Fortunately, this is not so, any doubters are invited to decide which one of the illustrations in this issue was taken from a black and white print! Any colour print produced by normal commercial developing and printing from a 35mm compact or SLR camera is suitable, indeed, the normal sized print, either the "large" 6x4 or the "jumbo" 7x5 format, is ideally suited for our pages and the only criteria are, first, that the print is in focus and correctly exposed and second, that the subject matter is of interest.

Whilst we mainly need photographs to illustrate articles - indeed accounts of visits without a selection of pictures are as meat without salt - we can make use of a select number of good, interesting pictures, for the cover and for our new Gallery section. When you submit pictures, we do ask that you put, on the back of each print, your name, address and the necessary identification, the subject of the picture and where and when was it taken. Whilst the editorial panel can often determine the type of stock shown, we certainly can't do more than guess at the location and we've no idea of the date. When the photograph is detached from the accompanying letter, as inevitably it must be if we are to print, we can even forget who took it.

Remember, only prints are acceptable, we cannot with the current state of technology, use colour slides. These however, are needed for the ever popular member's nights at branch meetings. Keep those cameras working.

Copy date for December issue 10th October 1990

APOLOGY

We regret that the standard of the last Swiss Express fell short of our intentions. This was largely due to the fact that the takeover was at rather short notice and fell at a time when the new editor was already heavily committed elsewhere. We intend to do better!

Your 10th Anniversary Bonus

As part of our 10th Anniversary celebrations, we have produced a neat Society badge bearing the Swiss Railways Society Logo. We are distributing one to each member with this issue, additional badges can be obtained from the Sales Officer; see the full page advert on page 37.