

The exhibitionist, a Penpic

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal**

Band (Jahr): **6 (2000-2002)**

Heft 10

PDF erstellt am: **29.06.2024**

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EXHIBITIONS - Paul Hannant

This is my first report as Exhibitions Officer for the SRS. We will be attending many of the major exhibitions with a European interest this year. I intend to provide a stock of sales items for purchase as well as looking forward to meeting many of you for a chat on our stand. If you are able to assist in "manning the stand", even if only for a few hours, it would be most appreciated and it can be fun! Offers of assistance can be emailed to me at: Exhibitions@SwissRailSoc.org.uk or Tel. 01885 483697 (evenings).

Do you have a Swiss layout – which you are exhibiting this year or next? Then let me know, so we can let all our members know, but bear in mind the copy dates for Swiss Express at the front of the journal. We need to know at least 2-3 months in advance.

The SRS stand will be at the following:

Sat.21st Sept.02 - GRS Exhibition, Oxford. - Major European show with specialist traders and layouts.

THE EXHIBITIONIST, A PENPIC - Paul Hannant

My love affair with the railways of Switzerland go back to my childhood, which started as a result of holidays abroad travelling by rail from Calais to destinations in Italy. My father worked for British rail at the time and this enabled us to have otherwise unaffordable holidays abroad. My earliest recollection was of waking up in the small hours and peering out the corner of the couchette window blind and seeing brown electrics of the BLS at Brig.

As I went through my teenage years I drifted away from railways until an opportunity to take a last "free spirit" trip around Europe on an Interrail card before leaving University and settling into a career. I still remember clearly the spirals at Wassen on the Gotthard and was so taken with them that I managed to cut myself whilst shaving in the toilet of an FS couchette. This was the first of many visits that were to follow to the Gotthard route, in fact Switzerland in general.

From a modelling prospective, the challenge was to capture and recreate an Alpine main line in N Gauge. Many layouts came and went, some made it to exhibitions and some as far as the local tip!! The latest venture is a 16ft x 8ft model of a part of the Gotthard around "Intchi" on the North Ramp.

So when I'm not visiting Switzerland or building layouts, my work keeps me occupied. I am a Logistics Manager for a European transport company.

I hope that in my post as Exhibitions Officer I will get the opportunity to meet and talk with you at our stand. Do please stop and say hello.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER (REGRETTABLY NOT A TENNER)

May I remind members that when they use credit cards to pay their annual subscriptions or purchase society sales items the transaction will appear on their credit card statement as "German Railways society" and "Swiss Railways Society"

THE SRS MODEL SHOP GUIDE has been updated and can be accessed through the society Web site. Thanks to Messrs Carter, Alexopoulos, Bett and Bunce for their contributions. Members visiting Switzerland this summer are requested to forward any updates to either myself or the Membership Secretary.

Thanks, Andy Micklethwaite

CORRECTIONS TO THE LAST SWISS EXPRESS

Some mistakes crept into the last edition, no fault of the proof readers by the way, all my own work.

1. The lower picture on p36 was taken at Samstagern, not Rapperswil
2. The price of the SBB Jubilee book mentioned by George Hoekstra on pp42-43 is SFr98 or €59.80, not £59.80 as typed in the article.
3. Jim Easley's email address in the USA is jreasl@yahoo.com. Please amend your contact files.