

SRS Swiss Travel guides - 8. Basel and North-West Switzerland [Martin Fisher]

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From Paul Burkhalter, Plymouth.

I feel duty bound to correct a typographical error in SE117 March 2014, page 29. In the text of the article headed 'President's Special' you misnamed the President, although the adjacent photo caption is correct. The current office holder is Didier Burkhalter. I hasten to add that I am no relation to the President - and I have never had a personal train provided to Plymouth!

From: Richard Awade, London, E11.

I was intrigued to read in the article 'The Secret Life of Flirts' (*Swiss Express* - December 2013), that the author could not trace any reference to the trains he recorded stopping at 'closed' stations in the Kursbuch. I can confirm that Ambri-Piotta, Lavorgo and Bodio do appear in the current Kursbuch - including in the index. The train service is not shown in Table 600, but in the local TILO Table 631. The number 631 also appears on the map. I can only assume that the author was using an old version of the Kursbuch.

From: Ian Provost - by email.

Many thanks for another great magazine full of interesting articles and tips. Just one niggle. In your editorial you mention damaged deliveries due to the Post Office delivery staff not taking care. I think you mean the Royal Mail delivery

staff, as the Post Office doesn't handle mail. That's the job of Royal Mail. The Post Office works through its many branches offering various over-the-counter services including banking. Post Office Ltd and Royal Mail plc are two separate companies with two different remits. At least all this shows I read your editorial! ❖

Members' Advertisement

Wanted: Bill Thursfield is searching for two additional coaches for a Lima Cisalpin/Gottardo set.

The items he requires are: 1 x '201005' 1st and 1 x '201006' Diner, with the diner as a preference. If you think you can help him the contact details are: Bill Thursfield, 45, Sterndale Drive, Newcastle, Staffs. ST5 4HS. Tel. 01 782 638 225 or email b.thursfield@talktalk.net.

For Sale: As reviewed in the March *Swiss Express* Swiss Narrow Gauge Volume One: West - A4, on 36 page booklet describing 25 Narrow Gauge Railways in South and West Switzerland. 100 quality colour photographs. Send £10 to Jason Sargerson, 17 Muirfield Park, Westbourne Avenue, Hull, East Yorkshire, HU5 3JF. Contact: Tel: 01 482 446 451 jason@sargerson.freemove.co.uk.

Cheques payable to Jason Sargerson. ❖

BOOK REVIEW

SRS Swiss Travel Guides -

8. Basel and North-West Switzerland

Author: Martin Fisher.

Paperback A5. 52 pages, with numerous colour illustrations.

ISBN 978-0-9926812-1-0

Price £7.00 by mail order from Society Sales.

This is the final booklet of this splendid series of travel guides highlighting what Switzerland has to offer the tourist/visitor and how to access it by public transport. This guide covers Basel and areas broadly south and west of this strategic border city, extending through much of the Swiss Jura and the lower lying Mittelland south of the Jura, including the lakes of Biel, Neuchâtel and Murten. Although not strictly in North West Switzerland, the booklet also includes Fribourg down to Bulle to provide that final piece of the travel guide jigsaw of Switzerland, for completeness. Having defined the area and provided the customary sketch map for reference purposes, options on how to get to and from Switzerland are outlined. Information on the range of Passes and Cards that may be of interest to the traveller is also provided. Our 'journey' commences at Basel, Switzerland's only port. While a major centre of commerce and industry, Basel is one of the country's cultural capitals providing a wealth of varied interest to any visitor. The extensive and efficient tram system provides an excellent means of touring the major sights and there are even cable ferries across the Rhein and river cruises providing water based options. Venturing through the eastern Jura, the medieval town centre of Delémont, picturesque St Ursanne and the cobbled streets and 18th century buildings of Porrentruy all feature. Onward through the delightful hills of the Western Jura, we reach La Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland's highest city and centre of watch-making before the more remote areas of the Montagnes Neuchâteloises and the Val de Travers are featured. We then follow the original line from Olten through Oensingen to historic Solothurn before we head to Burgdorf and briefly into the Western Emmental. Onward through the bi-lingual town of Biel, we reach Neuchâtel, an excellent lakeside base for touring and to explore itself, complete with a château, old town, trolley buses, funiculars and a tram route. Our tour is completed by coverage of Western Mittelland and mention of the towns and villages well worth a visit before we reach Fribourg with its Gothic cathedral and houses, fountains, cobbled streets and funicular powered by waste water. This well illustrated and ease of reading guide is concluded with sections on general information, a bibliography and a brief coverage of Swiss locomotive and unit classifications. Previous booklets in the series have sold out and been subject to reprint, so why delay your purchase? Invest in a copy soon and enjoy! DCG ❖

Correction:

In the review of Swiss Narrow Gauge, Volume One: West in the March *Swiss Express* we failed to note that when ordering the book direct cheques, should be made out to 'Jason Sargerson'.

