

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Band: - (2016)
Heft: 125

Artikel: Old book prints
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854012>

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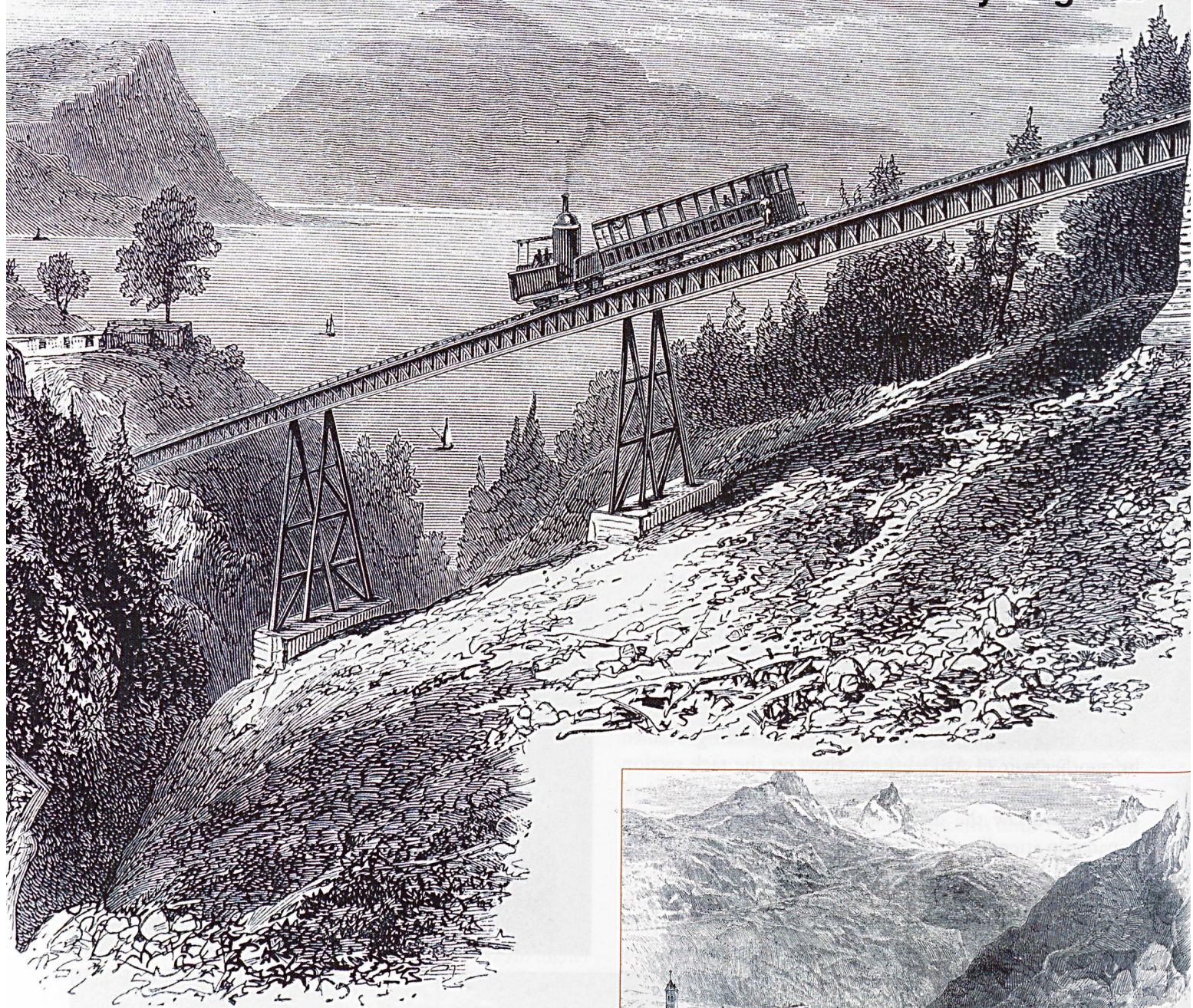
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As some of you will know, my daughter Heidi is very keen on collecting anything Swiss so car boot sales, charity shops and antique outlets are her favoured haunts. It does mean that when it comes to presents, I can sometimes find something a bit unusual. Recently I purchased a book published in 1871 entitled *'Swiss Pictures Drawn with Pen and Pencil'*. It's by the Revd. Samuel Manning with illustrations by a Mr Whymper and others. Whether that's the Edward Whymper of Matterhorn fame I'm not sure, but there is a description in the book of that ascent in 1865, so it may well be. If you want to read the book on-line, go to <https://archive.org/details/swisspictures-dra00mannrich> or just search for the book title.

Among the drawings are the few illustrated here that have a railway connection. The picture of Brig (or Brieg) is before the coming of the railway, but the church that overlooks the Stockalper Palace is seen on the left and the pass road climbing the Simplon is in the background. The Devil's



Main Picture: The Rigi Railway.

Inset Picture: Brieg on the Simplon.

Bridge on the St Gotthard Road is familiar to most of us, though from the other side when we ride up or down the Schöllenen Gorge on the MGB. Of course, by 1871, the Rigi railway from Vitznau had just opened, so these are probably some of the first images to be seen.

Maybe it was images like these that got our forefathers interested in Switzerland and so could be said to have eventually led to the Swiss Railways Society! 