

Book reviews

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objekttyp: **BookReview**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(2018)**

Heft 133

PDF erstellt am: **11.07.2024**

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Swiss Lakes - their scenery and ships

Author: Martin Fisher.

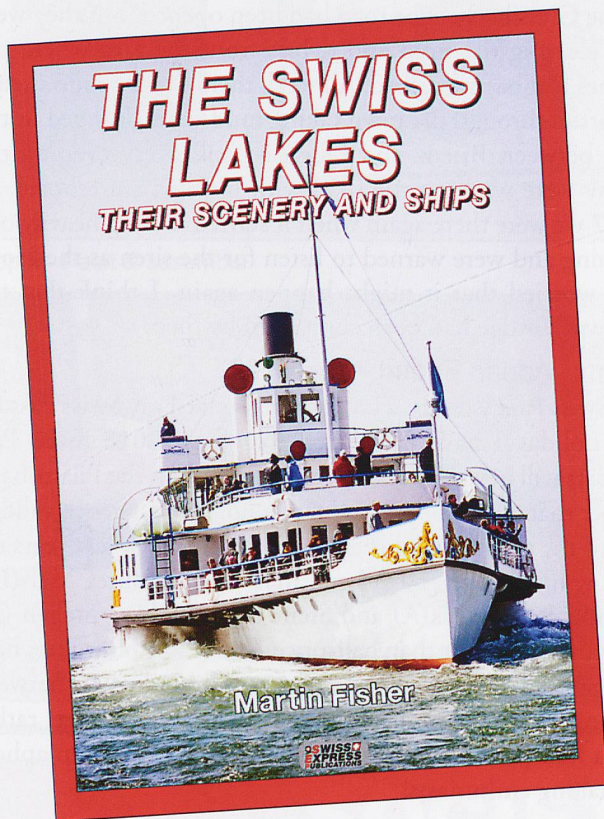
Published by: Swiss Express Publications.

ISBN 978-0-9926812-8-9.

English, softback, 298mm x 210mm.

134 pages with approx. 400 colour photographs.

Price: £17.00 including postage – from SRS Sales.



The splendour of the Swiss lakes, their ships and scenery are combined in abundance in this latest addition to the growing library of quality Swiss Railways Society publications. At the outset, the author makes it clear that it would be an impossible task to mention every lake to be found in Switzerland, so naturally some selectivity has been applied. The 134 pages of this A4 format book provide not only a primary focus on the numerous lakes with scheduled boat services but also a regional review of about 180 other lakes. Collectively, they demonstrate well the variety of splendid scenic settings ranging from glorious alpine, through remote rugged landscape to picturesque rural locations, that can be visited and enjoyed in their respective ways. Public transport and in particular Postbuses can be used to reach many of the Swiss lakes, so the book uses the PostAuto Schweiz regional structure to best assist the reader in the planning of visits. For those lakes with scheduled boat services tables are provided listing key information that includes details of the current fleet of paddlers and motor vessels. Internet site addresses are also quoted to enable up to date service, information to be easily accessed. The informative text is supported by quality schematic maps and nearly 400 colour illustrations, sourced from personal portfolios as well as the Swiss Image collection and on-line Wikimedia library. Appendices of consolidated information tables and a full index complete the book. In summary: 'Another top quality publication to enhance the SRS library'.

DCG

Switzerland - A guide to exploring the country by public transport.

Author: Anthony Lambert.

Published by: Bradt Travel Guides –

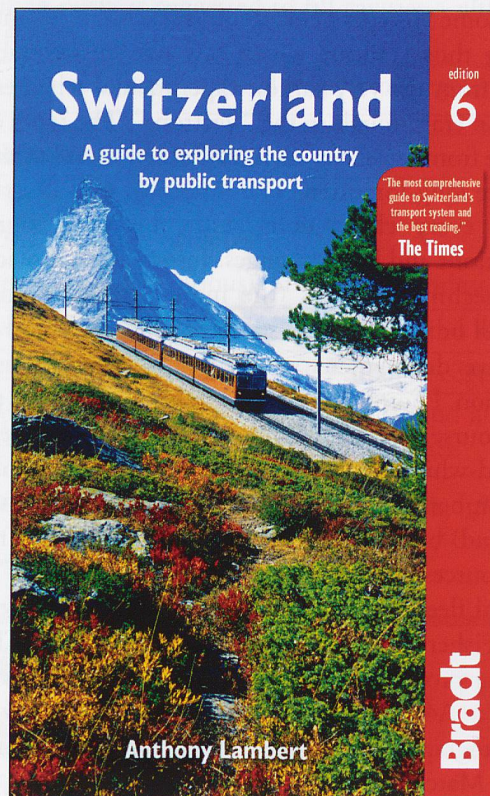
www.bradtguides.com

ISBN 978-1-78477-046-4.

English, softback, 210mm x 135mm.

396 pages, some colour photographs and many maps.

Price: £15.99. *See Special Offer below.*



This is the sixth edition of Anthony Lambert's 'standard work' on travelling around Switzerland by public transport that was first published in 1996. Not many books in any genre get into so many repeat editions over a period of some 20 years. This is a testament to the careful and well-researched nature of Anthony's work. He is the author of over 15 books about railways and travel, whilst his insightful travel articles appear in various publications. I have acquired many books and guides about Switzerland over the years, but earlier editions of this book are the only ones that have regularly accompanied me on trips there, and this fully revised edition will also take on that role. As the title indicates this useful book concentrates on exploring Switzerland through use of the country's excellent transport infrastructure with which most readers will be familiar. To my knowledge it is the only publication that does this. Hence it is an invaluable companion when travelling around using the various forms of Swiss Pass available (in London) from the Switzerland Travel Centre, and also when using locally available transport passes. It ought to be the 'Official Publication' that is issued, or recommended, with the purchase of such passes. Even if you think you know the country there will be information set-out by the author that may have passed you by, whilst his general information and hints and tips on hotels and places

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to eat are well worth having. I have no hesitation in recommending this book to anyone, either new to the country, or a repeat visitor. Use it well and your travels around Switzerland will become more enjoyable. Editor

Special Offer: *Bradt Travel Guides* is offering readers of *Swiss Express* a special 25% discount on copies of their *Switzerland* guide. To claim your discount, purchase the book at www.bradtguides.com and enter code **SWISS25** at checkout. Offer valid until 31 December 2018.

Swiss Narrow Gauge – North and East

Author: Jason Sargerson.

Published by: Charaxes Publications,
17 Muirfield Park, Hull, East Yorkshire HU5 3JF.
ISBN: 978-0-9575048-8-2.

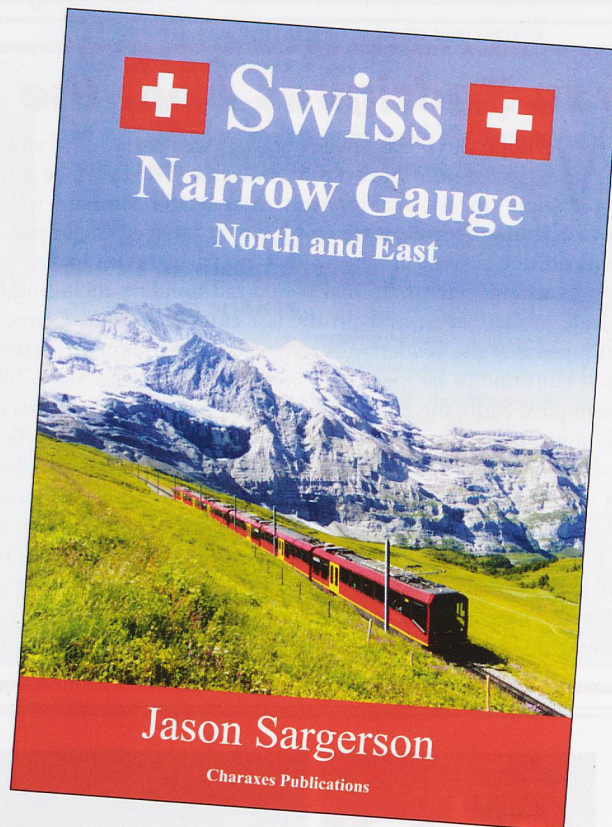
English, softback, 298mm x 210mm.

36 Pages, with almost 130 colour photographs,

Price £10.00 from the author at the above address.

This is the revised and updated version of a book originally published in 2014 and is written by SRS member, Jason Sargerson. It is the companion volume to *Swiss Narrow Gauge - South and West*, the revised version of which was published early last year and reviewed in the June 2017 issue of *Swiss Express*. This volume gives details of 27 lines in the north of Switzerland and the area to the east of Bern, including the tram systems in Basel and Zürich. For each line there is a brief introduction, description of the route, details of the stock used (but not stock lists) and the frequency of operation, all illustrated with usually three or four mainly recent colour photographs. As Jason says he likes to photograph “The Railway in the Landscape”, so many of the photographs illustrate the scenery as well as the railway. There

are almost 130 images in total. Some of the lines covered include those of the Jungfrau Region and the Rhätische Bahn, for which the different routes are described and photographed individually. There is also a general introduction with a list of book and website references, and at the back a map, useful to put the lines into context. This is a well written and produced publication and an excellent introduction to the area, as well as being a good “picture book” that can be recommended. Brienzersee



And finally... Photographs from *Swiss News*.



LEFT: Last of the double decker buses at Stans Bnf. See ‘Changes to ‘British’ Transport’, Page 32.

Photo: Mario Gavazzi



RIGHT: BVB Line 3 tram at Basel Bankverein on first day of route extension. See ‘BVB’, Page 28.

Photo: Bryan Stone



LEFT: 605 Bergün Schlittelzug. See ‘RhB Problems’, Page 29.

Photo: Bryan Stone



RIGHT: Re6/6 Gotthard Christmas Special. See ‘Re6/6 Hauled Rail Tours...’, Page 33. Photo: Heléna Moretti