

LOCOMOTIVES INTERNATIONAL

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マスクの着用をお願いします

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Featuring: NG/G16 DISPOSALS - IRISH DIESELS - PORTUGAL 2020
SWISS HISTORIC - FRANCE - ECUADOR **AND MORE!**

SWISS HISTORIC

by Ron Smith



C5/6 "Elefant" of 1917 number 2978.

SBB Historic

There are many preservation societies and operations in Switzerland, but the largest of them all must be the State railway, SBB (Schweizerische Bundesbahnen, also known as CFF - Chemins de fer Fédéraux Suisses, and FFS Ferrovie Federali Svizzere, The Romansh version of its name, Viasfiers Federalas Svizras, is not officially used.)

SBB is the majority operator in Switzerland, but there are many other railway companies operating which are not owned by the State. The SBB has a duty of care for its historic rolling stock, and for the railway archives of SBB and its predecessor railways. Being a non-core activity the historic side of the SBB was separated off in 2001 into a Foundation. Their aim is "to make the valuable artefacts from the cultural and economic history of Swiss railways accessible to the general public". They are certainly and emphatically achieving this!

Today SBB Historic looks after 15 steam locomotives, 44 electric locomotives and railcars, 2 diesel shunters, 31 maintenance engines and 124 coaches and goods wagons. These are stored at various locations, principally Erstfeld, Olten, Winterthur, Rapperswil, Delémont, St. Maurice and Brugg, as well as in the Verkehrshaus transport museum in Luzern. The foundation itself is sited at Windisch. At all these locations, SBB Historic rents space from the SBB. A lot of repairs and maintenance is undertaken by SBB workshops, as a commercial operation.

There is (at Brugg) a considerable and growing archive of over 3,000 metres of documents, 450,000 photos, 6,500 historical film and video clips, 100,000 locomotive design drawings, a poster collection, lamps, music boxes, 1:10 models, and rail and art collections. All this is also available online at

www.sbbarchiv.ch There is a library containing over 30,000 railway books, 300 trade journals, and every timetable produced by the SBB. This library is open to the public and is part of the network "Informationsverbund Deutschschweiz Basel Bern", see www.basebern.swissbib.ch

SBB Historic is certainly not a sedentary museum organisation, this year it has increased its offer of special train trips, and next year, 2020, promises to be even more. The range of trips on offer is impressive.

From April to October, on the first Saturday of each month, Erstfeld depot has a "locomotive parade" in the adjacent and largely unused goods yard, from 10.00 to noon. This is followed by a guided tour of the locomotive sheds, with a grill and drinks for sale from 12.30 to 13.15, followed by a special train at 14.45 to Goschenen and back by 16.53. This is cleverly timetabled so that at special points en route, for example the famous Wassen Church, the train slows down to a crawl to allow photographs to be taken by lowering the windows of the historic coaches. It is a bargain at 35 Francs. The locomotives will be drawn from a pool of Ae 6/6 11411 ZUG of 1955, Ce 6/8 II Krokodil 14235, of 1919, or Re 4/4 I 10001 of 1946.

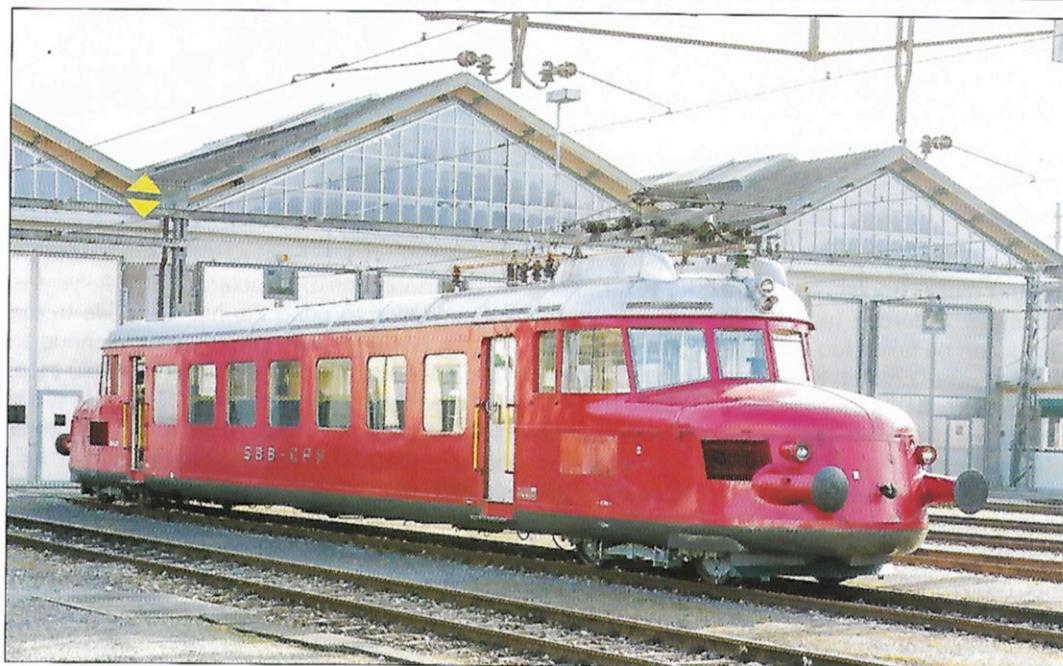
Eb 3/5 "habersack" tank engine operates trips from Olten, BDe 4/4 single electric railcar 1643 of 1955 with a coach operates from Winterthur, Ce 6/8 II Krokodil 14253 of 1919 operates from Bern, C 5/6 2-10-0 steam giant of 1917 operates from Erstfeld and from Delémont. Double Krokodil Ce 6/8 II 14253 of 1919 plus Be 6/8 III 13302 of 1926 work from Erstfeld to Bellinzona and back.

A very popular offer is to be able to ride in the cab of service trains - something unbelievable in the UK for example. Riding



Ce 6/8 II number 14253 of 1919.

SBB Historic



"Roter Pfeil" (Red Arrow)
Rae 2/4 number 1001 of
1935.

SBB Historic



Ae 6/6 11411 ZUG with the
SBB historic train, having
run round for the return trip
to Erstfeld, it waits for
service trains to pass, at
Goschenen, 6.7.19.

Ron Smith