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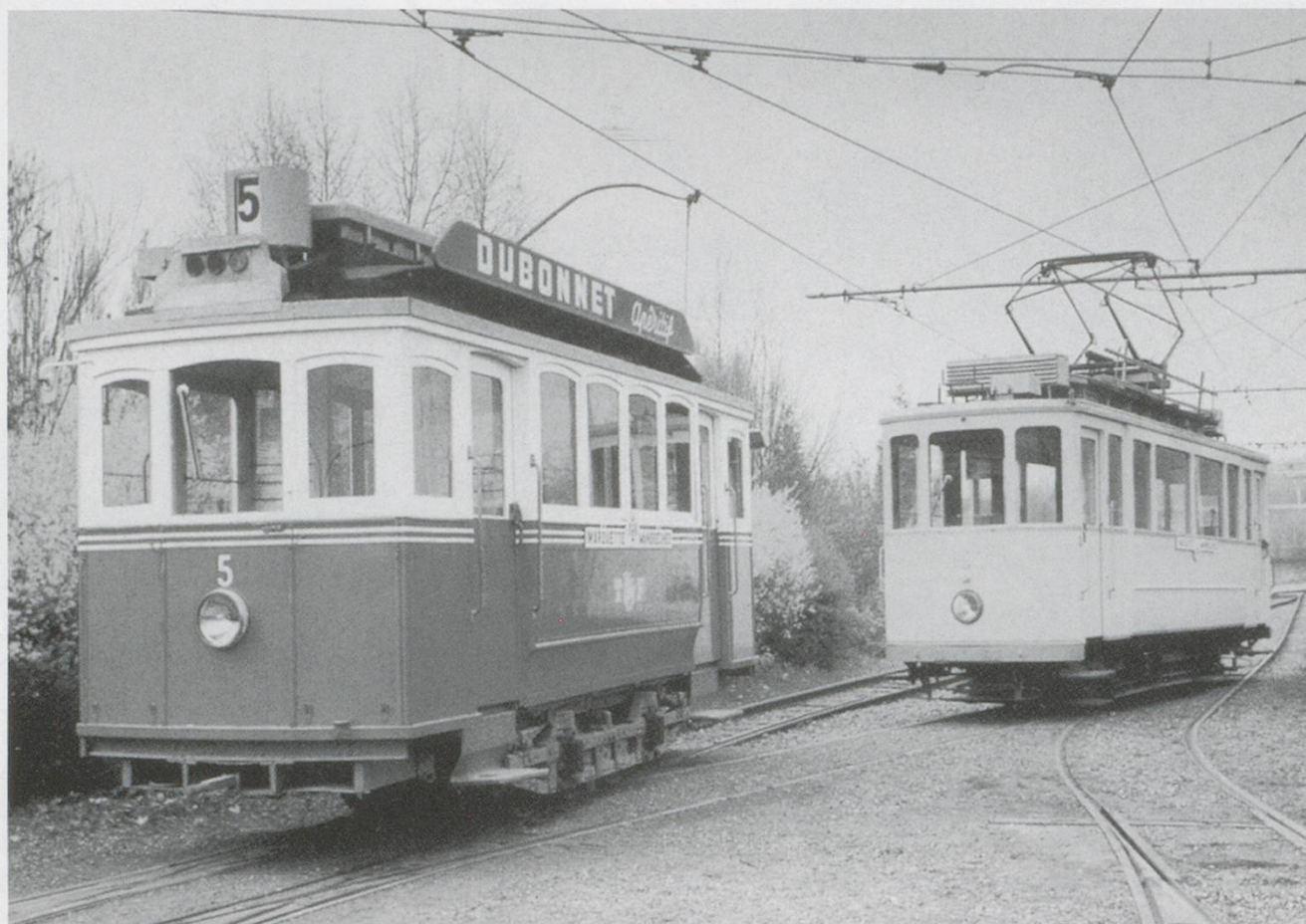
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Motor cars 5 (Fribourg - 1900) and 74 (Neuchâtel - 1920) cross near to the dépôt:

Photo: courtesy AMITRAM

VINTAGE SWISS TRAMS IN NORD PAS DE CALAIS

Gregory Beecroft

It is possible to ride in vintage Swiss trams less than three hours from London. A museum tramway opened in 1995 along the bank of the River Deule in the northern suburbs of Lille. It is operated by a tram preservation society, Amitram, which has an extensive collection of preserved tram cars. However, most of these are in course of renovation and not accessible to the public. Of the four cars that are used on the line, only one is of local origin. This is a car built in 1906 for the Tramway Roubaix-Tourcoing. The other three are Swiss. These are Bern No 175 (built 1944), Neuchâtel No 74 (built 1920) and Fribourg No 5 (built 1900). The line is about 2 km long, running from Marquette Pont Mabile to Wambrechies Vent de Bise. The trams are stabled in a shed near to the Marquette terminus. The line can be reached from Lille Flandres station by buses 9 or 18, alighting at Marquette Mairie, where the line will be found round the back of a housing estate.

See web site <http://www.trains-fr.org/unecto/at.htm> for more details.

Members can probably do this in a day with Eurostar. If you do let us know.