

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2008)
Heft: 94

Artikel: Schwyz discovery
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854625>

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SCHWYZ DISCOVERY

Bernhard Studer

Steinbruch Ruston diesel at Scchwyz, May 1972.

PHOTO: Bernhard Studer.

Steinbruch French locomotive at Schwyz, September 1993.

PHOTO: Ron Smith.



There is always something new to discover in Switzerland. In September 1993 we had been recommended to go to Schwyz for lunch at the Kaserei that is adjacent to the station, and is best reached via a stone stair that descends off the middle of the island platform at the Arth Goldau end. The cheese factory is well worth a visit, with viewings, an interesting shop, and a very good restaurant. The fondue is recommended, but be sure to have a good appetite as the portions are large and good value for money.

A little further on is an aggregates terminal of Steinbruch Zingel AG who have a blue two-axle diesel shunter (built by

Locotracteurs Gaston Moyse, Paris, 1964 - Type BN32E150B) to manoeuvre the hopper wagons. Investigating this, I spotted a Ruston two-axle diesel loco on a plinth up in the air, on top of the roof of the building! This looked to be the narrow gauge loco that I took a photograph of when it was working the terminal on May 29th, 1972. I don't know when the operation converted to standard gauge, but perhaps the construction date of the Gaston Moyse shunter gives a clue – or perhaps a SRS member can add to this? Both locos were still around in summer 2007. Possibly the French loco is the only one of its type in Switzerland.