

OTA

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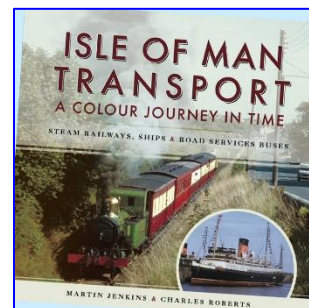
Newsletter

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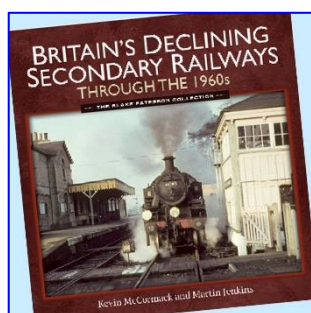
Welcome to the latest Online Transport Archive newsletter. It's been some time since the 7th edition for which we apologise, but we are hopeful that we will in future be able to reach our aspiration of issuing a newsletter twice per year. In this issue, we provide our usual update of OTA activities and provide a profile of another photographer whose collection rests in the Archive.

Publications

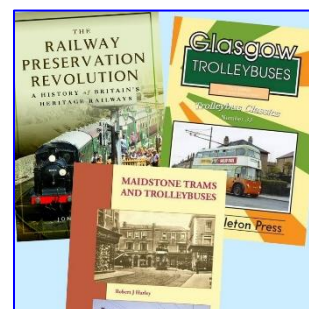
By the time you read this, the latest in the series of works commissioned from OTA should be available through the usual outlets. This is *Isle of Man Transport: A Colour Journey in Time* by Martin Jenkins and Charles Roberts, published by Pen and Sword. The book has the subtitle *Steam Railways, Ships, and Road Services Buses*. The text for a companion volume – dealing with aircraft, horse trams, Douglas Corporation buses, the Manx Electric Railway and the Snaefell Mountain Railway – has just been delivered to the publishers and is due to be released in 2018, hopefully in time for events marking the 125th anniversary of the MER. In the case of both of these books, the entire royalty comes to OTA, providing much needed income to contribute to our operating costs.



Britain's Declining Secondary Railways Through the 1960s: The Blake Paterson Collection (Pen and Sword), compiled by OTA trustees Kevin McCormack and Martin Jenkins, is an interesting project insofar as the material is entirely from one collection. Blake Patterson was a professional railwayman who documented the railways of Britain as the impacts of the Beeching Report began to take effect. The book provides a personal pictorial record of this era.



Glasgow Trolleybuses (Colin Barker, Middleton Press), *Maidstone Trams and Trolleybuses* (Robert Harley, Heathfield Publishing), *The Railway Preservation Revolution* (Jonathan Brown, Pen and Sword) are just three recent publications to which OTA has contributed images. Although individual image royalties are relatively small, particularly in what is a difficult time for the publishing industry, cumulatively they provide significant income to the Archive. They also help OTA achieve its charitable aim of “the education of the public ... in the history of railway, tramway, road, air and water transport”, as well as keeping our name ‘out there’ so that authors, editors and publishers regard OTA as a body to turn to for their needs.



Scanning and further collections

Scanning of OTA's slide and negative collections continues at a significant pace. A team of volunteers round the country are working on this task, but special thanks go to Nicholas Britton who has set up a multi-scanner operation to scan images by their thousand.

OTA continues to receive collections, both from deceased photographers who have willed their material, and from others who have elected to deposit their collections now for preservation and safe keeping. Notable historically important collections (or parts of collections) which have been deposited in the Archive over the last 12 months are from Neil Bates, Neil Davenport, Charles Firminger, Philip Hanson, John Herting, Roy Hobbs, Peter Mitchell, Andrew Nottingham, Ed Springer and Ian Stewart (sample image right).



We are anxious that everyone considers the long-term protection of their collections through formal will arrangements, as news still reaches us of collections which ‘go missing’. We have an information leaflet which provides advice on the wording to go in your will and are happy to give to you specific advice on request. Please contact the secretary using the contact details overleaf.

Imminent future developments

We are working hard behind the scenes on a number of projects which we hope to announce over the next few months. These include an upgrade to the website with links into social media, and a partnership arrangement to make individual copy images from the Archive available to purchase. More on these in the next newsletter.

Profile: Neil Davenport



Among a number of railway collections which have been donated to OTA recently are the colour slides and black and white prints and negatives taken by Arthur Neil Davenport (Neil) and his father, Arthur Davenport (left). Neil died in 2016 and the collection was passed to OTA by his sister, Jean who died unexpectedly in February 2017. The whole family were ardent photographers and their work was of the highest standard.



Neil's ancestors on both the paternal and maternal sides worked for the Midland Railway and the LMS which is how Arthur and Neil's interests in railways came about, although neither followed a railway career, Arthur becoming a banker. Neil was educated at Epsom College and Imperial College, London, gaining a PhD in physical chemistry. In 1951 he joined the Research Laboratories of Kodak at Wealdstone and later transferred to the Kodak Patents and Trade Marks Department in High Holborn, qualifying as a patent agent in 1974. He took early retirement in 1985.

Neil started taking black and white railway pictures in 1947 and colour slides from 1952. Neil was the author of several books covering railways, patents and his final title, one on Thames bridges. The latter is particularly

noteworthy because it is a definitive work which involved Neil in decades of research. The book was published using only Neil's black and white images and OTA has loaned the publishers Neil's comparable colour material, in the hope that a follow-up volume might be produced.



From our collections ...



We profiled Phil Tatt in one of our early newsletters. He covered every mode of transport in his work. Here's a shipping example, French Railways' TS Cote d'Azur leaving Folkestone in the 1960s.



A biography of Jim Joyce appeared in newsletter 4. From his collection, ex-LNER N7 0-6-2T approaches Custom House with a train for North Woolwich with the pre-war Slivertown Way flyover in the background.



The Liverpool tramway system was finally abandoned 60 years ago in September 1957. From an earlier period, and from the John Meredith Collection, is Marks Bogie Car 852 at Dingle on 3 November 1951.



Harry Luff was a regular attender at the HCVC London-Brighton Run. One of the earliest he photographed was in 1964. A Ford tipper lorry queues along with 1936 ex-Southdown Leyland Cub CUF404.

Contacting OTA

Secretarial address:
25 Monkmoor Road
SHREWSBURY. SY2 5AG

Email:
secretary@
onlinetransportarchive.org