

OTA

ONLINE
TRANSPORT
ARCHIVE

Newsletter

Issue 9
April 2018

Welcome to this, our ninth newsletter, which contains the usual mix of news and information to bring you up to date with what's happening at OTA.

New trustee: Jamie Green

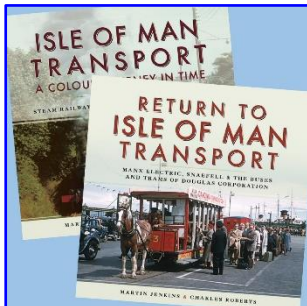
Ever since it was first established, OTA's directors and trustees have represented different age ranges and different interests. Now we are delighted to welcome Jamie Green, 29, as a new trustee who represents the younger age range. OTA can look forward to the future with confidence. It's good to have Jamie on board and he's relishing the opportunity get actively involved: "I am a professional and volunteer railwayman, having been involved in Narrow and Standard Gauge preservation for most of my life, and I'm also a tram enthusiast, recently beginning my volunteer career at the National Tramway Museum. I joined Network Rail in 2014, and am now a signalman at Severn Bridge Junction in Shrewsbury, the largest operational mechanical signal box in the world. I studied History at Aberystwyth University, my undergraduate degree being on Britain's Railways in WWI, and my Masters degree focussing on visitor expectations when visiting heritage railways." He is looking forward to contributing to OTA, raising

awareness of it and helping it to grow, an ambition shared by all OTA's directors and members.



Publications

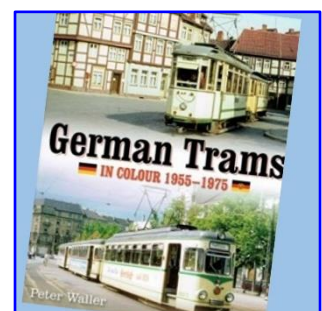
OTA images continue to be used in a mixed-range of books and magazines with the Secretary handling an increasing number of enquiries. As forecast



in the last newsletter *Isle of Man Transport: A Colour Journey in Time* by Martin Jenkins and Charles Roberts was published by Pen and Sword in September. It has been well reviewed, the last edition of *Classic Bus* describing it as a "... splendid book [which] takes you on a wonderfully nostalgic journey all round the island in lovely photographs." The companion volume – *Return to Isle of Man Transport* – has just been signed off with the publishers. This completes coverage of the island by looking at the Manx Electric Railway and the Snaefell Mountain Railway, as well as the buses and horse trams of Douglas Corporation and a few other forms of transport. This is due for release in summer 2018 to coincide with the 125th anniversary of the MER.

The entire royalty for this book comes to OTA.

A recently published book which makes significant use of material from the Archive is *German Trams in Colour 1955-1975* by Peter Waller. This book shows the array of tramcars in both East and West Germany during the very interesting period of transition and contrasting modernisation in what were then two separate countries. Other books being actively worked on at the moment include *London's Transport Recalled* – nostalgic coverage of all modes of transport in the capital in the period from the 1940s to the late 1960s, and an illustrated album about trams in the Austrian city of Vienna. More details on both of these in our next newsletter.



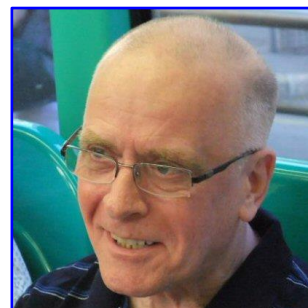
Scanning standards

We still get enquiries from people about the scanning of slides and negatives. It often becomes an issue when contributors are kindly making their images available to supplement OTA pictures in publications – it's quite a difficult conversation when people have gone to the trouble of scanning, only to be told that they do not meet publishers' specification. Our basic standard is for 350 dots per inch (dpi) at approximately A4 output size (longest edge about 300mm). This equates to an enlargement of approximately 1000% when dealing with 35mm (larger film formats should be treated pro-rata). The pixel size of the resulting image should be something in the region of about 5000x3000.

Our preferred format is tif (Tagged Image File Format), which creates large file sizes of the typical order of 50MB-80MB or even larger. Files of such size can be difficult to handle on many computers, so a second preference is for jpeg (a standard developed by the Joint Photographic Experts Group). Files are of the same pixel dimensions but a much more manageable 5MB-8MB each. A problem with jpeg images is that the quality degrades each time a file is opened, edited and resaved. We would therefore ask that if you are scanning images as jpegs, do not try and 'improve' an image with Photoshop (or equivalent – you might actually be making it worse! Always retain the 'master' scan. If you have any queries on this important matter then please contact us using the email address below.

Brian Longworth (1943-2016)

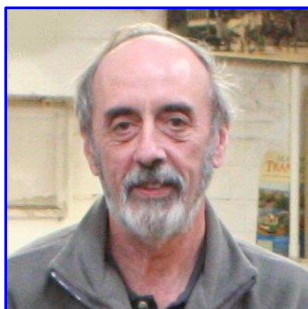
It is with regret that we record the death of OTA Member Brian Longworth on 24 September 2016, just hours away from his 73rd birthday. Born in Toronto, Canada, he came to the UK in 1945 with his parents and lived in Glasgow. He was educated at Hutcheson's Grammar School in the Gorbals and spent his working career in the bus industry, firstly with Glasgow Corporation Transport and later with its successors. He retired in 2010 and was able to devote time to several UK tramway enthusiast organisations close to his heart. His interest in GCT, particularly its trams, dominated his life and his passing denies us all access to his unrivalled knowledge of the workings of the organisation to which he will be always associated with.



We would like to thank OTA Member Geoff Price for his help with the above obituary, which was held over from the previous edition of the Newsletter.

Image cataloguing – can you help?

In the last issue, we mentioned a partnership arrangement through which copies of images in the Archive can be made available. As part of this agreement, OTA needs to supply information about each image (number, location etc) in a standard format. **We are urgently seeking volunteers** to whom we could send a CD of (say) 200 images and form them to input the data into an Excel spreadsheet. If you think you could help us in this important task, please email secretary@onlinetransportarchive.org



Profile: Anthony Gahan

Tony Gahan's collection of colour slides is one of a number which have, in recent months, been passed to the care of OTA. Well known on Merseyside, along with his late elder brothers Jack and Ted (both noted transport historians), Tony began documenting the passing of Liverpool trams at a very young age. His slide collection, which starts from the mid-1960s, covers all forms of transport. Although concentrating mostly on the Merseyside area, it is wide ranging and includes pictures taken

on shore visits whilst on various cruises. Schooled in Liverpool, his working life was spent with the Post Office until he retired in 2000, since when he has been an active member of the Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society. He is a keen supporter of OTA's aims and objectives and a number of Tony's pictures have already appeared in published books.



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