

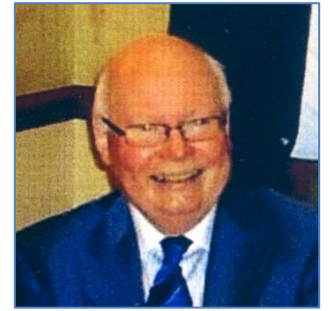
# OTA

ONLINE  
TRANSPORT  
ARCHIVE

As this newsletter should reach you just before the festive period, OTA's trustees would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and hope that 2019 is a rewarding year for you. This is our tenth newsletter and contains the usual range of features about what's been happening at OTA over the last six months or so. Happy reading!

## Obituary: Ian Stewart (1939-2018)

With the death of Ian George McMurdo Stewart on 15 June 2018, the tramway world has lost another of its great experts. Ian possessed an encyclopaedic knowledge of Glasgow trams. He was author of several authoritative books including *The Glasgow Tramcar*. He was also a skilled tramway artist producing scores of unique, high quality side and end views of many different types of tram each perfectly capturing the period livery and, where appropriate, the adverts of the time. These are now to be found in places such as Glasgow's Riverside Museum and the National Tramway Museum.



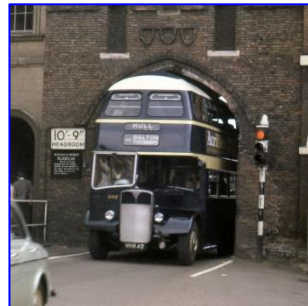
## Newsletter

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December 2018

In so many ways, Ian devoted his life to the trams he loved. As a young man, he came to know the craftsmen at Coplawhill Works and was able to learn first-hand how the trams were constructed and so was able to spend many hours supervising the restoration and painting of cars selected for preservation. He was always striving for perfection in everything he did. He was an entertaining speaker with a quick wit and fine sense of humour and some of his friends were fortunate to hear a spell-binding talk he gave in October 2017 about the development of the Glasgow 'Standards'. He could also engage non-enthusiast audiences with wonderful stories about 'the caurs'.



Born and educated in Glasgow, Ian attended Paisley Technical College and later The National College in London where he developed a life-long fascination with London



Transport. Specialising in heating and ventilation, he worked for Donald Smith, Seymour and Rooley from 1956 to 2004, mostly on healthcare and hospital developments. He continued to work until very recently as a consultant. Highly regarded, he was awarded several medals in recognition of his outstanding contribution.

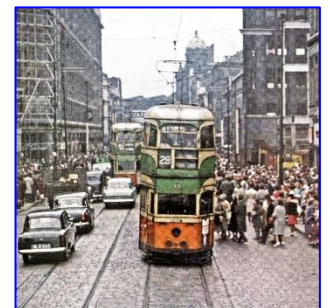
He played a major role in ensuring the Glasgow Garden



Festival Tramway was a success. He was immensely proud to serve as President of the Tramway Museum Society in 1990. A few years ago, he decided to pass his collection of colour slides and cine films to OTA, his earliest material dating from the late 1950s. Some of which are included here.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Audrey, and his children, Jacqueline and Marcus.

## Scanning reaches the half million



Principally through the efforts of Nicholas Britton, we estimate that over 500,000 of the images in OTA's care have now been scanned. Scanning is viewed as a priority for the Archive for a number of reasons. Firstly, it ensures that we have multiple backups of images rather than risk one single copy of each which, even with the utmost diligence, could suffer damage or deterioration. (This serves as a timely reminder for all of you – make sure that you protect your own collections through backing up digital copies, keeping negatives physically separate from prints, making arrangements for scanning originals etc.) Secondly, it ensures that where deterioration of photographic material has started to take place – and it is very difficult to stop it once it has started – that we have as good a scan as possible for future use. Finally, it makes checking through collections for certain subjects much quicker than, for example, going through original slides one by one.



The scans are being done to the standard described in the last newsletter – for reference, 350 dots per inch (dpi) at approximately A4 output size (longest edge about 300mm), equating to an enlargement of approximately 1000%. At this standard, the scans we are creating can be offered directly to publishers for reproduction. In many cases, some photo editing (“PhotoShopping”) may be required, but the original scan quality is robust enough to allow this processing to take place. On the left are examples of heavily deteriorated originals which have been digitally

rescued by the photo editing process and which will be appearing in a forthcoming book *London’s Transport Recalled*. Both were taken by the late Julian Thompson. The story of his collection’s miraculous repatriation from the Philippines was recounted in newsletter 3 (August 2013).

## Publications

We are continuing to get significant numbers of enquires for use of OTA images in a wide range of publications. The gap between an initial enquiry and actual publication can often be two years or even longer. A few which have recently reached the bookshop shelves are profiled here.

*Stopping Car to Fleetwood* (Brian Turner, Heathfield Publishing) is the result of over fifty years' research by the author. It celebrates the 120th anniversary of the opening of the eight-mile tramroad between Blackpool and Fleetwood, a line which is still running today as part of the resort's world-famous tramway. In *Smoke Across the Fells* (Michael Welch, Capital Transport), the author has brought together a collection of images of some of the most arduous rail routes in Northern England and produced a fine record of steam’s closing years on these lines.

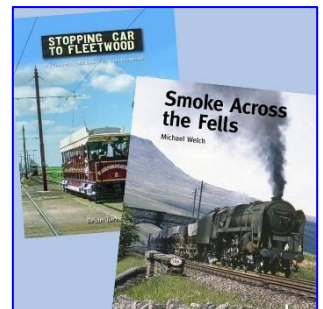
*The Colours of South Yorkshire* (Bob Telfer and Richard Simons, Capital Transport) is the latest book in this series from Capital and includes OTA views of many of the area’s municipal and independent areas. In *Irish Railways in the 1950s and 1960s: A Journey Through Two Decades* (Kevin McCormack, Pen and Sword), OTA trustee Kevin has unearthed a wealth of material from Ireland in the 1950s and 1960s, a period when the transition from steam to diesel was in full flow and narrow gauge lines were closing.



And to show that OTA’s remit is not just limited to the British Isles, German language publication *Die französischen Meterspurbahnen des regulären Eisenbahn-Betriebs* (Rudolf Schuller, Stenvalls) is an authoritative text on French metre gauge railways ... but you probably guessed that from the title.

## Isle of Man book signing

To launch *Return to Isle of Man Transport* (Martin Jenkins and Charles Roberts, Pen and Sword), the authors participated in a book signing event at Tony Wilson’s Tram Junction bookshop in Laxey, during the Manx Electric Railway 125th anniversary event in September. Perhaps a Christmas caption competition for you!?



## General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

A very big thank you to those of you who responded to our ‘opt in’ letter or email which accompanied the last newsletter. Those of you who receive a newsletter via our mailing list and who did NOT respond last time may not be able to receive newsletters in future, so please take the necessary action. Can we also make a repeated request that if you can transfer your option from printed version to emailed pdf, it will save us much needed funds which we can devote to image preservation and restoration.

### Contacting OTA

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