

OTA

ONLINE
TRANSPORT
ARCHIVE

Newsletter

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Using a high quality Leica camera, he possessed an unswerving eye for the classic tramscene with the result that many of his views have been published over the years. He also collected timetables, tickets, indicator blinds and other tramway ephemera. In most instances, he took the trouble to record on the back of the ticket the date and the tram number each time he travelled – a wonderful individual record. He was one of the first photographers to pass his negative collection to OTA.

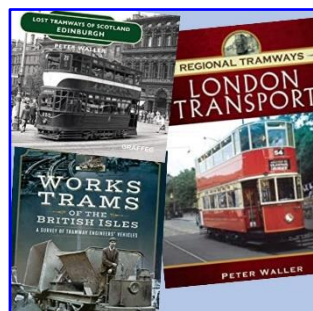
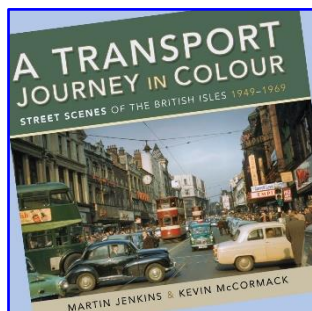
News in brief

Very much a family man, Freddie died in 2011 leaving a wife, two children and a grand-daughter. We maintained contact with the Lloyd-Jones family through Freddie's widow Janet but received the sad news earlier this year that she had died. We send our condolences to the rest of the family.

A further 70,000 or so slides have now been scanned, bringing our total of scanned images to over three-quarters of a million. Much of the work has been undertaken by Nick Britton to whom we send profuse thanks. Work on another 50,000 is now in progress!

DVD release *Trains and Trams of the Isle of Man 1956-1972* features large amounts of OTA footage, particularly that of Phil Tatt and John McCann. Available from: www.uniquebooks.pub/unique-books-shop

Many OTA images, particularly from the invaluable set of prints donated by B J ('Curly') Cross, appear in Peter Waller's tramway books. Latest releases: *Regional Tramways: London*



Transport (Pen and Sword), *Lost Tramways of Scotland: Edinburgh* (Graffeg). Many other volumes in both series.

OTA fundraising books due for imminent release: *Tramways in Vienna in Colour (1956-78)* (LRTA), *A Transport Journey in Colour: Street Scenes of the British Isles 1949-1969* (Pen and Sword).

In advanced stages of preparation: *The Leaving of Liverpool* (LRTA), *Transport Recalled: North and Mid-Wales* (Pen and Sword).

Five months on from our last newsletter and we're all still retracted to some degree or another because of Covid-19. OTA has not been inactive during this time – with collections being received, scanning progressing apace, book projects reaching fruition etc – but our premises are still effectively closed to ensure social distancing is maintained. This edition features a couple more photographer profiles and some information about the running of the Archive and how you may be able to help. We hope that everyone reading this remains in good health and that by the time of our next issue in early 2021, there might be some signs of things getting back to normal.

Profile: F N T Lloyd-Jones (1922-2011)

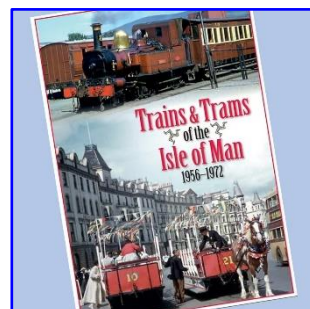
Frederick Noel Trevor (Freddie) Lloyd-Jones was born in Bolton in 1922. Following his education in Lancashire and Herefordshire, he joined BTH in Rugby as one of their electrical apprentices. It was here that he met Ken Farrell and another BTH apprentice and the trio then visited many of the surviving post-war tramways as well as making occasional forays overseas.



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Profile: Charles Firminger



A large photographic collection which has reached OTA was that taken by Charles Firminger, which had passed to Robert Bridger some years ago. Robert died in October 2018 and, under the terms of his will, the collection passed to OTA where it is maintained as a separate entity.

Charles started transport photography in the early 1950s, initially using black and white film, and was an early convert to colour film, starting in 1957. Charles's main interest is in railways, both British and continental, and this accounts for the majority of the collection, although there are some ships and ferries, buses and

trolleybuses amongst them, as well as vintage cars and traction engines.

He joined BR upon leaving school in 1951 and remained with them until 1993 when privatisation was imminent. Since then, he was undertaking part-time transport survey work right up to the Coronavirus outbreak in February 2020. Charles has been involved with the Locomotive Club of Great Britain (LCGB) for many years and has served in various official capacities. He is currently President of the LCGB and is a regular volunteer at the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway.



OTA under lockdown

Like virtually all organisations, OTA has had to adapt to the changing circumstances. A trustees' meeting scheduled for July couldn't take place face-to-face, so Zoom was called into action and worked very well apart from the secretary's voice intermittently turning dalek-like. Usually, one way of bringing OTA material to the public, in line with our charitable obligations, has been to give talks to societies, but those have almost totally dried up since March. However some RCTS branches have found a novel way round that, by using Zoom for their events, and OTA Chairman Charles Roberts delivered a talk to their South Essex Branch from the comfort of his own study on 17 August. The offer is there if any other society would like someone from OTA to give them a talk.



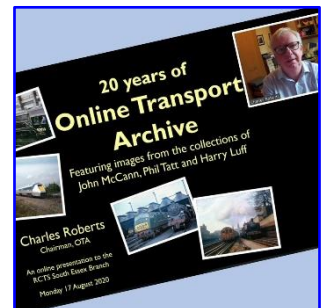
Scanning and fundraising book-writing have proceeded apace and we have recently received material from Peter Thompson and the family of the late A E (Ted) Relton, which we will cover in a future newsletter. Some digital transfer of ciné film has been taking place, most notably that of Fred Ivey and John A Clarke.

Regular Facebook postings (www.facebook.com/OnlineTransportArchive) have been another way of showcasing some of our collections and illustrating what we've been doing. We ran a series over several weeks, '20 years of OTA', to mark our setting up in 2000 and this prompted a comment "How is all this funded?" from one of the 2500 or so people who follow us. The quick answer was "Hard work!" which is true: income from fundraising books, ensuring that authors

and magazine editors know about us and we generate royalties, working with partners in the DVD market to use our archive film footage etc.

Although finances are comfortable – in fact the trustees' meeting signed off the draft accounts with a small surplus for 2019/2020 – OTA has no large corporate organisations behind it, and there are projects we would like to be getting on with. Plagiarising a well-known supermarket advert, every little bit of income helps. Would you be willing to sponsor some of our activities? As a guide, £7.00 buys 200 low-acid envelopes for storing negatives, £8.45 would buy one low-acid slide storage tray, £35 pays for an extra 2TB of storage capacity for our scanned images, £40 pays for the digital transfer of a 400ft reel of ciné film. Storage costs remain our highest outgoing, so if you were able to spare £250 or more, it would cover the rent and other costs of our premises for a week. Remember that as a charity, we are able to take advantage of the HMRC Gift Aid scheme, so if you are a UK taxpayer, then we can claim an additional 25% on top of what you have donated. Please contact us if you would like more information about Gift Aid.

To donate, you can make an online payment to Online Transport Archive, sort code 40-45-22 (HSBC), account 91388762, or send a cheque to our address on the right. Thanks to everyone for your continued interest in, and support for, OTA.



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