

OTA

ONLINE
TRANSPORT
ARCHIVE

Newsletter

Issue 19
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Welcome to the Summer 2022 edition of our Newsletter. We bring you two more photographer profiles and an update on publications which feature images from the Archive.

The Newsletter is our principal method of communication with many of our supporters since we began compiling them in 2011, and we estimate they now reach about 1000 people, once downloads from the OTA website are taken into account. (This can also be used for accessing back copies.)



In 2020, the trustees made the decision to increase the frequency to three per year, and plans are in hand to move to a revised format which will allow us to give more coverage to images, which are the whole raison d'être of the Archive. In light of increasing postal and printing costs, we would appreciate it if anyone who currently receives a postal copy, and is able to receive email, to change to this method of delivery. Please email secretary@onlinetransportarchive.org to select this option.

Profile: W C (Bill) Janssen (1914-2007)

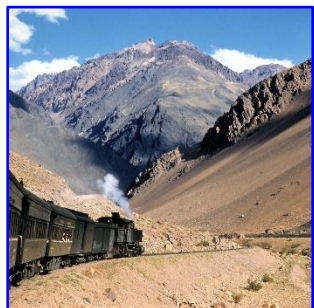


Bill Janssen was born in Preoria, Illinois, USA on 13 June 1914. His career was in electric railways and included stints as a clerk for the Illinois Terminal Railroad in the late 1930s and several periods with the Chicago Transit Authority. In the 1950s he joined the Milwaukee Railroad where he developed the control system to allow electric and diesel locomotives to run in multiple. He also worked overseas, for example in Japan. Latterly, he was employed by the famous Chicago North Shore Interurban Line until it closed in 1963, and later for the South Shore Line as Assistant Superintendent – Mechanical. His knowledge of the latter line was unsurpassed.



After taking his first photographs in the late 1920s, he was very early in making the switch to colour slides. He also took excellent quality 8mm ciné film of electric traction, mostly

trams and railways. In the late 1990s, he decided to pass his non-North American slides and ciné films to the formative OTA to ensure their longer-term survival. Although there are some very good archives attached to museums in the United States, the range of interest is often quite specific and Bill felt that OTA was a better repository for his collection.



In his active years as a traveller and photographer, he was a very early visitor to Cuba, Mexico and South America, where he visited some railway and tramway systems which were closed

by the time other photographers reached them. He visited Europe for the first time in 1954 and some of his early views of the Milan tramway system have featured in the book recently published by the LRTA. He was especially fond of the tramways of Japan but he resolutely refused to visit any Iron Curtain countries until after the collapse of the USSR. He died on 21 January 2007 at the age of 93.

[We are grateful to Ray DeGroot for his help in compiling this profile.]



Les Folkard (1932-2022)

Just as we were about to go to press, we received the sad news that Les Folkard had died, a few weeks after his 90th birthday.

Based in Torquay, Les had a wide-ranging interest in most forms of transport. He travelled very extensively overseas, including places well off the traditional enthusiast trail such as Eritrea, Syria and many of the former Soviet Republics in Central Asia. He passed much of his slide collection to OTA in 2015 and it was one of the first which was bulk-scanned.

We hope to feature a more extensive profile of Les in a future newsletter.

Profile: Ian Dunnet



Ian Dunnet was born in 1936 and educated at Darroch Secondary School. After National Service, he worked in the offices of the Church of Scotland and stayed there until retirement. His wide-ranging collection, now lodged with OTA, is best known for its Scottish steam and diesel rail coverage, bus operations (particularly in Edinburgh) and shipping on the Clyde. His collection reached OTA via George Fairley, who we profiled in Newsletter 12 (December 2019).



Ian writes: "I became interested in railways in my early teens my favourite place was Princes Street Gardens where I met fellow enthusiasts with the result this widened my interest to Edinburgh Corporation buses and trams. A colleague of mine introduced me to the Clyde and one day we sailed from Glasgow to Rothesay. The vessels of David MacBrayne and Caledonian Steam Packet were now added to my interests. Likewise, a visit to Edinburgh Airport gave me an insight to aircraft."

His travels have taken him to places such as Denmark, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, the Baltic States, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, as well as extensive travels within the UK. Beginning with black and white, he moved on to colour slide film

in about 1960. A number of Ian's colour images have appeared in OTA fundraising books, including several at one of his self-confessed favourite photographic location, the bridge overlooking the connection between Craigentenny carriage sidings and the East Coast Main Line (seen right). In retirement, Ian still lives in Edinburgh.

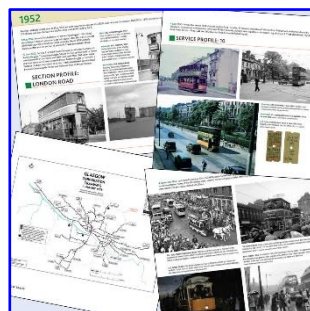
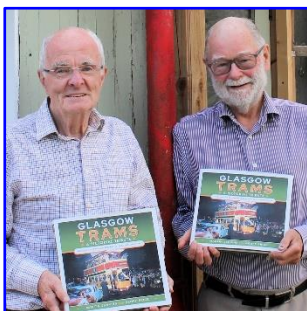
Both of the collections featured in this newsletter are being showcased on our Facebook page during August.



Publications

Since the last edition, there has been a flurry of activity with OTA's fundraising books, with three titles being released in less than two months. As trailed in the last newsletter, *Transport Recalled: North and Mid-Wales* (Pen and Sword) appeared at the end of April, closely followed by the bilingual *Tramways in Milan in Colour (1954-1978)* (LRTA) a couple of weeks later. Both have been well-received, particularly the Milan volume, which includes striking images which are rare to even Italian-based enthusiasts. Further titles in this series on long-closed European tramways are currently under discussion.

There have been some teething problems with respect to making the Milan book available elsewhere in Europe. Post-Brexit, exports to the EU obviously became more complex and expensive, and although some retailers are now stocking the volume, it may take a bit of tracking down. We understand that there is currently no North American outlet, which is unfortunate as US enthusiasts will find the coverage of 'Peter Witts' fascinating. Advice from the LRTA is to buy through its online shop (www.lrta.info/shop/) if no local sales outlet is available.



Slightly ahead of schedule, *Glasgow Trams: a Pictorial Tribute* (Pen and Sword) by Martin Jenkins and Geoff Price appeared in early July. This features a chronological review of the post-war wind-down of the system, over 600 colour and black and white photographs (most previously unpublished) and a series of network maps. Glasgow city and its surrounding suburbs and towns all feature in nostalgic streetscapes and there are scores of photographs of the long-lasting Standard cars, modern Coronations and

Cunarders, ex-Liverpool cars, works vehicles and others. The release of the Glasgow book is in good time to mark the 60th anniversary of the abandonment of the city's trams on 4 September 1962. OTA will commemorate this landmark with a series of images in Facebook from late August onwards.

As well as bringing OTA images to public view, the income from publications such as these contributes to our running costs and ongoing image and film conservation work.

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