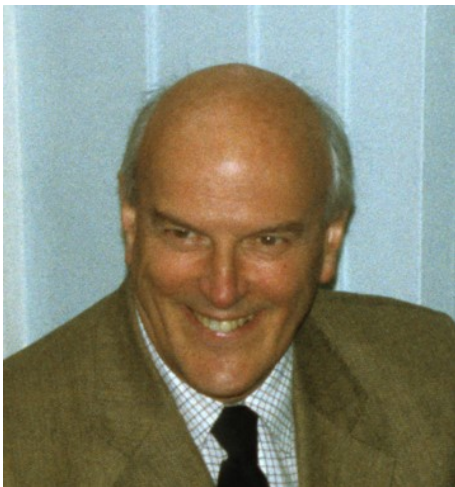




Roberts car 503 at Sheffield Lane Top on 20 June 1959, photographed by Anthony Henry, whose obituary appears on page 4. Anthony Henry/Online Transport Archive (ACH_7-15)

News in brief



Award for OTA Patron. Sir Neil Cossons has been awarded the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon in recognition of his work in ensuring World Heritage status for key industrial sites in Japan. We send him our congratulations.

New collections. A number of new collections have recently been received, including those of Tim Stubbs (c2600 negatives covering rail and road transport) and Martin James (c6500 slides and c800 B&W prints covering a variety of subjects from the late 1950s onwards). We hope to run profiles of

Tim and Martin in forthcoming newsletters, but in the meantime a selection of their work has been posted on our Facebook page.

Scanners overhauled. OTA uses a combination of Epson and Nikon scanners. The latter are particularly good for bulk scanning of slides but have been out of production for some time and all three – two Coolscan 5000s and a 9000 – have been showing their age. We were alerted to someone in Lincoln who overhauls and repairs Nikon machines so ours have been on a trip across the country and are now back in our possession, and should be good for years to come.

Film transfers. Another batch of 16mm, 9.5mm and 8mm ciné films have been transferred to digital format. These include footage taken by Chris Bennett, Peter Mathews, Stanley Eades, Fred Ward, Neville Knight, Ken Thorpe, Elspeth Read, Jim Joyce, Ron Kingdom, Frank Oldfield and Wilf Watters. Discussions are continuing about incorporating footage into video productions and for broadcast.

Donations. OTA is extremely grateful to Chris Bennett for a very generous donation which will support various ongoing projects. We have also

received donations from Charles Firminger in recognition of scans from his collection which he uses to illustrate talks he gives about trips he made in the late 1950s and early 1960s. As mentioned in the last newsletter, Charles's slides reached us via the late Bob Bridger and have appeared in a number of publications.

Terriers 32678 and 32640 at Eastleigh Loco Works being prepared for display at Butlins holiday camps on 29 June 1964. Tim Stubbs/Online Transport Archive (TStubbs_2264)



Profile: David and John Clarke

Something a bit different for this edition – a joint profile of two brothers, both of whom have passed parts of their collection to OTA. David Clarke (b 1936) is the elder by one year from John (b 1937) and they shared an interest in transport, particularly trams, from an early age. Remembering those days, John writes:

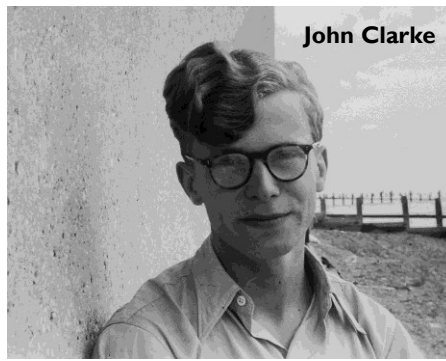
“Although too young to notice the differences, until I was three we lived on Kentish Town Road in North London with bedroom window overlooking the road with trams, trolleybuses and buses passing by. Later, during the war, our favourite outing was by tram from Highgate terminus, through the Kingsway Subway, to Embankment where there was always a continuous procession of trams in both directions.”

The brothers’ enthusiasm for the subway was even caught on camera by an official photographer on the last 35 passing through the Kingsway Subway, in April 1952.



David now: “It conveys well the dedication we both had to the London tram system and particularly the 35 route, which we used daily for school journeys and on Saturdays for reaching the South London system. At the Highgate terminus after that last Subway journey, John and I took one of the side route boards from car 184 (a final short working from Bloomsbury), and carried it home. (It is now with the LCC Tramways Trust somewhere!).”

David’s studies took him to Leeds University where he studied Electrical



Engineering followed by an Education Certificate. His career in teaching kept him in the North of England and he retains a particular fondness for his student days in Leeds as “it had a tram system still operating which included the ex-London Felthams [and] I had my accommodation at Halton, the terminus of the 20 route.” Whilst in Leeds, he was part of a group of enthusiasts which included such legendary figures as David Packer, Keith Terry, Chris Thornburn and Fred Youell. Three months as a student conductor on Glasgow trams in 1959 is also a memory which sticks out.

John stayed down south, studying at Imperial College before forging a career as an Optical Designer at C Baker Instruments in Croydon, and later a Research Scientist at Philips Electronics in Crawley and Redhill.

Both began photography in 1950, initially around London. John

remembers having an Ensign Fulvue camera, whilst David had been given a box Brownie, and on cost grounds they used what even then was unusual film. “Jerome Photographers paper-based films were much cheaper than Kodak or Ilford films, but you had to get your prints done at their shops. They had a shop at the Nag’s Head, Holloway, not far from where David and I lived.” Indeed amongst David’s earliest negatives – methodically numbered from 1 upwards – are some of these paper negs, which can now be scanned in the same way as prints and have the image inverted in editing software. More adventurous trips took place a bit later. John again:

“While at school, venturing outside London was limited by how far pocket money could take you. The local travel agent was very helpful in booking cheap long distance coach travel, including overnight to Birmingham in 1953 for the last day of trams there, and the following year to Liverpool and Llandudno. Going to University with a Student Grant opened up more opportunities for travel and a decent 35mm camera. Together with David and a cousin, in 1956 we borrowed my dad’s newly acquired pre-war car and drove to Scotland, sharing the expense. We were just in time to see trams in Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen, with

LT postwar AEC Regal T767 laying over in Greenford. David Clarke/Online Transport Archive (DGC_000923)



Liverpool 'Baby Grand' 232 heading from Bowring Park into the city. John Clarke (JGC_1528)



and to places like Egypt, India, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand as he approached retirement.

We are pleased to bring you a small selection of David and John's images to accompany this profile.

David Clarke entrusts his collection to OTA in August 2023. Charles Roberts/Online Transport Archive (CCRI11329)

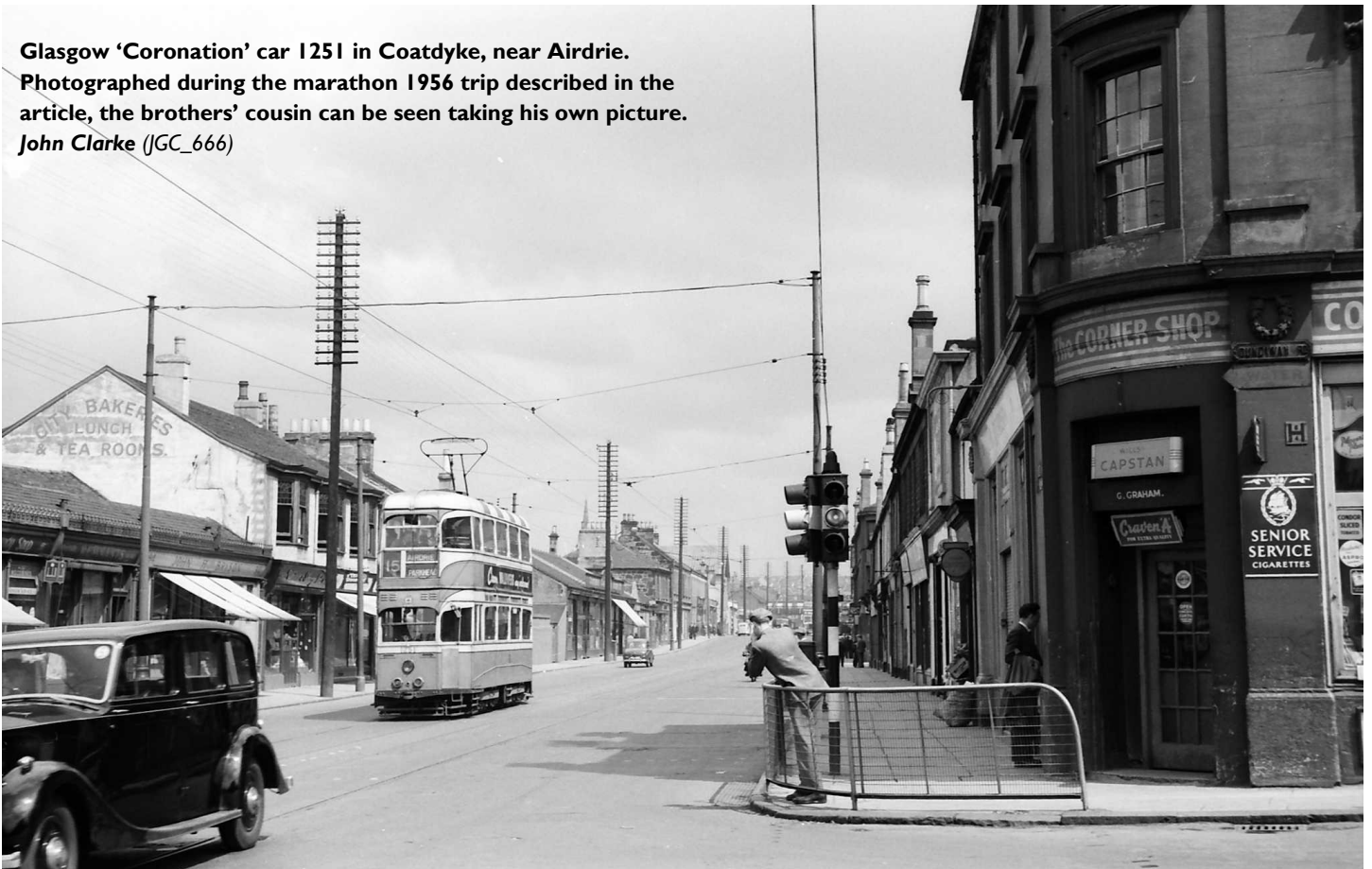


the first of several visits to Glasgow. En route we took in the last day of street running in Grimsby, and trams in Leeds and Liverpool."

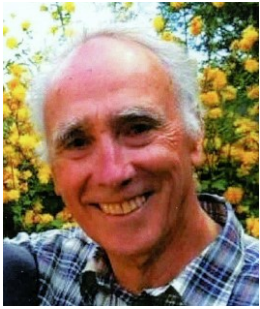
Unsurprisingly, both brothers were very active in societies, David being the officer for the Leeds Area of the LRTL (later LRTA) for many years and John its Membership Secretary from 1970 to

1980, having been a member since 1960. Colour photography and ciné work began in the late 1950's and OTA is fortunate that all formats have been passed over and digitisation has begun. Overseas travel is represented in both collections: David's visits to Belgium, Germany and Canada, and John's visits to North America (mostly on business)

Glasgow 'Coronation' car 1251 in Coatdyke, near Airdrie. Photographed during the marathon 1956 trip described in the article, the brothers' cousin can be seen taking his own picture. John Clarke (JGC_666)



Obituary: Anthony Henry (1937-2023)



OTA was in the process of making arrangements to pick up the collection of Anthony Henry when we received the sad news

that he'd died on 16 December 2023 at the age of 86. Anthony grew up in Huyton near Liverpool and went to his local University to study Civil Engineering. While at the University, he was a founder member of the Public Transport Society (LUPTS), several of whose alumni have links with OTA. His working life was spent with Lancashire County Council and he lived in Cumbria and latterly in Leyland. He and his wife Theresa had three children but sadly Theresa died in 1983 leaving Anthony to bring up his family single-handedly. Later in life he met and married Jacquie in South Africa and spent part of each year either in Leyland or Cape Town. OTA sends condolences to Jacquie and all of Anthony's extended family, particularly his brother Chris and daughter Ursula who have been very helpful in liaising with OTA.

Anthony had compiled notes of his memories of Liverpool trams while he was growing up and these have been used as the basis of an article in the most recent edition of the Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society newsletter. OTA President Martin Jenkins, who knew Anthony from their student days, writes: "Anthony had a photographic memory recalling in considerable detail events which took place when he was still under 10 including the aftermath of the Green Lane depot fire in November 1947. He was early in the field of colour photography recording, for example, the last trolleybus in St Helens. He was also great friends with Jerome McWatt. Together they ventured to cover the tramways in Leeds and Sheffield. Always enthusiastic and helpful, Anthony will be greatly missed."



Huddersfield Sunbeam trolleybus on route 41 at Longwood Gate, July 1966. David Clarke/Online Transport Archive (DGC_004234)

Passing collections to OTA

There are several references in this newsletter to people passing collections to OTA and we hope that anyone reading this edition and who has not yet made provision for their collections will take action as soon as possible. We are well aware that we are not the only repository and indeed we work closely with other archives to share experiences and best practice. With links to the Land Transport Archives Network and, recently, members of the National Association of Road Transport Museums (NARTM), our trustees regularly meet colleagues from similar groups.

We believe that OTA is unique in that it covers all transport modes and has international interests. Also it archives still and moving images as well as modern digital media, and has a proven track record of making its material visible through books and magazines as well as through presentations and on social media.

A long-standing philosophy of OTA has been to always credit the photographer or film-maker so it is only rarely when we have to use 'Photographer Unknown/Online Transport Archive'. The profiles which appear in our newsletters (now three regular editions per year) ensure film-makers and photographers are not anonymous figures from the past.

Collections find their way to OTA via many different routes. Our preference is for a planned transfer during the lifetime of the photographer. Many people are happy to do this as part of a downsizing and it can also be a welcome relief to know that a treasured collection has found a good home. OTA is often able to quickly digitise collections and can sometimes make copies available to the photographer – so much better than being unable to view material because of the lack of a working projector.

Should you still wish to retain your collection for now, please ensure that explicit provision is made in your will. As OTA has seen so many things go wrong, it is vital to seek advice from a solicitor or ask us for the relevant information. Above all, please don't 'bury your head in the sand'. Recently, OTA was asked to make contact with people handling an estate. The response was positive, but with the warnings that (a) it is low down their list of priorities and (b) the collection is known to be deteriorating and will continue to do so, so in the end there might not be anything worth having. A sad end to a lifetime's work.

So please get in touch for advice to ensure that people will have pleasure from your work for a very long time into the future.