

## Introduction

Online Transport Archive (OTA) was established as a company limited by guarantee in 2000 to administer a growing collection of ciné films, slides, negatives, prints and commercial postcards relating to all forms of transport. It is the aim of the Archive that the collections are accessible to publishers and to *bona fide* researchers, and where possible used in such a way that they will support fundraising activities for transport preservation projects. Charitable status was achieved in January 2004.

OTA already administers, and is in the ongoing process of assuming custodianship of more, historically important film and photograph collections. OTA works with many major publishers and producers to ensure that material is brought to as wide an audience as is practicably possible.

The purpose of this leaflet is to provide general information about OTA's activities and to give outline information about depositing collections. If you feel that OTA can be of help to you, please can you complete the attached enquiry form and post it to: 8 Aughton Court, Church Road, Upton, WIRRAL. CH49 6JY

Alternatively, you may wish to view further information about OTA on our website [onlinetransportarchive.org](http://onlinetransportarchive.org) or contact us through email at [secretary@onlinetransportarchive.org](mailto:secretary@onlinetransportarchive.org) OTA looks forward to hearing from you.

## Background

Transport has been one of the longest-standing subjects for professional and amateur photographers since the development of photographic techniques in the 19th century. More widespread availability of photographic equipment and increasing affluence led to a gradual increase in the quantity of material being generated by private individuals with an interest in transport.

Many photographers from the postwar period are now of advanced years and are increasingly concerned about the long-term future of their collections. With some it is already too late – the photographers have died and, in the absence of suitable arrangements having been made through their wills, the collections have been destroyed. Even those foresighted enough to make some arrangements in some instances have not had the spirit of their bequests carried out.

Each collection is, in its own way, irreplaceable from an historical perspective. If no action is taken, the images will deteriorate – chemical changes in the emulsion, the growth of

mould on film surfaces, and colour fading all threaten the survival of rare images.

It was against this background that OTA was established in 2000, as a national body to complement other existing archives, and to work with them, whilst having its own unique characteristics.

## OTA's aims and objectives

As part of the charity application process, OTA developed a plan based around a series of key business objectives. These are:

- To receive transport-related film and photograph collections as and when they become available.
- To undertake essential conservation work on collections, eg digitising existing film and slide material to protect the integrity of the image against deterioration and to enhance it if deterioration has already taken place.
- To continue to develop agreements with appropriate bodies to facilitate making the material available to the public at large.
- To work with *bona fide* researchers seeking access to the archive material.

## OTA activities

In order to achieve its objectives, OTA has been active in many ways (see website for fuller details):

- Film has been made available for transferring to video and, from these sub-masters, editing into publicly available videotapes. Certain of these video producers work closely with transport preservation organisations whereby a significant proportion of the profits from the sale of the tapes is donated towards the restoration of trams, buses, trolleybuses etc.
- Public lectures have been given by the directors and associated helpers to a variety of societies and clubs across Britain. Generally these have been provided free (though some societies have made donations). OTA regards this as very beneficial, generating awareness of the Archive itself, but also spreading the word regarding the wider issue of will-writing by transport enthusiasts.

To: Secretary, Online Transport Archive, 8 Aughton Court, Church Road, Upton, WIRRAL. CH49 6JY

NAME	
ADDRESS	
PHONE	
MOBILE	
EMAIL	

Please tick as appropriate, and provide additional information in the box at the bottom of the page:

I am considering depositing material with OTA (either now or at some stage in the future). I have material in the following formats:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Colour slides	<input type="checkbox"/>	8mm ciné
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black and white negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other ciné
<input type="checkbox"/>	Colour negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

I am an author or publisher and would like material to illustrate my work.

I am a film/video producer and would be interested in including OTA footage.

Additional information (for material to be deposited, please provide brief details of subject matter, dates and quantity; for publication, please detail subject matter required):



R L Wilson/Online Transport Archive

- Still and ciné material from the Archive has been provided to TV companies and video producers. OTA has provided material to many of the major publishers of specialist transport books, including Ian Allan, Capital Transport, the Light Rail Transit Association, Adam Gordon and Black Dwarf Publications. Film footage has appeared in broadcasts by, among others, the BBC, Granada, Central and HTV, and also in commercially available videotapes.
- Still images are made available to authors, publishers and magazine editors. In addition, a small number of PhotoCDs have been produced and these are available either from OTA directly, or through other organisations such as the Merseyside Transport Trust. OTA is unable to deal with individual requests for copy sides or prints.

### Directors

Part of OTA's philosophy is that its directors (who are also trustees for Charitable purposes) should represent all aspects of transport interests and cover a wide age range, to ensure continuity.

OTA is an entirely voluntary body. Under its Articles of Association, no director is permitted to benefit financially or in any other way from the company.

#### *You should contact OTA if:*

- *You have a collection of transport slides, negatives, photographs or films which you would be interested in depositing.*
- *You would like to make provision now for your collection to be safeguarded in the future.*
- *You are an author or publisher and would like to access the Archive to illustrate your work.*
- *You are a film or video producer and would like OTA footage to appear in your production.*

**Online Transport Archive**  
A company limited by guarantee  
Registered in England number 4017910  
Registered charity 1101785

**Registered office:**  
8 Aughton Court, Church Road, Upton,  
Wirral. CH49 6JY

**OTA**  
ONLINE  
TRANSPORT  
ARCHIVE

**A charity, preserving for  
posterity photographs and  
moving images of transport**



E C Bennett/Online Transport Archive

# ONLINE TRANSPORT ARCHIVE GENERAL INFORMATION



A S Clayton/Online Transport Archive



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