



Gresley A4 4-6-2 60003 'Andrew K. McCosh' waits to depart from King's Cross in 1961. Martin James/Online Transport Archive (MCJ_0004)

News in brief

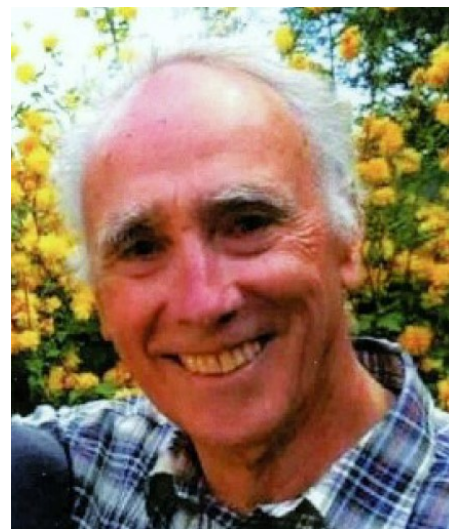
Book commissions. After a slight hiatus, it's all systems go! Work has begun on illustrated albums covering London Underground and British Municipal Buses. And we've been given the go-ahead to resurrect work on a book looking at the trams of Barcelona, Mallorca and Valencia, largely drawing on the photographic work of Ray DeGroot. Ray celebrates his 94th birthday this month – happy birthday from OTA! More details on all these titles, and hopefully others which are under discussion, nearer publication.

Railway Magazine. An article in the June 2024 edition about The Transport Treasury – an organisation with which

OTA works closely – discusses the role of photographic archives in general and lists OTA as one of Britain's leading bodies in the field. A follow up letter in the July 2024 edition from Paul Chancellor of Colour-Rail refers to supporting information – the subject of our article on page 4 – and the future problem of archiving digital material. Both the original article and Paul's follow up are worth reading.

An apology. To accompany the obituary of Anthony Henry in the last newsletter, we scanned a print which had listed on the reverse a number of enthusiasts in the lower saloon of a Liverpool tram in 1957. One of the

names was Anthony, and we used his image to accompany our obituary. Oops! Within an hour or so of the email newsletter being despatched – the printed copies having already gone out – Chris Henry got in touch to thank us for kind words in



Above: The late Anthony Henry. Image replaces that which appeared in printed and emailed copies of Newsletter 24. The Henry Family

the obituary, but to say that he didn't think it was his brother, and he should know! The family kindly accepted our apology and we were able to upload a revised version of the newsletter to the website, but it shows how easily these errors can slip in.

Preserving the past

The digital age makes it far simpler to take train photos than in the days of film. However, one major consideration for both analogue and digital images is how to preserve and pass on photographic collections for enjoyment by future generations. Chris Miller visits specialist photo library, The Transport Treasury, to find out more.



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Profile: Martin James



Martin James has recently passed his collection of colour slides and black and white prints to OTA. Born in Birkenhead in 1931, he has memories of trams and ferries just before the war.

“As a 5 or 6 year old, my grandad used to take me out on Sunday mornings – a bus to Woodside, ferry to Liverpool, and then the trams! I was hooked at once!”

He left the Merseyside area shortly afterwards and, after a period of National Service, spent his working career in the banking sector, living for most of this time in London and Sussex, before returning to Wirral.

As well as his transport interest, he was also a founder member of the



National Union of Track Statisticians. That's athletics track, not railway, and the picture on the left, looking for all the world like he's waiting for a train or tram, actually shows him in the stands at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome.

He started transport photography in 1956 taking black and white on a prewar Kodak box camera passed on by his father. In spite of its limitations – 8 exposures with 1/50sec shutter speed, he achieved creditable results. Although he no longer has the negatives, OTA is managing to restore many of the images from his set of 110x60mm contact prints.

He moved onto colour slides in 1961 with successively a Kodak Retina and then a Nikon F301, generally using Kodakchrome II film which has retained its vibrant colour through the years.

His primary interests are tramways and railways, but he also turned his camera to trolleybuses and the

occasional interesting bus when the opportunity presented itself.

Widely travelled, often combining athletics events with looking at transport activity, countries he's visited include Japan, India and Pakistan, as well as Hungary and Yugoslavia in Iron Curtain Days. He cites Austria as his favourite country to visit, particularly Gmunden, Porto as his favourite European city, and a particular fondness for the Manx Electric Railway.

Living in Wirral in retirement, and now in his 93rd year, Martin is pleased that the future of his collection is secure and can now be brought to a wider audience. His interest in transport is still as strong as ever, although he doesn't get out and about these days. He retains particular affiliation to the Stanier Mogul Fund and the Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society.



Beckton Gas Works No 19 (Neilson 3789/1888, reb 1931) photographed on 12 April 1958. Martin James/Online Transport Archive (MCJ_b&w_2-017)



LT 1502 passing The Swan in Hampton Wick. Martin James/Online Transport Archive (MCJ_2572)

Profile: Tim Stubbs

Although he considers photography as secondary to other professional and enthusiast involvement, the images which Tim passed to OTA earlier in the year provide a unique insight into various aspects of transport.

Born in 1944, his earliest memories of transport are riding Ipswich trolleybuses at the age of 5. He went to school in Farnborough and college in Portsmouth, becoming a BR Engineering Apprentice at the age of 18. He forged an impressive career on the railways which took him to:

Lancing, Portsmouth, Eastleigh, Selhurst, Derby, Norwich, BRB London, Carlisle, Crewe (driver manager), Derby again (technical centre), BRB London again and Porterbrook Leasing. Later self-employed, he assisted with accident investigation and graduate engineer training, and is still involved with the latter role today.

When we posted one of his images on Facebook in February, Jennifer, one of the trainees he'd mentored, commented: "Tim is a legend amongst



Above: Tim in the cab of ex-Aldershot & District Dennis Lance 145 (GOU845), a bus he's owned in active preservation since 1964. Tim Stubbs/Online Transport Archive (TStubbs_2569)

The former LT RTW178 with Stevensons of Uttoxeter, photographed in Burton-on-Trent in 1968. Many years later, this bus passed into Tim's hands for continued preservation. Tim Stubbs/Online Transport Archive (TStubbs_2322)

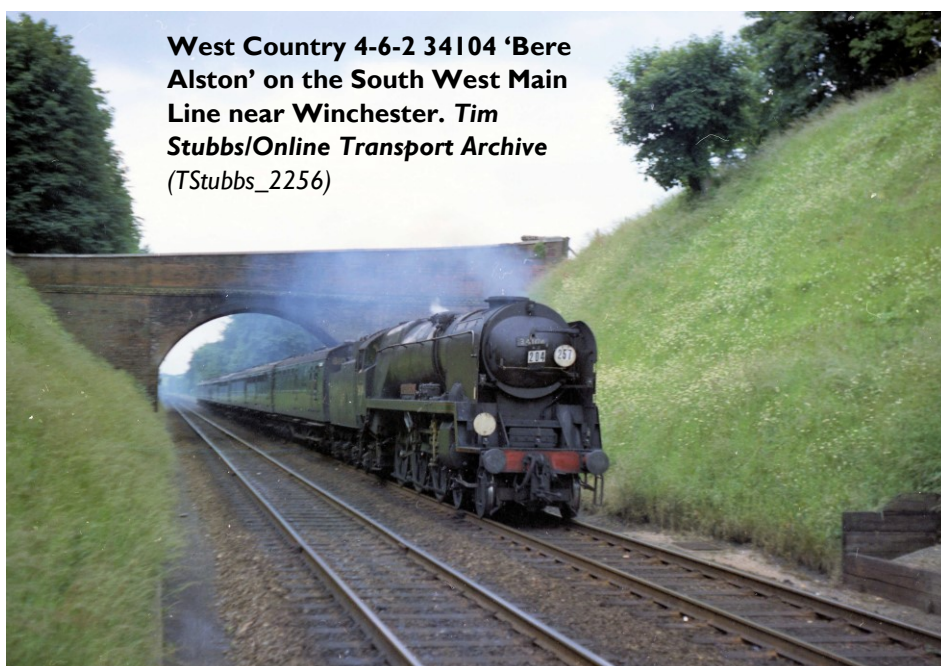


railway engineers ... I am proud to be one of his 2002 intake. He has an archive of anecdotes for the many topics we faced when he mentored us and ensured we had a solid traditional grounding based on important lessons learned from generations of railway people before us." We couldn't put it any better!

He began black and white photography, using his mother's Box Brownie, in about 1956 and moved on to a 2 1/4 in square format bellows camera and later a Zenith SLR. There are a few colour negatives in his early output but he moved over primarily to colour in 1971.

His society affiliations are too many to mention, but include Sandtoft, Carlton Colville, the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway, the Dennis Society, the South Devon Railway, many of them involving practical assistance such as driving, signalling and helping with restoration. He's owned an ex-Aldershot & District Dennis Lance double-decker for 60 years and kept it on the road almost unbroken – that must be a record – and owns another three motorbuses. And if that's not enough, he acquired the wreck of a Rotherham six-wheel trolleybus about 20 years ago and, with the help of some dedicated colleagues, has rebuilt the vehicle in the Midlands, to the point where it's almost complete. We've had a sneak preview and must say it looks absolutely superb.

West Country 4-6-2 34104 'Bere Alston' on the South West Main Line near Winchester. Tim Stubbs/Online Transport Archive (TStubbs_2256)



Sorting and cataloguing

File No	Frame No	Country	Date	System	Veh No	Place	Location1	Location2	Veh Type	Light	Features	Batch
264 17	EG	30 Dec 1974	Cairo	402	11	El Ataba						
264 18	EG	30 Dec 1974	Cairo	103	11	El Ataba						
264 19	EG	30 Dec 1974	Cairo	2534+7	13	7EI Ataba						
264 20	EG	30 Dec 1974	Cairo	72019	7	Midan El Tahrir						
264 21	EG	30 Dec 1974	Cairo	626+7	7	Terminus						
264 22	EG	30 Dec 1974	Heliopolis	440	yellow	7EI Gata						
264 23	EG	30 Dec 1974	Cairo	2221	23							
264 24	EG	30 Dec 1974	Cairo	338	23							
264 25	EG	30 Dec 1974	Cairo	3175	20							
264 26	EG	30 Dec 1974	Cairo	1134	22							
264 27	EG	30 Dec 1974	Cairo	1184	1							
264 28	EG	30 Dec 1974	Cairo	1138	9							
264 29	EG	30 Dec 1974	Cairo	1187	404	7, 11						
264 30	EG	30 Dec 1974	Cairo	1134	22							
265 12	EG	1 Jan 1975	Alexandria	861	4	Main Tram centre						
265 13	EG	1 Jan 1975	Alexandria	7	805	Main Tram centre						
265 14	EG	1 Jan 1975	Alexandria	861	3	Main Tram centre						
265 15	EG	1 Jan 1975	Alexandria	814	3R	Main Tram centre						
265 16	EG	1 Jan 1975	Alexandria	875	4	Main Tram centre						
265 17	EG	1 Jan 1975	Alexandria	803	7	Main Tram centre						
265 18	EG	1 Jan 1975	Alexandria	304+7+9	5	Main Tram centre						
265 19	EG	1 Jan 1975	Alexandria	532+7+9	1	Ramleh Station						
265 20	EG	1 Jan 1975	Alexandria	707+108	4	Ramleh Station						

Images held by OTA have much more archival and historic value when they're supported by written records. Our collections cover the full spectrum, ranging from those with very detailed notes, to ones where we literally have nothing other than the original material in the form of slides, negatives etc. With the latter, it is a challenge to understand exactly what we've got. (It does give us material for our Facebook #MysteryWednesday feature however!)

Recently, we started work on the OTA fundraising books mentioned on page 1. Although we were able to go straight to scanned images in some instances, there was also quite a lot of what might be called 'virtual legwork' looking at thousands of images on the computer screen to prepare a shortlist.

It is important to say that preserving the image is the most important thing – DON'T throw out material just because it doesn't have supporting information, it's still important.

We do have some collections which have extremely detailed background, such as that of Alan Murray-Rust, who has detailed all of his images on Excel spreadsheets, with precise locations, and even facts about what the light and weather conditions were!

Right: The 'Tram Paparazzi' at the Parade in Gent, Belgium, 19 May 2024. Charles Roberts/Online Transport Archive (CCRI15467)

Above: Some examples of image listings as they came to OTA with collections.

Collections such as those of John McCann and Charles Firminger, and indeed the recently accessioned Martin James material, are supported by handwritten notebooks, which are of great help but still require page turning to find particular subject matter.

We need your help!

This could be where you come in. Would you be interested in either undertaking transcription work of photographers' notebooks or trying to identify subject matter from scanned images? If so, please can you please make contact with our secretary (secretary@onlinetransportarchive.org) and let him know what areas of expertise you have.



It pays to talk to strangers!

We don't usually turn the camera on ourselves but the picture below shows a number of people with OTA connections in action in Gent a couple of months ago. Featured are: [1] Ed Springer from Philadelphia, who is one of a number of people who flies the flag for OTA in the USA; [2] Dave Spencer of PMP Video who helps OTA with its YouTube presence; [3] OTA President Martin Jenkins; [4] Mike Russell, an OTA trustee 2001-2018. The event also featured an encounter which led to the securing of another collection for the Archive, as Martin explains:

"On Sunday 19 May 2024, I had positioned myself along with a number of other well-known enthusiasts on the flight of steps leading up to the Cloth Hall attached to the Belfry in order to film the Gent 150 parade of veteran trams. Whilst we waited people were chatting and I spoke to a fellow enthusiast standing just behind me. He introduced himself saying that he hailed originally from the UK but was now resident in Canada. He then casually mentioned that he had used a motorbike to take colour slides of a number of SNCV lines in 1964.

"I asked if he had made plans for his collection. He requested information relating to OTA. We exchanged email addresses just as the first of the parade trams appeared after which we went our separate ways. I am delighted to say that Charles McLeod has since agreed to pass his collection to OTA and that his 1960s Belgium views are outstanding. So sometimes it does pay to talk to strangers!"