

# OTA

ONLINE  
TRANSPORT  
ARCHIVE

Welcome to the second OTA newsletter. Our first one went all round the world and was well-received, achieving its aim of keeping interested parties in touch with developments at the Archive.

The intervening period has been very busy, with collections being taken into the Archive and moves being made to safeguard other collections for the future. Several of the Directors have been involved in book-writing projects and OTA achieved a first with a major

credited role in a recent BBC documentary. These developments are reviewed here, and we have also taken the opportunity to profile two OTA collections. The Archive aims to preserve collections as well as the memories of those who produced the images and films so this background information is available for future enthusiasts. Other profiles will be included in subsequent newsletters.

## The Colours of Yesterday's Trams

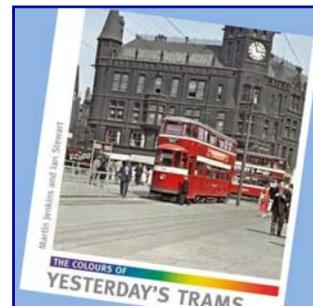
OTA's most ambitious project to date has been the compilation and authoring of this title – recently published by Capital Transport at £25.00 – by OTA Director Martin Jenkins and OTA member Ian Stewart. The book which makes extensive use of numerous collections held or administered by OTA – Ray De Groote, George Fairley, Jack Batty, Chris Bennett, Jeff Todd, Phil Tatt, E J McWatt and many others – presents an evocative, all-colour representation of the tramway scene in Britain and Ireland between 1935 and the early 1960s. Martin and Ian generously waived their writers' fees and this has provided invaluable income for the Archive. OTA would also like to thank Barry "Curly" Cross for a Gift Aid donation which covered some of the royalty payments for other images used in the book. It really is a must for anyone interested in trams in the British Isles.

## C Carter Collection

OTA is honoured to have been entrusted with administering on behalf of John Carter, much of his father's extraordinary collection of non-London colour material. (The London material is now lodged with the London Transport Museum.) The earliest of these remarkable images date from the late 1940s. This agreement ensures that C Carter's images can be accessed by authors and publishers.



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## Profile: Phil Tatt

Phil Tatt was a well-known and long-standing member of the LRTA who, over the years, together with his wife, Eileen, built up one of the most comprehensive transport collections of mono negatives, colour slides, ciné films and videos. He was interested in virtually everything on wheels and anything that moved.

Born in 1929, he was raised, educated and married in South London and, for 40 years, he taught Mathematics and Physics at St Joseph's College, Beulah Hill. In the 1980s he taught at Eltham College and for over 50 years he worked in the evenings as a lecturer at Woolwich College, the money helping to fund his passion for transport photography.

In the late 1940s Phil took an active role in the campaign to retain London's trams. He was a member of the LRTL Cine and Colour Group and, starting in 1956, he created one of the most remarkable slide and film archives, covering not only the UK but also innumerable operations abroad. After his death in 2005, his widow devoted herself to cataloguing as much of the collection as possible before passing it to OTA. Without doubt, this is one of the most significant bequests made thus far to OTA and we are grateful to the Tatt family for entrusting us with this vitally important collection. Images from the collection have already appeared in a number of books and publications.



## BBC Timeshift

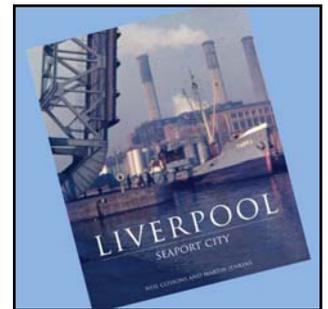


OTA was actively involved in a programme which formed part of BBC4's *Timeshift* series in 2011. Entitled *The Story of the Tram: A Streetcar Named Desire*, it featured interviews with many notable enthusiasts, and people in the public eye such as Alan Bennett, Roy Hattersley and Ken Dodd, interspersed with modern day and archive film footage. Much of the latter was supplied by OTA, which received a credit at the end of the programme along with the Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society, the Leeds Transport Historical Society and Online Video, with the latter kindly donating its

percentage of the royalty payment to OTA. If you missed it in the autumn, don't worry – BBC4 regularly repeat programmes like this, although you might have to get up in the middle of the night to watch it!

## Liverpool: Seaport City

One way of raising much-needed funds to cover the cost of transferring and restoring vulnerable, but irreplaceable, ciné films, colour slides and negatives is to publish books with the authors' fees and the bulk of the royalty payments going to OTA. One such example is *Liverpool: Seaport City* co-authored by Sir Neil Cossons, former director of the Science Museum and Martin Jenkins. Published during 2011 by Ian Allan, all the monies from this book are going towards the work referred to above. The book draws heavily upon our OTA collections.



## Will-writing

The OTA receives an increasing number of enquiries relating to the wording which should be used when making a will involving transport-related material. Please contact our Secretary, Peter Waller ([secretary@onlinetransportarchive.org](mailto:secretary@onlinetransportarchive.org)), and he can provide the recommended wording.

## Online Transport Archive and Online Video

Sometimes people ask us "What is OTA's relationship with Online Video (OV)?" no connection between these two entirely separate organisations although OTA does owe its origins to OV hence the name. During the period when OV was producing its acclaimed range of transport-related tram, trolleybus, bus, shipping and rail videos (now available on DVD), increasing numbers of film-makers were looking for a long-term repository for their collections. As a result OTA was established in 2000 as a totally separate Company Limited by Guarantee with a view to administering a growing archive of film and photographic collections relating to all forms of transport. Then in January 2004, OTA was granted charitable status. During the past five years, OV has transferred ownership of a significant amount of film material to OTA for which we are very grateful.

For the record, there is

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### Profile: R W A Jones

Bob Jones, who now lives in Newport, Pembrokeshire, has opted to pass his extensive collection of mono negatives and colour slides to OTA during his lifetime. Born in Cardiff in 1932, he obtained a Chemistry degree at the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire.

After National Service in the RAF, he trained as a teacher at Bristol University with subsequent teaching posts in Wales and England. In 1972 he trained for the Ministry and has only just retired. He is very proud to have served as mayor of Newport. Bob took his first mono tram photograph in 1947, his first colour view in 1951 and his first colour slide in 1955. He is an expert on Cardiff trams and, over the years, has travelled extensively abroad. OTA is delighted that Bob has agreed to allow his collection to pass into the custodianship of the charity and some of his remarkable colour views of steam in the Welsh Valleys are already earmarked for a forthcoming book.

