

Price: £19.99
ISBN: 978 1 84114 735 2
Format: Hardback, 160 pages,
 297x210mm, profusely illustrated
 with over 200 mono images
Imprint: Halsgrove
Published: Sept 2008

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IMAGES OF BRISTOL, SOMERSET AND DORSET RAILWAYS

CLASSIC PHOTOS FROM THE MAURICE DART RAILWAY COLLECTION
Maurice Dart

This is the fourth book in this popular series, partnering *Images of Cornish Railways* and *Images of Plymouth and South Devon Railways* and *Images of Exeter and East Devon Railways* featuring photographs from the collection of Maurice Dart, Cornwall-based photographer and authority on Westcountry railways. This volume covers the period from the earliest days of photography through to the end of the age of steam on railways in the the counties of Dorset and Somerset, and the Bristol region.

Here are rare photographs, many of them taken by the author, of main line locomotives and private and industrial lines, many of which no longer exist. Each is accompanied by the author's own text, unique reminiscences of the locomotives that once ran on the westcountry's extensive rail system.

Now in his seventies, from a boy Maurice Dart has travelled throughout much of Southern Britain armed with a camera, taking photographs of all things railway. His collection, now numbering many thousands of images, has been the source of many small publications and has been used in countless magazines and journals.

Here for the first time is a comprehensive look at a major part of this unique collection - a book that will become a classic of Westcountry steam.

Maurice Dart was born in Plymouth and, apart from a period in Gibraltar, he has lived in Devon and Cornwall for all of his life. The interest in railways was bred into him almost from birth and has stayed with him throughout his life. He was educated at Sutton High School, Plymouth followed by Plymouth Technical College and worked as a chemist in the china clay Industry for thirty-seven years. Through his work he gained an intimate knowledge of the Lee Moor Tramway and of china clay railway operations by the main line railway companies. Following retirement he works as a volunteer on the Bodmin & Wenford Railway, mainly in the shop, or escorting visiting enthusiasts around the railway. He also acts as a guide for enthusiasts who wish to visit sidings that serve locations owned by Imerys Minerals. His other main hobby is Folk Dancing, which has taken him to Ireland, Jersey, Portugal and Yugoslavia and he dances at times with local Trigg Morris Men from Bodmin. On his trips abroad, he has always managed to find time for railway photography. He also likes to play snooker once a week or so and enjoys eating out.



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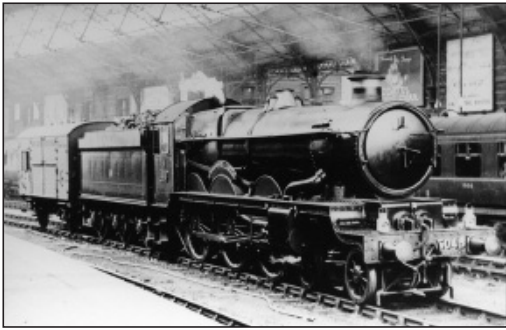
A railtour organised by the The Locomotive Club of Great Britain is hauled by 53804.



4970 'SKETTY HALL' from Taunton shed detaching from an Up passenger working as a 4575 class 2-6-2T brings a train of vans through the station.



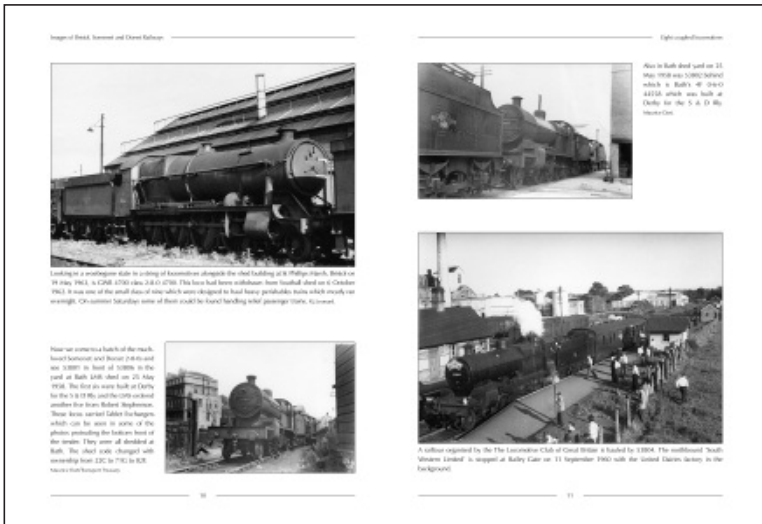
The crew of what appears to be 4577 by their engine as they wait at Minehead with a train to Taunton in the early 1930s



This photo dates from 1904 and shows LSWR 50 at Exeter St Davids.



One of the three locos 30584, ex SR 3520, from Exmouth Junction shed has arrived at Lyme Regis in the early 1950s.



Example of a double page spread.



This vintage photo that was taken at Lyme Regis in 1907 shows Exmouth Junction shed's O2 class 227 waiting to depart on a train to Axminster.