

PROMOTIONAL REPRINT

IMAGES OF CORNISH RAILWAYS

CLASSIC PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE MAURICE DART RAILWAY COLLECTION

Maurice Dart

This must-have book for all fans of steam railways features photographs from the collection of Maurice Dart, Cornwall-based photographer and authority on West-country railways. This volume covers the period from the earliest days of photography through to the end of the age of steam on railways throughout Cornwall. Here are rare photographs, many of them taken by the author, of mainline 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 Golden Age of railways. The author writes:

"The photos in this album have been chosen from my collection of many thousands of railway scenes, with the remainder carefully selected from other sources. Together they present an overall view of the many types of locomotives which have worked in the Duchy since late in the nineteenth century. Along with the engines much of what is nowadays termed 'railway infrastructure' is included in the photos together with a varied selection of rolling stock. To present an overall picture of railway operations I have included a section covering diesel traction which includes some photos taken within the past few years. I have attempted to include as wide a variety of locations as possible to cover the locomotive scene on the main line, on branch lines, in goods yards and at locomotive sheds. It is hoped that the book will appeal not only to railway enthusiasts but also to readers seeking photos of local areas. The detail contained in many of the photos may be of assistance to railway modellers of certain periods. I hope that this collection of photos will help to recall the magic and nostalgia that the sight of working steam locomotives induce in much of the populace."

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.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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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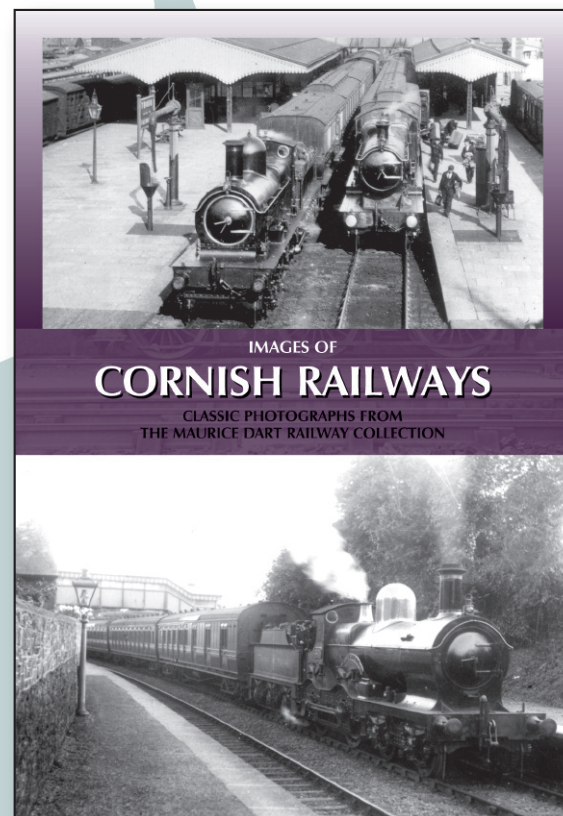
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At St Blazey shed in the 1930s, 4544 is opposite the turntable. Rail Archive Stephenson/Photomatic.



On a wet day at Calstock in the early 1960s a pair of Ivatts, 41238 and 41315, head a passenger train for Callington. Mike Daly.



An up express enters Lostwithiel in charge of 4978 'WESTWOOD HALL', which has a very shiny safety valve bonnet, during September 1933. The goods shed is behind the engine.

Images of Cornish Railways

In September 1932, 4298 has just been coated at St Blazey shed.

With the shed buildings at St Blazey partly visible in the left background, one of the later 5205 class locos stands near a building which is in use by Wagon Repairs Ltd. of Pier Harbour. This is a very rare photo of straight framed 5274 which was shopped at St Blazey for a period. This was one of the batch of engines that were rebuilt as 7200 class 2-6-2Ts and it emerged from Strickon Works in February 1936 as 7239.

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PACIFIC 4-6-2s

This type of engine was virtually unknown on the GWR system in Cornwall until Laira gained an allocation of British Railways Standard 4-6-2s of the 'Britannia' class in August 1951 from when they regularly worked to Penzance until they moved away at the end of 1950 and early 1957. The SR introduced their 'West Country' class Pacifics during June 1948 and they started to appear on North Cornwall services to Padstow. However, examples of these ventured into Cornwall on special workings over the GWR line in 1949, 1951 and 1961, but, alas, no photos have come to light of those rare events. As there is a separate section in the book devoted to the area between Bodmin Road and Padstow, photos of this type are included in that section.

In May 1964 a Special train arranged by Plymouth Railway Circle was hauled by one of the SR locos between Plymouth and Penzance and this is included here.

'West Country' class 34002 'SALISBURY' worked the Plymouth Railway Circle special train to Penzance on 3 May 1964 and is backing on to the train after returning from servicing at Long Rock shed. This engine from Exmouth Junction shed was the first member of the type to work west of Truro and the first to work a passenger train on the ex-GWR main line into Cornwall. The water tank seen on the left, marks the site of Penzance's second engine shed. S.C.Nab.

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Example of a double-page spread.



This is an interesting record of 3107 at St Blazey by the small shed which was later demolished. The engine went new to St Blazey shed on 30 April 1906 and judging by the gathering of railwaymen and dogs this photo could well have been taken shortly afterwards.