

LAST DAYS OF STEAM ON THE LMS & BR

A Railwayman's Memoirs

Roderick Fowkes

'Like so many other boys of my generation, I wanted to be an engine driver; two boys in my class had applied successfully for the position of engine cleaner at Toton Motive Power Depot, but my dreams were dashed in 1956 when I went for a medical at Derby station. So much depended upon having perfect eyesight ...'

So writes the author in his Introduction. However, despite his boyhood dream of becoming an engine driver being snatched from him, in 1957 Rod Fowkes began a 39-year career with British Railways. Starting as Junior Porter at three guineas a week, after three years he became telegraph clerk at Trent Station in Derbyshire, eventually rising to a senior management post before his retirement. But it is on his early memories and experiences that this book is based.

A natural storyteller, the author includes tales of his family and social life centred on the railways of those days, adding colour and background to his memoirs. This, and the huge collection of photographs and ephemera that make up this book, make it a treasure trove of memories for all who have a passion for the days of steam. The book is likely to become a classic of personal reminiscence from the days when steam was drawing to an end.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Roderick Fowkes was born in 1941 at Breaston, a village midway between Derby and Nottingham, a couple of miles from Toton, the largest marshalling yard in Britain. The youngest of three children his interest in the railway began at an early age, no doubt prompted and encouraged by his mother; the daughter of a stationmaster. Rising from the position of Junior Porter he eventually retired from British Rail in March 1996 as Movements and Planning Manager at Laira Traction and Maintenance Depot in Plymouth. He now lives in Devon.

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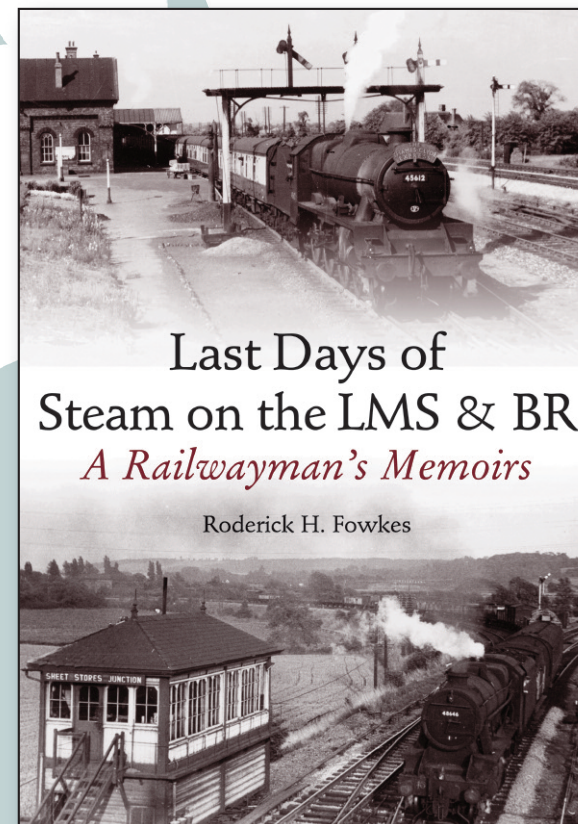
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