

IMAGES OF CARDIFF, NEWPORT AND THE VALLEYS RAILWAYS

Maurice Dart

This book, the first of a number of volumes covering the railways of South Wales, appears as part of the popular and growing *Images* series featuring photographs from the collection of Maurice Dart, Cornwall-based photographer and author. Here are rare photographs, the majority of them taken by the author, of the lines which served ports and local communities around Cardiff, Newport and their hinterland. Each photograph is accompanied by the author's own text, often with unique reminiscences of this important part of the railway system in Wales.

The author writes:

The photos in this album have been selected from my collection of many thousands of railway scenes. Together they present an overall view of many of the types of locomotives which have worked in the area 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. 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. Industrial Railways feature in the last part of the book. 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 induces in many people.

Here for the first time is a comprehensive look at an important part of this unique collection – a book that will become a classic of South Wales steam.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

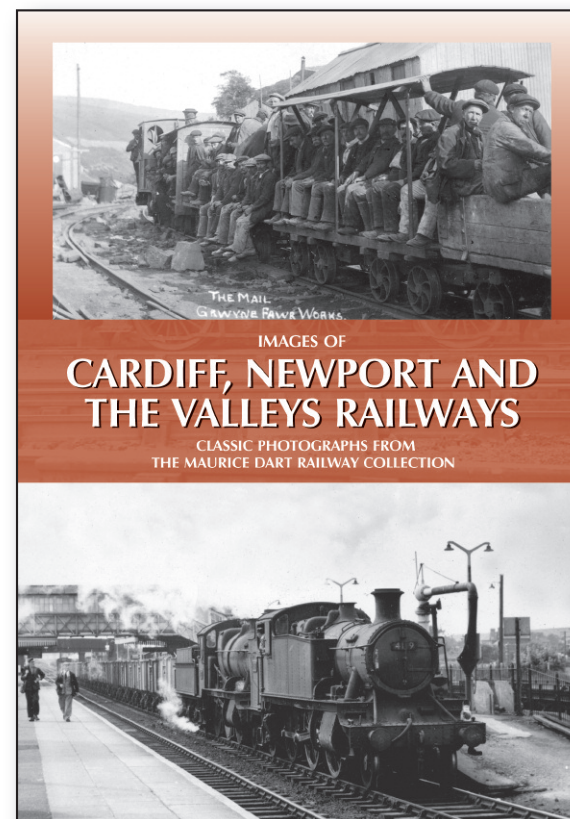
Maurice Dart was born in Plymouth and, apart from a period in Gibraltar, he has lived in Devon and Cornwall for all of his life. The interest in railways was bred into him almost from birth and has stayed with him. He was educated at Sutton High School, Plymouth followed by Plymouth & Devonport Technical College and worked as a chemist in the China Clay industry for thirty seven years. Through his work connections 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. His other main hobby is Folk Dancing, which has taken him to Ireland, Jersey, Portugal and Eastern Europe and he dances with Trigg Morris Men from Bodmin. On his dancing trips abroad he managed to find time for railway photography. He also likes to play snooker and enjoys eating out.

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On 30 June 1957 2800 class 2861 is at home on Ebbw Junction shed. To its left is 4-6-0 5939 'TANGLEY HALL' from Old Oak Common. Maurice Dart



In 1950 4514 is at home at Aberbeeg shed. The loco does not carry a GWR ABEEG shed stencil and has not been fitted with a 86H shedplate. Kenneth Brown

2-8-2 TANKS AND 2-8-0s

The heavy tank locomotives worked Main line and some Valley line Goods trains. 2-8-0s worked Main line Goods traffic.

We commence with the large impressive GWR 2200 class 2-8-2Ts and 2213 from Aberdeen shed waits at Forthgird to work back home on 26 June 1960. This loco has a raised frame over the cylinders. The Driver is waiting patiently for his Fireman to return from the station buffet with some tea as they await a path around to Abercromby. Maurice Dart/Tonyrup

2-8-2 Tanks and 2-8-0s

Above: In the mid-1950s Ebbw Junction's 7218 waits for the usual Newport High Street with a Goods which is probably empty. Hopper wagons for Ebbw Vale. Maurice Dart

Left: At home at Raker shed on 17 April 1960 is 2242. It's home, also at home is 3101, class 2-8-2T 4146.

Below: These locos are at home at Raker shed on 17 April 1960. In the foreground is 2252 with 5101 class 2-6-2T 4143 to its rear. The Large Prairie is mainly concealed by 6400 class 0-6-0PT 6434. Maurice Dart/Tonyrup

Example of a double-page spread.



Taff Vale 194 shunts wagons at the foot of Pwllyrhebog Incline at Tonypany in June 1949. This loco was hired by Caerphilly Tar Works from November 1953 until May 1954. G.W. Sharpe & Co.