

EDWARDIAN RAILWAYS IN POSTCARDS

John Hannavy

Edwardian Railways in Postcards dips into the history of Britain's railways through the phenomenal popularity of the railway postcard between 1902 and 1915. Postcard collecting is a hobby as old as the picture postcard itself, and railway postcards were amongst the medium's first collectables. Through the postcard, almost every aspect of equipping and operating a railway was explored.

In the Edwardian era, annual postcard sales are thought to have exceeded 500,000,000, and the public who bought them sought an infinite variety of subject matter. Publishers vied with each other to produce more and more visually interesting cards, and all the big railway companies produced their own sets of 'official' postcards to advertise the extent of their network, and promote the modernity of their operations.

Some of the 290 postcards included in this book are extremely rare, and offer a unique insight into the 'golden age' of both the postcard and Britain's railways.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

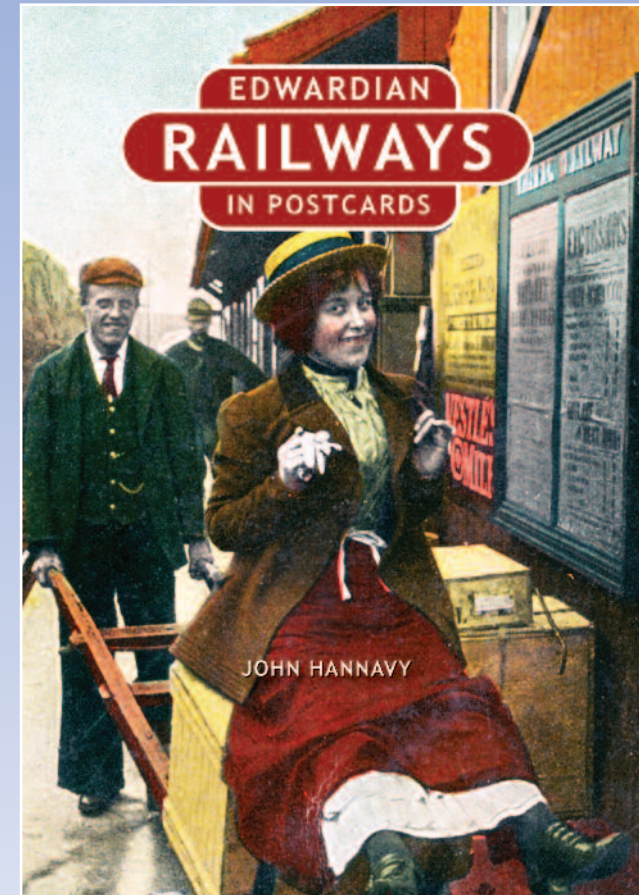
John Hannavy is a writer, photographer, photographic historian and incurable steam enthusiast. A retired academic, he now devotes his time to exploring, photographing and writing about Britain's industrial past.

This book, his seventh for Halsgrove, is a companion volume to *Edwardian Mining in Old Postcards*.

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Halsgrove Publishing, Halsgrove House, Ryelands Business Park, Bagley Road,
Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PZ Tel: 01823 653777 Fax: 01823 216796
www.halsgrove.com e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com

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A Dundee-bound train about to depart from Wormit Station to cross over the 'new' Tay Bridge c. 1904.



Above: Southwold Station was opened in 1879 and the 3ft. gauge branch line from Halesworth operated for fifty years before the route was abandoned in 1929.

Left: A postcard print, believed to show a railwayman from the Wigan area, photographed in his back yard c.1910.



Left: Hackney carriages await passengers outside the London and South Western Railway's Wimbledon Station in this postcard c.1910.

Below: A busy scene at St Ives Station, photographed c. 1910.



Right: Many humorous cards focused on the presumed 'goings-on' which took place in railway carriages in the years before corridor trains became the norm.



Example of a double-page spread.