

Left Hand Running

The December 2007 Newsletter of The British Train Society
www.britishtainsociety.org

A View From The Footplate

I would like to start by wishing you all a Joyful Christmas Season and best wishes for the New Year. I think we had a very successful year in 2007 with three shows and a good variety of programs and activities. I am encouraged by the continuing enthusiasm among our members and the willingness of many to participate in our various projects. We still continue to draw interest as our signing of new members continues. The establishment of a Web site was a real plus and we are well positioned for the future. So congratulations to all of you for making the clubs success what it is today.

I was sorry to miss the last meeting that I heard was well attended and I did want to improve my knowledge of diesel locomotives. Perhaps we could include on our list of future presentations a review of British diesel practice both past and present. I experienced it first hand on my recent visit there. All my trips were by train and three out of four were either HST diesels or Diesel Hydraulics the other being third rail electric. I enjoyed the train travel, mostly over long distances, and the Rail Pass is a huge saving for visitors so if you are planning a trip take a look at it. For seniors there is a further 10% discount. The service however was not as punctual as it should have been. Three out of four of the trains were late by over half an hour for a variety of reasons and judging from my past experience this was unusual.

One model railway subject I did have a chance to experience was a good look at the new Hornby Royal Scots (rebuilt form). They are a beautiful piece of work and I was sorely tempted. However my inventory all ready includes two Scots and a rebuilt Patriot so I shall await further developments.

The next meeting, I believe, is at Harry's place and I encourage you to attend as we need to layout our program for our spring showings that probably includes a rehearsal set up.

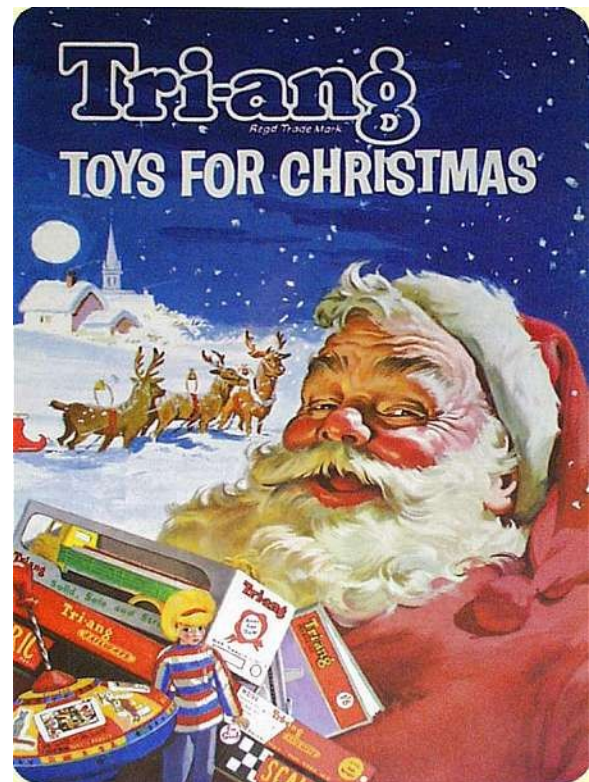
Also, I hope many of you can join Lois and me for our Open House on December 8th.

Happy Modelling

Don Buchanan

The Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the British Train Society will be at Harry Raynis' home in Naperville on January 19th. The program will be an operating session – so bring your new Christmas goodies for a bit of operating fun! Don't miss it!



Lionel Lines

Model railroading as a popular pastime began with the introduction of electric toy trains in the early years of the twentieth century. Electric train sets were offered by companies such as American Flyer, Märklin, Hornby, and Ives, in both North America and Europe. But, the dominant manufacturer (in the United States) was Lionel.

Lionel trains made before World War Two were primitive compared to model trains made today, but one must keep in mind that Lionel geared its products toward children rather than the adult scale modeler. Lionel cars and locomotives (primarily made for three-rail O gauge track, but also produced in OO scale and in what Lionel called "Standard" gauge) were very solidly built of die-cast metal and sheet tin, and were decorated in bright colors with chrome or brass trim.



In addition, Lionel offered several operating accessories, including cars which dumped coal into operating coal elevators, gatemen and flagmen who warned drivers and pedestrians of approaching trains, and stations at which trains automatically stopped to load passengers, and started again, seemingly by magic.

Pre-war Lionel trains are very easy to find; several vendors at the Great Midwest Train Show have them available. You might even be fortunate enough to have a long-forgotten train set in your attic, waiting for its Depression-era magic to be rediscovered.

Tim W.

Calendar of Coming Events

December 9th, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm
Great Midwest Train Show
Wheaton (DuPage County Fairgrounds)

January 13th, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm
Great Midwest Train Show
Wheaton (DuPage County Fairgrounds)

January 19th, 1:30 pm
BTS Regular Meeting
Naperville (Harry Raynis)

February 10th, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm
Great Midwest Train Show
Wheaton (DuPage County Fairgrounds)

March 15th – 16th, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
High-Wheeler Model Railroad Show
Palatine (Harper College)

March 29th
All-American Model Train Show
LaGrange (Lyons Township High School)

April 26th – 27th, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Great British Train Show
Brampton Ontario (Archdekin Recreation Centre)