

Left Hand Running

The May 2010 Newsletter of The British Train Society

www.britishtrainsociety.org

Chairman: Harry Raynis

Treasurer: George Rowland

Secretary: Ralph Transue

Train Show Chairman: Grant Harrison

Webmaster: Peter Carr

Newsletter: John Derler

Program Chairman: (open)

A View From The Footplate

Last month's meeting was well attended and we were pleased to have two new members in our midst. Welcome Aboard to Ken and Jerry. Ken brought some trains to run and in spite of being in the box for years, they ran quite well. Remember that when we have a meeting at a member's house who has a layout, those members without layouts are welcome to bring trains to test run or break in or just show them off to the rest of us. This month's meeting is here on the 15th so come early and bring trains.

At last month's meeting John Struthers gave part two of his presentation on "A Tale of Two Railways". Thanks John. At this month's meeting we will hear from John Derler on the Great Lakes Rail Car Ferries. So come on out and don't miss it.

This month the outdoor railroad scene gets under way for real in the Chicago area. Mothers' Day marks the beginning of the operating season at The Fox River Trolley Museum in South Elgin and at the magnificent Illinois Railway Museum in Union, Illinois. And for you folks on the north side, don't overlook the Chicago Botanic Gardens at 100 Lake Cook Rd in Glencoe. They have a garden railway there that's one of the best you'll see anywhere. So get out and enjoy them.

Harry Raynis



Calendar of Coming Events

May 15th, 1:30 pm
BTS Regular Meeting
Naperville [Harry Raynis, 1537 Warbler Dr.]

June 19th, 1:30 pm
BTS Annual Summer Picnic
Lombard (Ralph Transue, 82 West Rd.)

July 00th, 00:00 am
BTS Summer Train Excursion
Fox River Valley Trolley Museum



European Train Enthusiasts



Members of the British Train Society who might wish to expand their horizons [so to speak] have only to look across the Channel for more of interest to the railway enthusiast. The trains of Continental Europe share with those of Great Britain a common track gauge [56-1/2"] and this has enabled the railways of the Continent and of Great Britain to connect with each other indirectly since 1917 [via train ferry services] and directly since 1995 [via the Channel Tunnel].

And our train models have Continental connections too! One should note that it was the cross-Channel co-operation of a German toy manufacturer [Bing] and a British retailer [Bassett-Lowke] which first brought about OO [also called HO] gauge model trains. Thus do most British and Continental model railways, like their prototypes, also share a common track gauge: 16.5 mm. If Bassett-Lowke could find things of interest on the Continent, perhaps you can too!

In this regard the European Train Enthusiasts, the premier North American organization focusing on European railroading, can help. Founded in 1973 the ETE serves modelers, railway fans, related organizations and the community by means of public events and presentations many of which are sponsored by associated local chapters.

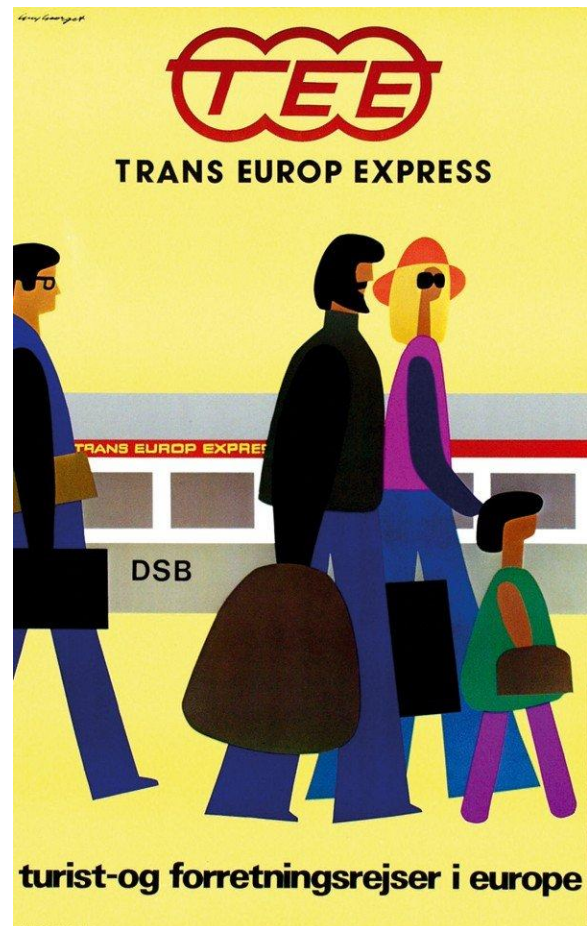
Membership benefits include the quarterly journal *ETE Express* which has articles covering many aspects of the European railway scene, both prototype and

model, as well as news of local chapter activities. Additionally members have access to a special section of the website which has a membership directory, PDF files for every issue of *ETE Express* and other interesting features.

If Eurostar can make the Continental Connection then you can too! Check out the association website <http://www.ete.org> or write to

European Train Enthusiasts
P.O. Box 365
Freemont, California 94537-0365

Or contact the chairman of the Chicagoland Chapter [and fellow BTS member], George Herrmann at 630-850-9364



The Swansea and Mumbles Railway South Wales



The five mile long Swansea & Mumbles Railway was built in 1806 to ship coal, limestone, and iron ore from the Swansea Canal to the harbor at Oystermouth, which was located in the community of Mumbles.

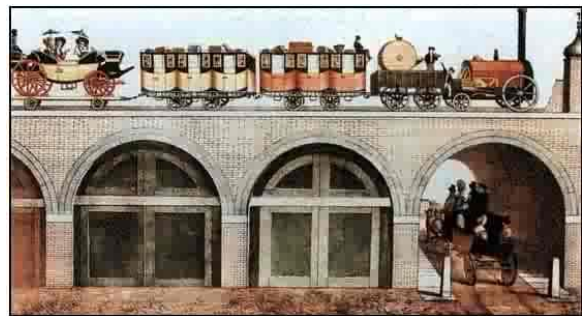
With the inauguration on the 25th of March 1807 of a four-wheeled horse-drawn passenger carriage running on the tracks, the Swansea & Mumbles Railway became the world's first passenger paying railway service in the world.

Contributed by Geo. Rowland

Right Hand Running

London got it's first railway in 1836 when the first part of the London & Greenwich opened to the public. The Greenwich Railway was London's first railway, indeed it was the first railway in any Capitol City in the World.

The three and one-half mile railway was built on top of 878 large arches to avoid the busy traffic below using about 60 million bricks.



In 1850 the London & Greenwich started running trains on the right hand side, the only British railway to so.

Contributed by George Rowland