

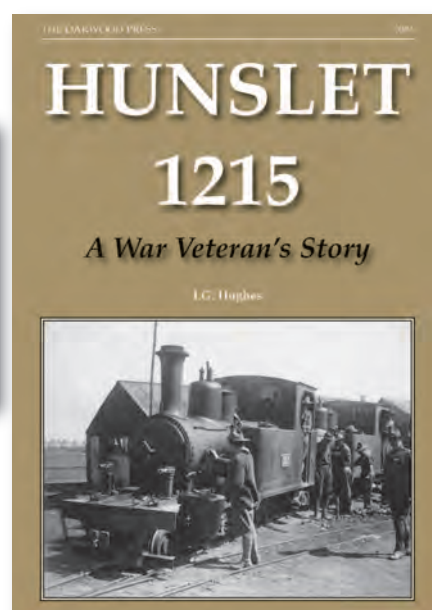
# OAKWOOD PRESS

## NARROW GAUGE

### HUNSLET 1215

#### *A War Veteran's Story*

by I.G. Hughes



#### Contents

Introduction  
 The Hunslets Get Call-Up Papers  
 Specification and Construction  
 War Work  
 Demob and Army Surplus  
 Retirement and  
 the Long Journey Home  
 Hunslet 1215 in the UK  
 Archaeology on 1215  
 Other Survivors  
 Bibliography

Hunslet 4-6-0T No.1215 was one of a class of locomotives built to the order of the British War Department for use by what became the Directorate of Light Railways. This organization used 600mm gauge railways to supply the trenches by bridging the gap between the end of the standard gauge railways and the relatively static front line of World War I on the Western front. They were used to move huge quantities of troops, casualties, shells, rations and other supplies over a network that, at its full extent, included over 3,000 miles of track.

Apart from being one of the largest classes of one single type of narrow gauge locomotive built within the UK, the vast majority were also completed within the space of three years. A total of 155 of them were ordered by the War Department from the Hunslet Engine Co. at a time when Hunslet were also constructing howitzers, shells, and machinery to make shells, as well as a limited number of other locomotives. By comparison, in peacetime they averaged about 40 locomotives of all types per year.

The other remarkable feature of these machines is the diverse locations in which they, and the nine built post-war, ended up. From hydro-electric schemes of the Scottish Highlands, to the pampas of Argentina, Harrogate gasworks to Australian canefields, Oxfordshire ironstone to Palestinian power stations, Nepalese forests and Chilean nitrate mines, all made good use of these neat little locomotives. Happily 1215 survives and resides at the Apedale Heritage Centre.



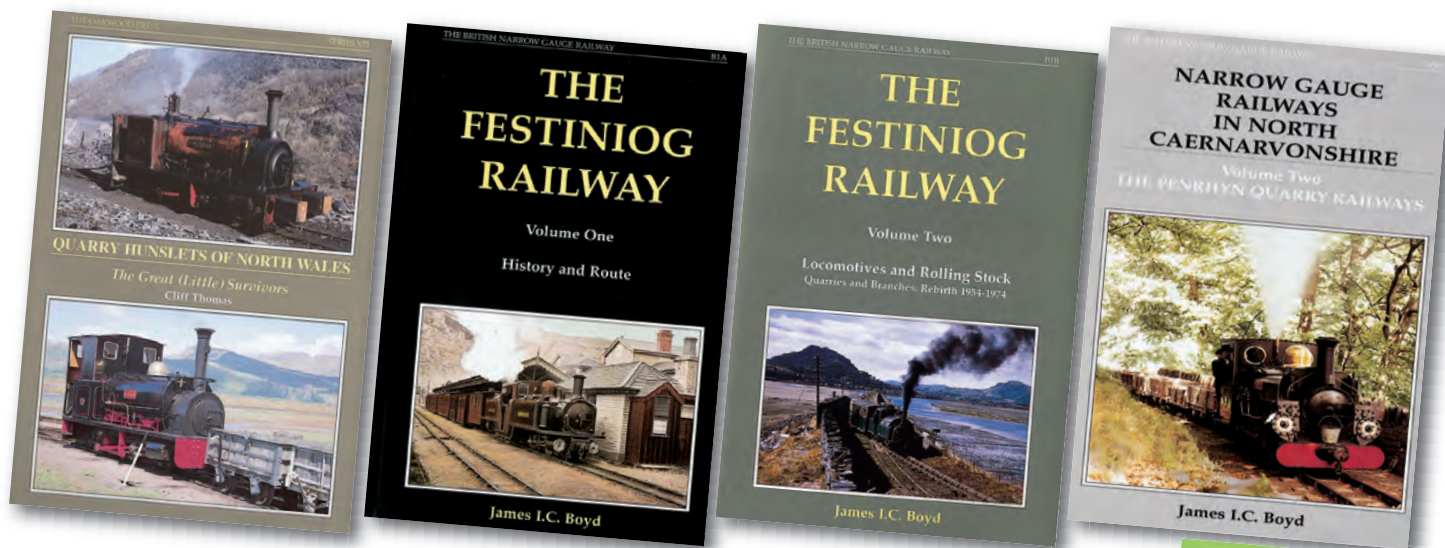
A5 format 56 pages 43 illustrations (18 in colour)

X99

ISBN 978 0 85361 709 9

£7.95





### QUARRY HUNSLETS OF NORTH WALES, 'The Great Little Survivors' by Cliff Thomas

256 pages 206 illustrations X71 ISBN 978 0 85361 575 0 £22.95

The 0-4-0 saddle tanks produced by the Hunslet Engine Co. of Leeds, forever associated with the quarries of North Wales, have proven to be remarkable survivors. These locomotives have been brought together in a single volume, regardless of the quarry where they spent their working lives. The history of each locomotive is detailed, along with a description of the groups into which they fall. The criteria for inclusion has been drawn as being narrow gauge, built as an 0-4-0ST by Hunslet and worked for a North Wales quarry. This includes locomotives built for the granite industry as well as slate, also included are the Penrhyn 'main line' locomotives. Notes are included to give a flavour of the past, based on interviews with ex-quarry loco drivers, along with extracts from maintenance logs. Some myths, legends and mysteries surrounding some of the locomotives are explored to provide as comprehensive a record as possible. Modellers will delight in the section which describes and illustrates the component parts of these locomotives.

### THE FESTINIOG RAILWAY VOL. 1 History and Route by J.I.C. Boyd

344 pages 109 illustrations B1A ISBN 978 0 85361 167 7 £22.95

Undoubtedly the most important and famous narrow gauge railway in the world, and certainly the doyen amongst narrow gauge systems, the Festiniog Railway had been known to the author for more than 70 years. This history, first published in 1975, was based on his earlier works, but enriched with a wealth of new facts, these being the fruits of discoveries in the 1970s among hitherto unsuspected sources and backed by intensive fieldwork. For the first time the Railway is considered not only as a remarkable piece of engineering in its own right, but is treated alongside its quarry customers, so giving a unique insight into industry and transport inseparably linked for over a century.

### THE FESTINIOG RAILWAY VOL. 2

#### Locomotives and Rolling Stock, Quarries & Branches, Rebirth 1954-1974 by J.I.C. Boyd

380 pages 147 illustrations B1B ISBN 978 0 85361 168 4 £25.00

A detailed survey of the railway's historic locomotives and rolling stock which includes numerous photographs and plans. There is a detailed section on the railway's operation which includes a number of signalling diagrams. Specially drawn plans are included showing, the Rhiwbach Tramway, the quarry complex east of Duffws, Cwm Orthin Tramway, Oakeley Quarry and the Festiniog Granite Co. branch. The story concludes with a history of the first 20 years of preservation.

### THE NARROW GAUGE RAILWAYS IN NORTH CAERNARVONSHIRE VOL. 2

#### The Penrhyn Quarry Railways by J.I.C. Boyd

232 pages 118 illustrations B5B ISBN 978 0 85361 312 1 £18.95

This work includes a feast of photographs and delightful drawings, with maps specially prepared for this erudite coverage of an era now vanished. Not only railways, but people, places, industries, ships, social orders – all now a memory – are faithfully recorded.

### THE NARROW GAUGE RAILWAYS IN NORTH CAERNARVONSHIRE VOL. 3

#### The Dinorwic Quarry and railways, Great Orme Tramway and other rail systems by J.I.C. Boyd

336 pages 218 illustrations B5C ISBN 978 0 85361 328 2 £22.95

A reprint of this sought after title which gives the history of the important rail networks that served the Dinorwic Quarries at Llanberis. Also included in this volume are the histories of a number of smaller systems and the Great Orme Tramway at Llandudno all told in Mr Boyd's own inimitable style.

### THE NARROW GAUGE RAILWAYS IN SOUTH CAERNARVONSHIRE VOL. 1 by J.I.C. Boyd

384 pages more than 100 illustrations B4A ISBN 978 0 85361 365 7 £22.95

Reprinted by popular demand, this volume includes the Embankment Tramway, Gorseddau Tramway, Festiniog & Blaenau Railway, Merionethshire Railway, Croesor Tramway, Bettws-y-Coed & Festiniog Railway, North Wales Narrow Gauge Railway and the Portmadoc Beddgelert & South Snowdon Railway.

### SAGA BY RAIL: GREAT BRITAIN AND THE ISLE OF MAN by J.I.C. Boyd

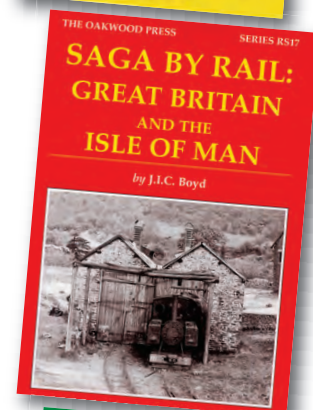
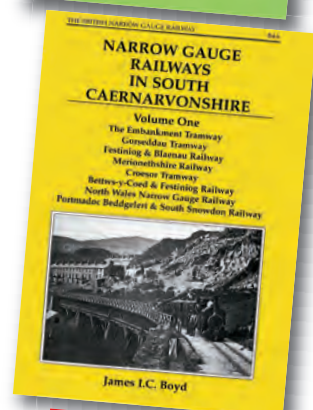
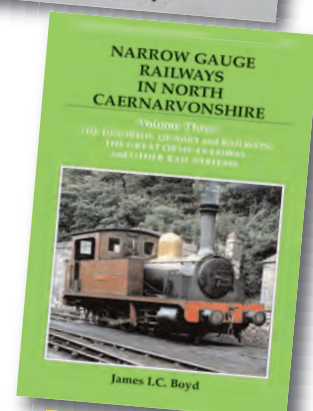
192 pages 230 illustrations RS17 ISBN 978 0 85361 663 4 £14.95

The earliest of these stories date back as far as the 1930s. Most railway enthusiasts of the day were drawn towards the impressive standard gauge steam-hauled expresses of Britain's major railways. Fortunately for us, Mr Boyd's tastes were rather more eclectic and obscure and so in this volume we discover the delights of such interesting and diverse systems as Altrincham Gas Works, Eaton Hall, Manchester Ship Canal, Snailbeach District, Woodhead Reservoirs and Whittingham Hospital railways. Those familiar with Mr Boyd's narrow gauge railway history books will be unsurprised to see tales of travels to the Corris Railway, Welshpool & Llanfair Railway and the Isle of Man, and of experiences in the early days of railway preservation in Wales. Mr Boyd also turned his attention towards some standard gauge lines – predominantly in North-West England and the Welsh borders. Evocative stories of a bygone age.

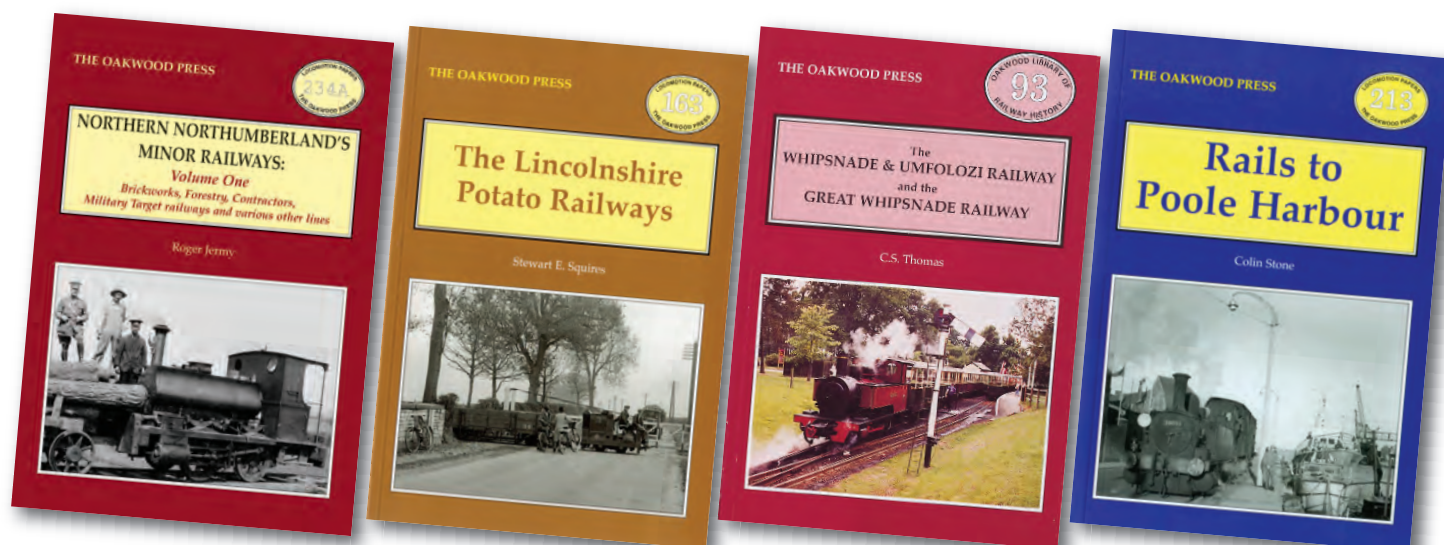
### SAGA BY RAIL: IRELAND by J.I.C. Boyd

288 pages 295 illustrations RS16 ISBN 978 0 85361 651 1 £16.95

James Boyd's love of Irish railways began in the 1930s. These are his reminiscences of his visits. He concentrated his attention on the narrow gauge railway systems, but did not neglect the main line 5 ft 3 in. lines which he came across. Little of the subject matter of this book can be experienced today; accordingly, these accounts have taken on an historical significance. As time has gone by his knowledge of those early subjects has been enhanced by later fact-finding; this extra material has been incorporated into the text to give it more substance.







## **NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND'S MINOR RAILWAYS VOL. 1**

### **Brickworks, Forestry, Contractors, Military Target railways and various other lines**

by Roger Jermy 128 pages 99 illustrations LP234A ISBN 978 0 85361 703 7 £10.95

This book draws together the area's most diverse and eclectic railways, both standard and narrow gauge, some were short-lived while others operated for many years. The area had numerous brick and tile works and a number had their own rail systems. The railways operated by the Canadian Forestry Corps and Colonel Leather's line at Middleton Hall are fascinating. The woods near Swarland were exploited in the mid-1930s with the use of a small railway. In World War II several short-lived forestry or timber railways existed in the Rothley and Ewesley areas. Another railway was located close to Chathill, whilst the Duke of Northumberland's Sawmill at Hulne Park, Alnwick, was served by a railway dating from the same period. Military target railways have existed at three locations in the north of Northumberland and these are covered. Two passenger-carrying 'pleasure railways' have operated in the area. The first of these was a short-lived miniature railway at Spittal Promenade, whilst the second, the Heatherslaw Light Railway, continues to operate very successfully. Contractor's railways were built to assist large civil engineering projects such as railways, piers, docks and harbours, reservoirs and estates of industrial housing. Inevitably when placing lines into groups of similar type there are some that do not fit conveniently into any category. The Marshall Meadows Seaweed Railway, Dewars Granary Railway, Lemmington Hall Railway and Little Mill Preservation Society are examples of these.

### **LINCOLNSHIRE POTATO RAILWAYS** by Stewart E. Squires

160 pages 150 illustrations LP163 ISBN 978 0 85361 646 7 £12.95

Lincolnshire and South Humberside is an area not noted for its narrow gauge railways. It is not generally appreciated that over 140 route miles of track were laid on farms in at least 50 separate locations, from Alkborough on the banks of the River Humber to Crowland in the south. They were a phenomenon of the Fenland, and, it must be said, not confined to Lincolnshire. However, their use in other counties may not have been as widespread. In agricultural terms, they were also used to serve bulb fields in the Spalding area, but this book is confined to their use mainly for the planting and the harvest of probably one of the County's best known products of the 20th century, the humble potato. It is because the railways are so little known, and because time will naturally take its toll of those who knew and worked on them, that it is appropriate that this book should be devoted to them. Many were of very short length, and used horses as their motive power. Others were longer, long enough in fact to employ the use of internal combustion engines, and even small steam engines.

### **WHIPSNAD & UMFOLLOZI RAILWAY AND GREAT WHIPSNAD RAILWAY**

by C.S. Thomas 176 pages 64 illustrations OL93 ISBN 978 0 85361 478 4 £9.95

A narrow gauge steam locomotive with its train moves slowly along, passengers look out from open-sided coaches across grasslands populated by axis deer and nilgai. This must be somewhere in Asia, India perhaps? Not at all, this is the Great Whipsnade Railway. Up until now the line has been virtually ignored by writers and historians; it can hardly be said to have remained undiscovered all this time, passenger figures of 100,000 a year or thereabouts testify to the popularity of this railway. There are plans of the locomotives *Chevallier*, *Excelsior*, *Conqueror* and *Superior*.

### **RAILS TO POOLE HARBOUR** by Colin Stone

208 pages 276 illustrations LP213 ISBN 978 0 85361 662 7 £14.95

This much enlarged edition tells of the various lines which served Poole Harbour - predominantly main line railways. A chapter titled 'They also served' deals with the minor railways, of various gauges, in the area.

### **RAILWAYS OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS, A PICTORIAL SURVEY**

compiled by C.W. Judge 88 pages 138 illustrations PS1 ISBN 978 0 85361 434 0 £5.95

This book illustrates all the Channel Islands railways regardless of gauge. The Jersey Railway, which for the last 50-odd years of its life had a gauge of 3 ft 6 in. is covered in 30 pages of this volume.

### **MANIFOLD VALLEY RAILWAY, An Anthology** by Eric Leslie

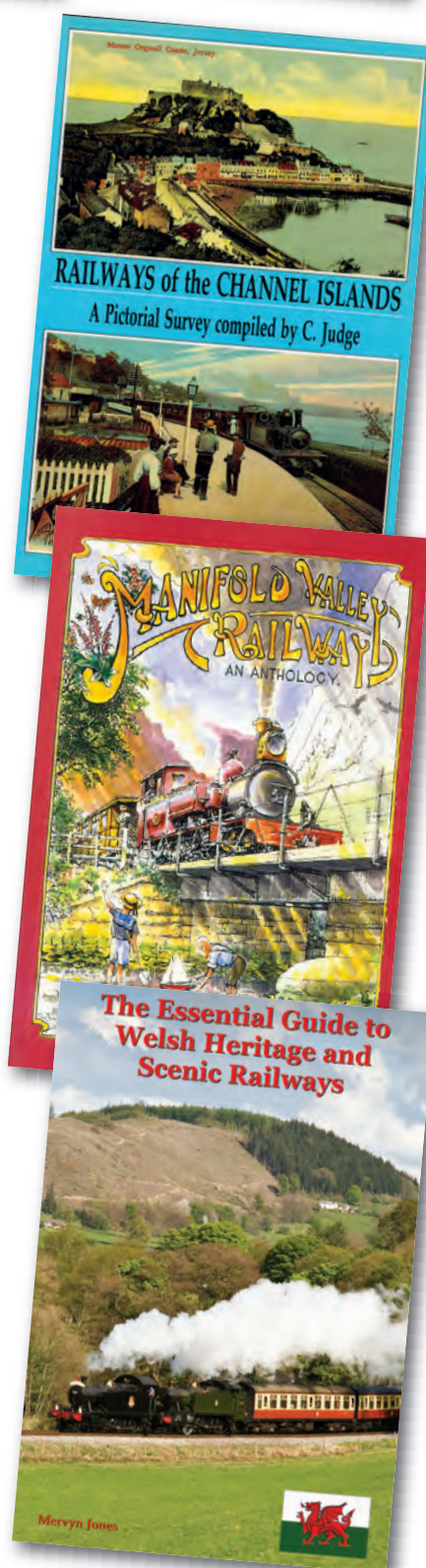
64 pages 40 illustrations X62 ISBN 978 0 85361 519 4 £5.95

A romantic look at this delightful narrow gauge railway, and beautifully illustrated with Eric Leslie's evocative drawings. This book is an appreciation of the surrounding countryside, its people and their daily work, plus the huge number of visitors who take delight in the beautiful scenery. The events and people involved all pre-date 1934, how fortunate that their experiences are set down for us to savour.

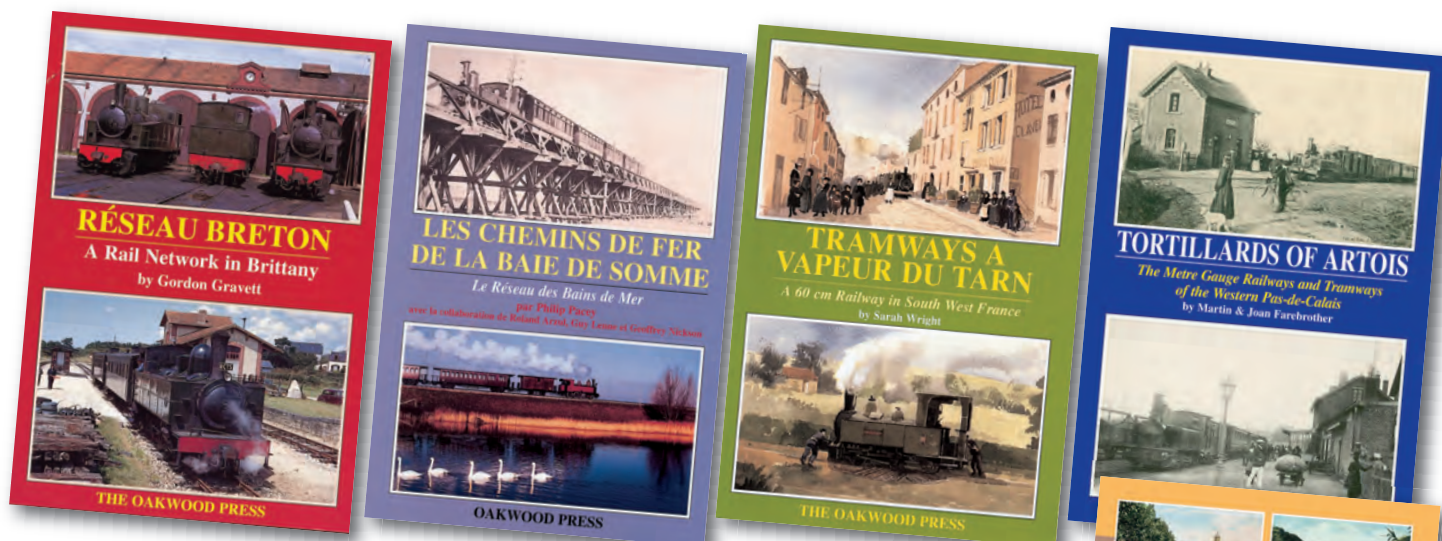
### **THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO WELSH HERITAGE AND SCENIC RAILWAYS**

by Mervyn Jones 192 pages 163 colour illustrations X98 ISBN 978 0 85361 702 0 £16.95

In researching Welsh railways, the author, in addition to information about the prime subject matter, has chosen to include what he hopes are interesting facts about places and events close to where trains pass. This guide lists a total of 62 locations throughout Wales (including five on the borders in England) where heritage and tourist railways (of all gauges) and related activities can be found. Those five just in England are justified by their close proximity and their relevance to the Welsh railway scene. Of the total locations, the author has identified 57 specific routes of which 28 are operated as heritage/tourist railways, including projects and societies, and 29 as regular rail service routes operated in Wales.







# **RÉSEAU BRETON, A RAIL NETWORK IN BRITTANY** by Gordon Gravett

176 pages 100 illustrations X65 ISBN 978 0 85361 536 1 £10.95

A reprint of this popular title *which now includes a pull-out map of the system*, this map is also available separately. During the late 1950s and 1960s vast numbers of British enthusiasts were making the crossing to visit the Réseau Breton, the remaining metre gauge railway in Brittany. It was the most successful, and long-lived, of a number of metre gauge railways in this area of France, eventually finishing in 1967. Despite being narrow gauge, this was no sleepy backwater of a railway - the network consisted of five routes radiating from Carhaix which also boasted an extremely active locomotive and carriage workshops. In post-war days diesel railcars had been employed on all the scheduled passenger services, but steam was very active on the goods services and mixed trains. One of the five lines was converted to standard gauge and continues to provide a service and the book brings the story up to date with a look at some of the modern traction that now operates the line, along with details of earlier standard gauge equipment. The majority of the network was closed over 30 years ago but there is still much to see and explore. A5 format, 176 pages, with a glossy laminated full colour cover with a square-backed spine, 100 photos, plans, maps and drawings of locomotives, rolling stock and lineside structures. (The pull-out map is also available separately @ £1.00)

# **LES CHEMIN DE FER DE LA BAIE DE SOMME** by P. Pacey with R. Arzul & G. Lenne

176 pages 170 illustrations X67F ISBN 978 0 85361 590 3 €20.00

*This book is now only available in the French language edition.* This metre gauge railway linked both sides of the Somme estuary and can be easily reached by English visitors. Today's CFBS preserves in its entirety the former Réseau des Bains de Mer which was a distinct part of the larger Réseau de Somme. In addition to carrying holidaymakers the railway transported flint pebbles, sugar beet, chicory and shellfish. The history of the railway, beginning with a standard gauge branch line from Noyelles to St Valery, has never been fully told before; of special interest is the role of the railway in both World Wars, the introduction of 'autorails' in the 1930s, and the chronicle of decline, closure, and preservation.

# **TRAMWAYS À VAPEUR DU TARN, A 60 cm Railway in South-West France** by Sarah Wright

208 pages 150 illustrations X70 ISBN 978 0 85361 570 5 £13.95

The Tramways à Vapeur du Tarn is a 60 cm railway which can be found just 20 miles from Toulouse in south-west France. The original network was the second most extensive 60 cm system in France until closure in 1937, but part of the route has been revived as a tourist railway with further restoration of the route imminent. The line is well-known in France with its station in St Lieux, the trains set off through a village street, the route lies over a spectacular viaduct, overlooked by the precipitous village of Giroussens. The book contains sufficient drawings for the modeller to be able to recreate most of the locomotives and rolling stock of the railway.

# **TORTILLARDS OF ARTOIS, The Metre Gauge Railways and Tramways of Western Pas-de-Calais** by Martin & Joan Farebrother

336 pages 250 illustrations X90 ISBN 978 0 85361 679 5 £19.95/€32.00

Discover the charm of the Artois metre gauge railways and tramways - and there is much to discover. In an area roughly bounded by Calais in the north, St-Omer in the east, Montreuil in the south and the channel coast, at its most extensive there were 188 miles of metre gauge lines. They offer much variety from busy urban, to sleepy rural, routes. Some lines provided an escape to the coast for thousands of holidaymakers, but many felt the significant impact of two World Wars. The metre gauge network of the area began with the opening of the first part of the Anvin-Calais line in 1881, and ended with the closure of the stub of the Anvin-Calais and Aire-Berck lines in 1955.

# **THE MALTA RAILWAY** by B.L. Rigby

120 pages 95 illustrations X20 ISBN 978 0 85361 621 4 £9.95

This metre gauge line climbed all the way from Valletta to Museum (Mtarfa/ Mdina) via Notabile (Rabat) rising in rather more than seven miles from about 100 ft above sea level at Valletta to nearly 600 ft. The 10 locomotives were of classic British design being supplied by Manning, Wardle; Black, Hawthorn; and Beyer, Peacock. The railway served the island for almost 50 years before succumbing to road competition.

# **THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO FRENCH HERITAGE AND SCENIC RAILWAYS**

by Mervyn Jones 192 pages 93 colour illustrations X83 ISBN 978 0 85361 648 1 £15.95/€26.00

# **THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO AUSTRIAN RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS**

by Mervyn Jones 196 pages 100 colour illustrations X89 ISBN 978 0 85361 674 0 £16.95/€26.00

196 pages 35 illustrations C6 ISBN 978 0 85361 398 2 £4.95

These books cover the heritage railways, and main line routes (of all gauges) deemed by the author to be of interest not only to the railway enthusiasts but to holiday-makers and travellers who love these countries and wish to see them from another perspective.

# **A PICTORIAL GUIDE TO ALPINE RAILWAYS** by Mervyn Jones

208 pages 143 illustrations Landscape format A5 X93 ISBN 978 0 85361 690 0 £16.95/€26.00

This book identifies in the alpine areas of seven European countries 164 locations of railway interest (of all gauges), of which 155 are railway routes and nine railway museums. A total of 142 of these railways are covered in detail of which 20 are in France, 29 in Italy, six in Slovenia, one in Croatia, 24 in Austria, 19 in Germany and 33 in Switzerland. There is a greater concentration on the pictorial representation of the railways with an emphasis on the picturesque nature of the Alpine railway scene than in the author's 'Essential Guide' books.

