

Use Platignum non-toxic Crayons and Coloured Pencils



Illustrated by Edgar Hodges

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Platignum - Steam Trains of the British Isles

In late 1973, the Association of Railway Preservation Societies (ARPS) invited its members to contribute to a colouring-in book which Platignum would market in the Spring of 1974.

The ARPS was the lead body for the railway preservation movement across these islands. Later it joined forces with the Steam Locomotive Operators' Association and the present-day Heritage Railway Association was the result.

The RPSI submitted several black and white prints and the artist Edgar Hodges converted them into line drawings. The final book had 80 pages of line drawings and four of them were of RPSI subjects. The book had card covers with a colour picture of 46248 *City of Leeds* on the front cover and a map of the British Isles on the back cover showing the location of each of the 22 contributing societies. The pages were 200mm wide and 290mm tall (a bit taller than A4 but not as wide). It has to be said that the book's pages were of poor quality and colouring in one page inevitably ruined the picture on the other side!

This 24-page compilation includes the four RPSI drawings, the black and white photographs from which they derived and, to help with colour schemes, some contemporaneous colour sides including, where possible, the original picture in slide form. Pages 13 and 17 are deliberately blank so that you can see the line drawing and its pictrue at one opening.

You are invited to print the drawings for yourself to have a go - or maybe let one of the younger generation have a go?

You will get better results than the original book if you don't print them back to back!

A word about the pictures themselves -

The first comes from the Whitehead Open Day of 7 July 1973 and shows the Guinness loco approaching Bredin Third Open No 1333 to operate the train rides train. For the record, she was replacing No.171 and Lough Erne is out of steam at the platform (she has not ben in steam since July 1972). The casual shunter standing by the carriage is the late Sullivan Boomer. For some reason, I did not take a slide so you wil have to take my word for it that Sullivan's ganzie was a sort of turquoise and the trousers black. The second picture is of No.171 and Rosslare Brake 861 at Auld's Bridge, between Monkstown and Mossley. I was standing on what had been the trackbed before the Loop Line was built. The train was working from Whitehead to Lisburn to pick up our four CIE Bredin carriages which had been worked north from Dundalk by diesel. The train was then used by BBC tv to film part of "Power to Move" - a series of industiral archeology programmes with Alan McCutcheon in the lead. The picture at Moira is from that filming. The third picture is of No.4 on home ground with the the third Portrush Flyer of the first season. It was a grim day and the colour slide adds little colour! The fourth RPSI drawing is at Gorey on the Three Rivers railtour which brought No.186 back to her long-time home of Waterford. The train has the Society's GN Diner (still in NIR maroon and white livery) and 861 recently repainted with a maroon and white livery. The two CIE carriages were hired for the tour. In one of the supplementary pictures is the tour train at Lavistown, worked by No.186, and meeting No.171 being hauled by a re-engined A class diesel. No.171 had failed on the Sunday morning at Waterford with a blown cylinder cover and was then hauled to Sallins shed where, eventually, the damage was undone. On that day, No.186 worked the tour train from Waterford to Balllinacourty and back before setting sail for Kilkenny, Dublin (Connolly) and Belfast Great Victoria Street a remarkable 257¾ miles in one day, surely some sort of record for a 0-6-0 which was once dismissed as "only a shunting engine".

The final two drawings are for amusement only. We have a 7¼-inch gage Kerr Stuart Wren that some of you will have seen in action. The "Pales Park" in the caption is, of course, "Page's Park". The final picture is what the Causeway tram might have looked like in steam days though it is really an ensemble from the National Tramway Musuem at Crich.

I have tried, without success, to discover who owns the copyright to the Platignum / ARPS book these days and will be glad to put the record straight if someone can confirm things, please.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this Coronvirus diversion - and please do keep safe!





Loco swop during Whitehead Open Day 7 July 1973. Photo © Charles P Friel CPF73014F



No.3BG "Guinness" before Whitehead Open Day 7 July 1973. Photo $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$ Charles P Friel CPF00721



Ex-SLNCR "Lough Erne" Whitehead Open Day 7 July 1973. Photo © Charles P Friel CPF00723





No.171 and Rosslare Brake 861 between Monkstown and Mossley on 10 June 1973. Photo Charles P Friel CPF73012A



No.171 (prior to being lined out) with carriages 1333 and 861 at Whitehead Open Day 7 July 1973. Photo © Charles P Friel CPF00725



No.171 "Slieve Gullion" at Portrush 2 August 1975. Photo © Charles P Friel CPF02039



No.171 crosses the Lagan Canal at Moira on 10 June 1973 while filming *Power to Move* for BBC TV. Photo © Charles P Friel CPF0702

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No.186 takes water at Gorey while working the *Three Rivers Railtour* on 15 September 1973. Photo © Charles P Friel CPF00952



No 186 takes water at Gorey while working the *Three Rivers Railtour* on 15 September 1973. Photo © Charles P Friel CPF73035D



During the *Three Rivers railtour*, No.186 was working from Waterford to Belfast on Sunday 16 September 1973 when, at Lavistown Junction near Kilkenny, she met No.171 being hauled by A35R. No.171 was being hauled to Sallins for repairs after failing that morning with a burst cylinder cover. Photo © Charles P Friel CPF00987





SCOTTISH RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY, FALKIRK.

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND, WHITEHEAD.

LAKESIDE AND HAVERTHWAITE RAILWAY.

STEAMTOWN, CARNFORTH.

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RAILWAY.

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STOUR VALLEY RAILWAY, CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE.

QUAINTON RAILWAY SOCIETY.

KENT AND EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY, TENTERDEN.

BLUEBELL RAILWAY, SHEFFIELD PARK.

ROMNEY, HYTHE AND DYMCHURCH, RAILWAY.

ISLE OF WIGHT RAILWAY, HAVEN STREET.

DART VALLEY RAILWAY, BUCKFASTLEIGH.

TORBAY STEAM RAILWAY, PAIGNTON.