

## Book Review Nr 10

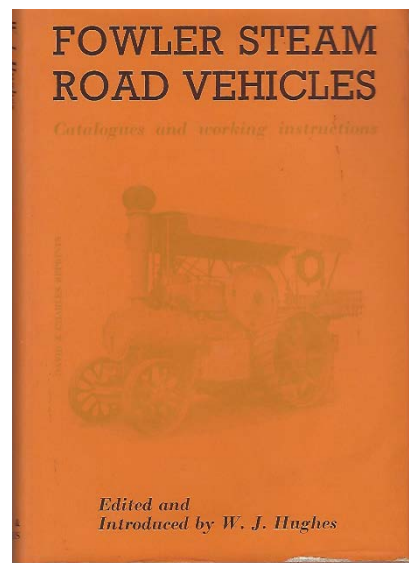
Happy New Year to you all and hope you had a good Christmas.

The two books this month are again from recent donations. Both are nothing to do with model engineering but relate to the real things.

The first book is **Fowler Steam Road Vehicles**. This book is A5 format of catalogues and working instructions for Steam Road Tractors, Agricultural and General Purpose Traction Engines, Patent Steam Wagon and Working Instructions for Road Rollers and Traction Engines.

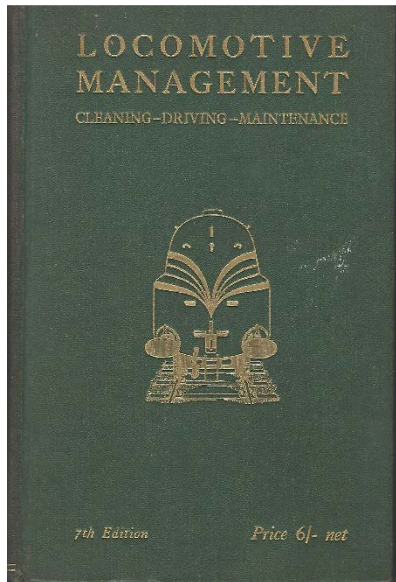
Rather than an introduction, there is a 9 page resumé covering the development of the company and the products. There are various illustrations and tables with specifications and sections through vehicles, boilers, valves and the like.

The section titled Working Instructions for Road Rollers and Traction Engines runs to 58 pages. This section is a copy of a book sent with each engine. It includes sections, amongst others, covering common troubles experienced with steam boilers, mechanical lubricators, points requiring periodical attention and 15 points that must have attention to obtain economy.



Our book is a 1970 edition and is compiled from literature Published by John Fowler & Co (Leeds) Ltd published in the 1920s. Whether you have or are building a steam road vehicle this book is a an easy an interesting read; the dozen or so testimonials from various parts of the world from Luton to New Zealand add to the authenticity.

The second book is **Locomotive Management-Cleaning-Driving-Maintenance**. This is a seventh edition printed in 1939; the first edition was published in 1908. The two authors, one a Chief Engineer and Superintendent of Works and the other a Locomotive Inspector, were based in Manchester. I suspect there has been many books on this subject published over the years.



Our book is in A5 format with some 500 pages and 250 illustrations and photographs. The last 16 pages are one-page adverts including companies such as Beyer-Peacock, Westinghouse and Capriotti Valve Gears Ltd, indicating that this must have been a respected reference book.

This is a general technical handbook for not only enginemen but mechanics, apprentices and all trades involved in maintaining and running locomotives. Besides comprehensive details of the construction and maintenance of the engine (some 300 pages), also included are sections on duties, training and tests on enginemen. Chapter XIX, Examination on Boiler, sets out 50 questions and answers; similar chapters cover Examination on Engine, Brakes,

Breakdowns, Rules and for Firemen.

The preface to this edition recognises the large number of new and aging locomotives in use at this time and therefore the book retains historic principles along side current modern developments (there is reference to Stanier's turbine-driven loco). This is more of a reference book, but if anyone wants to put an engineman's quiz together, then this is the book for you.

**If you want to borrow this, or any book in the library, please contact me.**

[Clive.Reynolds@stalbansmes.com](mailto:Clive.Reynolds@stalbansmes.com)

Remember we would welcome members' views on any books they borrow.

Clive Reynolds. January 2022