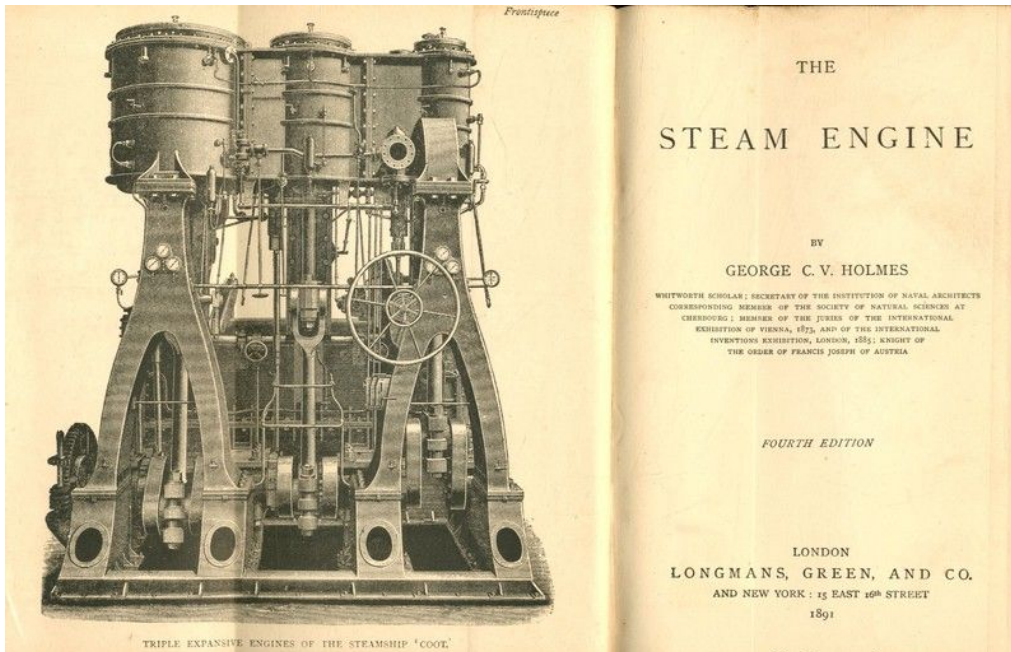


## Book Review Nr 22



As a result of building work at home, it has not been possible to access books to review. The work is now complete and I can now begin to give attention to the library and look to resume my reviews.

The review this month is limited to one book and for reasons which will be apparent there is no picture relating to the book.

(I found an image of the inside title page. Webmaster)

A couple of club meetings ago Nick Hale donated a book which is now the oldest book in our library. The book, **The Steam Engine** written by **George C V Holmes**, was published in 1897; the author's preface is dated December 1886. The book is hardback in A5 format with a broken spine. It runs to 528 pages with 212 diagrams/ illustrations (referred to in the front of the book as woodcuts).

This book is one in a series of twenty-six books, Text-Books of Science, rendered necessary to complement the country's progress of technical education which hitherto had received scant notice. The book is written for beginners covering the modern science of thermodynamics, the effects exercised on the motion of quick running engines by the inertia of their reciprocating parts, the geometrical methods of the fixing the dimensions and the setting of slide valves and the methods for diminishing the losses of efficiency in expansion engines due to the cooling of cylinders by the expanding steam, the methods being superheating, steam jacketing and compounding.

This book is not a model engineer's handbook for the techniques in the construction of model steam engines but is probably a good reference if the model engineer wants to design the model from first principles. Chapters include the connection between the size of an engine, the evaporative power of the boiler and the external work it can do, the mechanics of the steam engine, the mechanics and details of steam engines, valves and valve gears.

This book has been in the possession of many during its life and has been well thumbed to the extent that it needs attention; its spine needs repair. The cover is plain black and copying the front cover will not be of value.

I will investigate the cost of a basic repair to the book, albeit there is a 1898 hardback (used!!) for sale on Amazon for £196.30 with a paperback copy for £19.95.

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

Clive.Reynolds@stalbansmes.com

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

Clive Reynolds July 2023