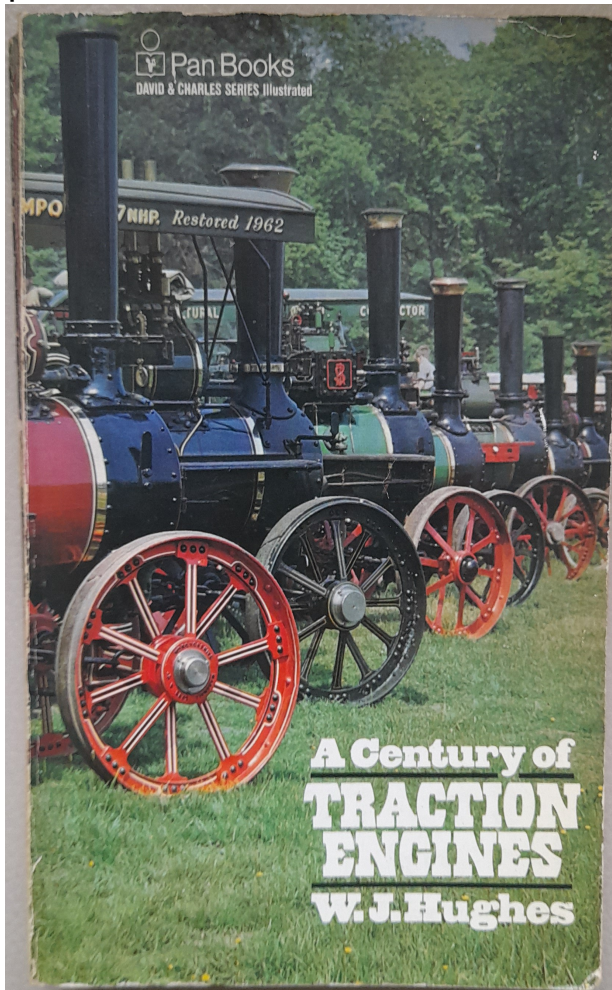


A Century of Traction Engines

By W. J. Hughes

A paperback book of 250 pages. First published in 1959, revised in 1968, this edition was printed in 1972.



This book is filled with line drawings and photographs, and starts in 1801 with Trevithick's Steam Carriage, not actually a Traction Engine, but marks the start of making steam engines mobile via their own power, a feature that was not realised at the time as the future, so efforts were directed towards railways.

Engine builders 'Ransomes' emerged as an innovator, making great advances in agriculture which led to the emergence of some of the recognisable names, Hornsby, Clayton, Shuttleworth, Burrell, Marshall, Aveling amongst others.

With the developments coming fast to be able to drive farm appliances, the natural progression split the uses into 'Road Traction' and 'Agriculture'.

The innovations came fast and furious, markets were developed, and the road traction branched out to include the 'Showman', with the engine

providing the transport from site to site and power for the rides the fairground.

The book terminates with the heydays of Road Haulage where huge loads were moved using these workhorses, for pulling and winching, and with the addition of a crane they could load/unload their trailers and place the loads in their final positions.

For the enthusiast, this book is a gold mine of information on the origins and development of these engines, from the very beginnings, until their demise by the emergence of petrol engine powered lorries.

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

<mailto:librarian@stalbandsmes.com>

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

Tony Ashgrove April 2025