

SEARCH ENGINE Resource Pack

Women railway workers

This guide details documents and objects relating to women working on the railways during times of war and peace

(Reference number for items in bold)

Bibliography

Books

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- Burman, Shirley. "Women's railroad history project". Sacramento, Ca : California State Railroad Museum, 1993. Shelfmark: **H2/113**
- Marwick, Arthur. "Women at war, 1914-1918". London : Fontana in association with the Imperial War Museum, 1977. Shelfmark: **B4-7/75**
- Matheson, Rosa. "The fair sex : women and the Great Western Railway". Chalford : Tempus, 2007. Shelfmark: **H2/142**
- Morris, G. "The railwaymen's year book (incorporating the railway woman's annual) and holiday guide". London : Railway Publications, 1954-56. Shelfmark: **H2/157/1-3**
- Niemann, Linda. "Boomer : railroad memoirs". Bloomington : Indiana University Press, 2011. Shelfmark: **H1/269**
- Robbins, Diana. "'Wanted: railman' : report of an investigation into equal opportunities for women in British Rail". London : H.M.S.O., 1986. Shelfmark: **K1/49L**
- Wojtczak, Helena. "Railwaywomen : exploitation, betrayal, and triumph in the workplace". Hastings : Hastings Press, 2005. Shelfmark: **H2/138**

Journal articles

- Back Track. Shelfmark: **5.0010** "Women at Work - the history of Britain's Railwaywomen". 1992 pp 21-6

- British Railway Journal. Shelfmark: **5.0020** "A G.W.R. signalwoman". 1985 GWR Special ed. pp 60-4
- British Railways Illustrated. Shelfmark: **5.0030** "War Report - The Women". Spt. 2006 p. 535
- Great Central Railway journal. Shelfmark: **1.0240** "Woman at work". Vol. 12, 1916, pp. 68-70
- Great Western Railway magazine. Shelfmark: **1.0270** "Women locomotive builders at the Swindon Works". Vol. 54, 1942, pp. 123-124
- Midland Railway Society Journal. Shelfmark: **4.0550** "Conditions of service for female staff". Spr. 2000 pp 16-18
- North Eastern Express. Shelfmark: **4.0640** "Female employees on the N.E.R. (in 1881)". Nov. 1987 p. 94
- North Eastern Express. Shelfmark: **4.0640** "Female staff". Aug 1988 pp. 56-9.
- Platform. Shelfmark: **4.0670** "A Great War innovation (women staff)". Sum. 1997 pp 23-6
- Rail news. Shelfmark: **1.0550** "You've got to be joking! Anne Ross, NSE's first woman driver". Feb. 1993 p. 7
- Railway Magazine. Shelfmark: **2.0320** "Women back on track". Apr. 2000 pp 20-6
- Railway World. Shelfmark: **5.0525** "A woman's view". Dec 1966, pp. 506-9

More titles and information available on our library catalogue:

www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/librarycatalogue

Sounds

Oral history recordings:

- Chalmers, Betty **NAROH2000-40**
York Telegraph operator. Talks about life on the railways, York station and impact of the Second World War.
- Lee, Violet Priscilla (nee Davis) **NAROH2000-51**
Worked as a guard. Talks about training and conditions; Second World War and other railway women.
- Glassey, Hilda **NAROH2000-60**
Worked as an engine cleaner in Bournemouth during the War.
- Lageu, Annie **NAROH2001-69**
Shorthand typist in District Goods Office, Leeds. Discusses women's working conditions; affect of marrying on employment prospects and Second World War memories.
- Gregory, Catherine Jane Ellen **NAROH2001-145**
Graduate management trainee. Difficulties of being a woman manager. Period of work 1977-2001.
- Hodgson, Mary (nee Wainwright) **NAROH2002-38**

Worked in Goods Agents Office. Discusses male/female relations and unequal pay.

- Kelso, Brenda Nancy (nee Hemingway) **NAROH2002-51**
Worked in locomotive manufacturer drawing office during the 1950s. Discusses tasks and male/female relations; use of photography in drawing office.
- Bergin, Christine (nee Davies) **NAROH2002-99**
First woman station manager, Western Region. Discusses types of passenger traffic, suicides and the Royal Train. Worked on the railways 1979-1995.
- Forsdyke, Nicola Judith **NAROH2002-117**
Worked as marketing assistant, promotions manager, sales manager and consultant from 1988 onwards. Discusses railway politics, women's rights, branding and privatisation.
- Hanks, Brenda **NAROH2002-118**
Started as a messenger girl and became the first woman president of the Transport Salaried Staff Association.
- Henderson, Ann **NAROH2002-142**
Worked as a driver. Discusses attitudes to women and facilities. Worked on the railways 1982-1994.
- Dickinson, Doreen **NAROH2003-14**
Junior clerk. Talks about the effect of War on the railways and general working life.
- Garlick, Gladys **NAROH2003-23**
Worked as a porter and became one of the first women guards. Station run by women during the war. Worked on the railways 1940-1949.
- Brown, Carol **NAROH2003-25**
Started as a typist became finance manager. Discusses duties, responsibilities and attitudes/harassment. Worked 1960-1995.

Artwork



Painting, oil on canvas, poster artwork for the London Midland & Scottish Railway, Re-Forming Shell Cases by Norman Wilkinson, about 1946. Depicts women munitions workers in a railway workshop, reforming large, recycled brass shell cases using machinery and hammers. From The LMS at War series. Signed by the artist at bottom left. Unframed. Object no. **1977-5766**



Watercolour with white on board by Cliff Rowe, 1941. St Pancras Cleaning Yard. Woman cleaning locomotive. Finished painting worked from 85/22/41, with head-on view of woman before locomotive smoke box entrance, holding hose apparatus, in protective clothing; to left, shed window; to right, through smoky archway, more locomotives. One of a series of drawings and paintings by Cliff Rowe of St Pancras Locomotive Cleaning and Goods Yard, 1940-1945. Object no. **1985-8908**



Painting, watercolour (?), original artwork for London Midland & Scottish Railway poster, British Industries - Cotton by Cayley Robinson, 1924. Framed and glazed. Object no. **1979-8029**



Watercolour. 'Woman of Pick & Shovel Gang', by Helen McKie, 1940. No.1 in a series of six small figure sketches. Image size 300mm x 175mm. frame size 475mm x 350mm. Object no. **1977-5843**



Watercolour. 'Waterloo' (Woman porter pushing barrow) by Helen McKie, June 1942. Image size 365mm x 255mm. Frame size 585mm x 510mm. Object no. **1977-5851**



Watercolour. 'Ticket Collector, Waterloo', by Helen McKie, June 1942. Image size 365mm x 255mm. Frame size 585mm x 505mm. Object no. **1977-5853**



Object no. **1985-8918** (see also 1985-8896 ;1985-8902; 1985-8903; 1985-8904; 1985-8905; 1985-8906; 1985-8907 for other Cliff Rowe art works featuring women labour.

Some artworks available on www.ssplprints.com

Archive documents

- Examination Paper Women Clerks used by the Great Western Railway (GWR) c1930. Questions on wide range of topics including geography, literature, famous historical people, abbreviations and maths with a short head test at the end. Object no. **2002-7537**
- Great Western Railway employment papers relating to Miss M Mably, Female Clerk in the Chief Accountant's Office, Paddington. Includes Great Western Railway Form of Application for Employment - Women and Girl Clerks, references and Great Western Railway contract of employment, 1930. REference number 1696. Object no. **2002-7538**
- Leaflet, British Railways, "Women's Organizations Sightseeing Day Tour by Rail and Motor Coach for Chester and North Wales", with photograph of Llangollen and map of the area of the reverse, 31st May, 1951. Object no. **2008-7447**
- Leaflet, British Railways, "Smaller Parcels Quicker Transit' with black and white photographs showing why larger parcels mean delays, Reasons given is railwaymen have gone to war and women can not be expected to lift such heavy loads and showing lighter parcels help with the war effort, dated World War Two. Object no. **2008-8981**

Photographs

- Photograph, monochrome, postcard size, showing group of four women ticket collectors on the London Brighton & South Coast Railway at Havant, Hampshire, 1914-1918 Object no. **1995-7859**
- Horwich Locomotive Works photographic collection shows images of women at work in the munitions factories Object no. **1997-7059**
- Female labour - Photo binder no: **469**

Plus images on www.ssplprints.com and <http://nrm.mediastorehouse.com/> (where you can buy prints).

Related Objects

- Trophy, silver cup on Bakelite plinth, Lonsdale Plate, Great Western Railway, 2-handed, engraved 'G W Railway Ambulance Centre, The Mrs F R Potter Cup, presented for Annual Competition between Womens Teams, 1968 – 1981 Object no. **1994-7398**
- Trophy and silver plaque, British Transport Commission, made from German incendiary bomb dropped on the Headquarters Offices of Euston Station, 30th December 1940, awarded to women's ambulance teams of the Railway Executive in the London area, 1949-1960. Object no. **2001-8485**
- White cotton dress with embroidered quotes from women who worked on the railways during the wars. The quote on the front is embroidered in purple thread and the one on the back using various colours. Around the bottom of the dress is embroidered a list of jobs undertaken by women on the railways in various colours. The dress also contains transfers of images of women at work; these have embroidered borders in various colours. Produced for the NRM exhibition 'Art in Motion: Memory, Meaning and Movement' by Donna Makey, a student at York St John University, 2007. Object no. **2010-7046**



Felt hat, standard pattern; Railwomen; French Navy, red band, red embroidered double arrow badge Object no. **1992-7193**



Beret, BR(ER), Signal woman, 1948-59.
Object no. **1977-5343**

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