

Foreword by Professor J Allan Patmore, CBE, BLitt, MA, HonDLitt

LUPTS President 1958-73

LUPTS was always a labour of love and of nothing is this more true than Charles Roberts' meticulous work on this celebration booklet. For me it is literally "forty years on" and reading it has really made the memories flood back. I did my courting on the Liverpool Overhead; I first left the side of my first-born to photograph the last day of Liverpool's trams; and my early journeys to work were often on the Mersey Railway Westinghouse stock. My first ever office - job apart - was as LUPTS President, though I suspect the resultant respectability was for my benefit, not theirs!

The Society flourished with an unholy mixture of geographers and engineers and my early exhortation to avoid inaction was apparently well heeded. For many of us the interest has become lifelong. The Society's first Librarian collected not only a knighthood but has in his care the nation's collection of railway artefacts. For others, like myself, the interest is, I suspect, personal and not professional. I still get a thrill from daily using my mug with its picture of 869, albeit at Crich and not Pier Head.

We all owe a debt to Charles Roberts for this 40th Anniversary account and the companion Record. His thorough researches, his pursuit of so many former members and his lively telling of the tale bring not only the joy of remembering times past but recall people and places that might otherwise have slipped regretfully beyond memory. There can be few societies that seven years after their demise are so active, and long may that continue.

*Allan Patmore
North Ferriby
North Humberside
April 1998*