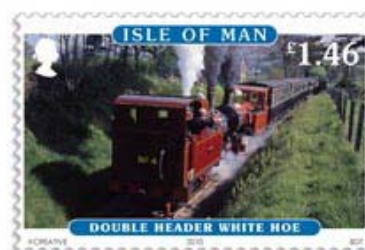
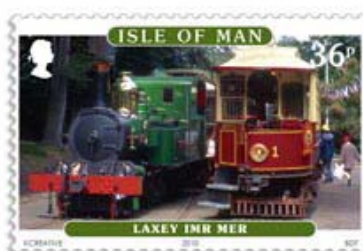


Press Release

ISLE OF MAN RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS

Issue Date: 24th June 2010



We are pleased present an issue of stamps to showcase the remarkable Railways and Tramways of the Island

The Island is uniquely served in terms of transport. The Victorians left their mark with some of the finest locomotives and trams in existence. The transport enthusiast can travel the length of the Island by antique means – steam trains, horse trams and electric tram cars are all proudly maintained while the journey takes in some fabulous scenery.

UNUSUAL HAPPENINGS ON THE ISLE OF MAN RAILWAYS by Stan Basnett

With the Centenary of the Manx Electric Railway in 1993 and the Centenary of the Snaefell Mountain Railway in 1995, Isle of Man Railways saw the opportunity for some unique celebratory events. Contractors had used steam locomotives on the construction of both so it was decided that here was the best excuse in the world to run steam on the electric systems! No.2 DERBY had been used on the construction of the Manx Electric Railway on the section between Laxey and Ramsey but as it was no longer in existence it was decided to use No.4 LOCH as a substitute being the nearest serviceable locomotive. The former Manx Northern Railway locomotive CALEDONIA had been used on the construction of the Snaefell line and was in the Railway Museum at Port Erin out of service.

1993 was designated as the “Year of the Railways” and as part of the centenary celebrations of the Manx Electric Railway it was decided to run steam hauled trains between Laxey and the Dhoon with No.4 LOCH hauling closed trailers Nos. 57 and 58 from the Manx Electric Railway.

Preliminary trials were run during the winter of 1991/2 to ensure gauge clearances and climbing ability over the sustained gradient of two miles, which was considerably steeper than any on the steam line. Once the railway inspector was satisfied, sidings were built at Laxey and the Dhoon.

The anniversary celebrations took place at Laxey after which the public were able to enjoy riding behind a steam locomotive on the electric railway at various times during the year enjoying some of the most spectacular coastal scenery on the Island.

For the centenary celebrations of the Snaefell Mountain Railway the extraordinary decision was made to take CALEDONIA out of the museum and restore it to full working order in time for the centenary. A temporary third rail was laid from Bungalow Halt to the Summit together with a trailing siding at the Bungalow. A number of trials were undertaken to ensure the locomotive's ability to climb to the summit with trailer No.57 and particularly to hold speed in check on the descent and if necessary stop.

1995 became the "International Railway Festival" and flushed with the success of running steam on the Manx Electric between Laxey and the Dhoon the same was done with CALEDONIA resplendent in her original Manx Northern Railway colours.

The celebration of the centenary took place in Laxey and as well as the unusual experience of riding behind a steam locomotive to the summit the occasion when all six tramcars were at the summit at the same time made the whole occasion memorable.

"Steam 125" in 1998 was the last of the big railway celebrations to take place celebrating one hundred and twenty five years of the steam railway's existence. Locomotive No.1 SUTHERLAND was also taken out of the museum and restored to full working order for the celebrations.

The opportunity was also taken to run the locomotive on the Manx Electric Railway only this time in a southerly direction from Laxey to Fairy Cottage. The year saw what was perhaps the most unusual of all the special events when an electric car from the Manx Electric Railway ran on the steam line between Douglas and Port Erin. Car No.33 was powered by a diesel generator cleverly concealed in a luggage van attached to the rear. Enthusiasts were able to enjoy unprecedented views of the steam railway during the numerous trips run over the whole length of the line.

This stamp issue records these unusual events on the Island's railways which were unprecedented in the history of the various lines and which may never be repeated.

The 35p stamp shows the steam railway locomotive Caledonia approaching the summit of the Islands highest mountain with trailer No.57 during the 1995 "International Railway Festival" as part of the celebrations of the Snaefell Mountain Railway centenary. The Barrule ridge in the background is one of the fine views from the top.

The 36p value stamp shows Isle of Man Railway locomotive No.1 Sutherland, built in 1873 by Beyer Peacock, alongside Manx Electric Railway car No.1, built in 1893 by G.F.Milnes & Co. Ltd. in Laxey Station for the "Steam 125" celebrations. This was an unforgettable event where one of the oldest working steam locomotives in the world could be seen alongside the oldest working tramcar in the world.

The 55p value stamp depicts the Dübs and Co locomotive Caledonia of 1885 in its restored condition as No.4 of the Manx Northern Railway passing the rock face at Bulgham with Manx Electric Railway closed trailer No.58. This is almost the highest point of the coastal tramway and commands dramatic views over Maughold.

The 88p value stamp shows IOM Railway locomotive No.4 Loch built by Beyer Peacock in 1874 running on the Manx Electric Railway between Laxey and the Dhoon working hard as it approaches Skinscoe curve on one of the steepest parts of the climb with trailers No.57 and No.58.

The £1.32 value stamp has Manx Electric car No.33 built in 1906 by the United Electric Car Company Ltd running on the steam railway and almost at the top of the climb out of Douglas as it approaches Keristal summit. This single event obtained worldwide publicity for the Island in the railway press.

The £1.46 value stamp shows a double headed special staged as part of the Enthusiasts Week during the 1993 "Year of the Railways". No.4 Loch back on home territory travels unusually bunker first with No.11 Maitland climbing past at the White Hoe crossing bound for Port Erin.

Our set of six stamps features the steam and electric transport with some stunning images and a collectable souvenir sheetlet.

- To download high resolution product images please click [here](#)
- To view the products on our website please click [here](#)

Technical Details

Design.....Kcreative
Text & Photography.....Stan Basnett
Printer.....BDT
Stamp Size 42.58mm x 28.45mm
Colours..... 4
Process.....Offset Lithography
Format..... Sheets of 15 Stamps
Perforations.....14 per 2cm
Paper.....102gms
Date of Issue.....24th June 2010

Products Available

IOM Railways & Tramways Mint/CTO Set.....£4.92
IOM Railways & Tramways Presentation Pack.....£5.67
IOM Railways & Tramways First Day Cover.....£5.62
IOM Railways & Tramways Sheetlet£4.92

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