

## **The Swanage Railway Montague-Jones Library Database**

This database presently contains approximately 2800 records of books and other items which are stored in the Library within Station House at Corfe Castle Station.

The aim of this database is to make the library contents more widely known, and provide a facility by which members, historians or researchers can view the items in a controlled environment.

The library is not a lending library. Any persons wishing to view or study items within the collection will need to do so in-situ at Corfe. Applications should be made to the Swanage Railway Trust's Museums and Education Department, currently headed (October 2014) by Dr. Clare Randall.

Two database views have been made available -

The default public view in pages of 100 items, and

a more extensive view also in pages of 100 items, accessible only to certain authorised users .

(Please note - the creating, updating/editing and deleting of records can only be done by authorised users who have logged on.)

### **Contacting the Library Staff :**

The library may be contacted by email – [corfe.library@swanagerailway.co.uk](mailto:corfe.library@swanagerailway.co.uk)

If users spot any errors, we would appreciate it if you could advise the details etc. by email to [corfe.library@swanagerailway.co.uk](mailto:corfe.library@swanagerailway.co.uk)

In order for library staff to act on any information, please ensure that you provide the 5-digit Item Number of the relevant records.

### **Arrangement of the database :**

The following data fields have been provided for each item -

Item Number  
Old Database Number  
Title  
Author(s)  
ISBN Number  
Publisher

Published at (eg London)  
Year Published  
Format (eg Hardback, Softback etc)  
National Railway Museum Classification (NRM)  
Primary Theme of the book/item  
Condition

The following additional fields are only available to authorised staff :

Acquired (date)  
Location (eg Shelf 15, or Filing Cabinet 6)  
Owned by (eg Swanage Railway Trust or Peter Sykes etc.)  
Value  
Conservation details  
Notes

In addition, the restricted view provides control data such as the number of current records, and their cumulative monetary value.

### **Searching for an Item :**

The Search facility enables a search to be made across several parameters :

Title  
ISBN Number  
Item Number  
Author(s)  
Primary Theme  
NRM Classification

Select the parameter; enter the appropriate value in the Search Query box; click "Search".

If any items match the query, they will be displayed in Item Number order.

### **Sorting the Database :**

Provision has been made for the database to be displayed in several different ways. By clicking any green column header, the data will be re-sorted on the web server, and presented to the user in alphabetical order as per the details contained in the selected database column.

Please be aware that until all the fields on each database record have been filled, any blank records will currently be displayed at the top of the column.

To return the database to its default presentation (by "Item Number"), just re-

click the green “Item No” at the head of the page; the database will revert to its normal presentation, and display the first page of 100 items.

## **The Classification Systems :**

Two systems have been provided :

**The NRM Classification**, by which items are classified using the system in use at the National Railway Museum Library, which was designed by NRM Librarian George Ottley.

This classification is a new field within the Montague-Jones database, and consequently the library staff now need to examine every item, determine its correct classification and amend the database accordingly. This operation will take several months to complete.

Once an item has been classified, hovering your mouse pointer over the code (eg E12 for item 10010) will display the full classification code (E12 = Railway carriage design and history).

A complete list of the NRM Classification System can be seen by clicking the button at the top of the front page marked “NRM Classifications”.

**Classification by the Primary Theme of the Item.** This classification seeks to determine the primary theme of each item, but users of the database will readily appreciate that in many instances, this is a subjective judgement. Some items will be so broadly based as to prevent any meaningful classification using this method, and consequently these items will be classified as “General”.

This classification is also a new field within the Montague-Jones database, and as with the NRM classifications, the library staff now need to examine every item, determine an appropriate classification and amend the database accordingly. This operation will also take several months to complete.

By clicking the “Themes” button at the top of the front page, you will be able to see a complete list of the themes currently available to items.

Each theme can be expanded to contain primary, secondary and tertiary values, such as :

- Architecture
- Regional Railways – Dorset
- Motive Power – Steam – Bullied Pacific Locos

Some items in the collection relate specifically to Swanage Railway; this theme heads our listing.

Many of the items in the collection relate to Motive Power; this theme is towards the head of the list.

All other themes are listed alphabetically.

As at October 2014, the following is the list of Primary Themes :

Swanage Railway	Motive Power
Archaeology	Architecture
Atlases and Maps	Bibliography
Biography	Buses
Carriages / Coaches	Companies
Corporate Identity	Diagrams
Dictionary	Engineering
Fares	Gazetteer
General	Locosheds
Lines / Routes	Liveries
Local History & Amenities	Magazine
Manual	Marshalling Yards
Miscellaneous (ABC)	Modelling
Parliamentary Papers	People
Photographs	Places
Railway Accidents	Railway History
Regional Railways	Road Vehicles
Royal Trains	Rules / Regulations
Shipping	Signalling
Steam	Tickets
Timetables	Track / Permanent Way
Travelogue	Wagons
War	Welfare

As items are classified, more Primary Themes may be added.

### **Historical Note :**

The collection was started in the 1970's following the donation by Mr. Montague-Jones of a considerable collection of books, which included many of the popular ABC enthusiasts books, together with many other more academic and historical works.

Since its formation, the collection has been considerably expanded, and now covers railway information across a wide spectrum.

Up until late 2014, the existence of this valuable collection was generally unknown. The initial catalogue was contained within an Access Database Table, and was available to very few Swanage Railway Staff.

This new database has been written using modern SQL and PHP software, and has been located on one of Swanage Railway's web servers. Consequently data can now be seen by anyone who has access to a modern web browser.

**It is important to emphasise that publication of the new and expanded database is very much “a work in progress”, and completion of the task will take the volunteers many months. Viewers are asked to bear this in mind before contacting the library with suggestions about updates or corrections etc.**

### **In Conclusion :**

Swanage Railway Trust is seeking accreditation from the Fine Arts Commission for the whole of its Museums and Education Services, which will include the museum at Corfe Castle Station, the Purbeck Minerals and Mining Museum at Norden and the Montague-Jones Library Collection within Station House at Corfe Castle.

Once this Library database is established, the next task will be to create and publish a similar database for all the items within the Corfe Museum, which will contain many photographs and considerable details about the various items.

There is a lot of work still to be done!

Swanage

Thursday 23.10.2014

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