

AIHC – IRHA – AIHF

THE INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



EDITORIAL

by Fernanda de LIMA LOURENCETTI

Chief-Editor

In 1825, the steam locomotive Locomotion No. 1, created by George and Robert Stephenson, was part of the beginning of railway history in England. Then, after the creation of the Rocket, launched in 1829, the railway spread throughout the world.

For this reason, it is not surprising that locomotives were the first railway elements to safeguard railway history in the commemorations of the first European railway centenaries (1930-1960).

Over the years, railway history has been told and preserved in different ways. Thus, as a way of highlighting the opening of the celebrations for the second railway centenary, in collaboration with other institutions, IRHA is encouraging the celebration of different events and activities.

Engaged by this context, in addition to some news and publications about the railway world, this newsletter will feature some of the initiatives that are being planned for the 2025 celebrations!

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We hope you enjoy reading this issue!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Andrea GIUNTINI

President of IRHA

Following the successful conference held in Siena last November, which attracted a large audience and was highly regarded for its scientific value, **IRHA is organising another event open to anyone interested in railway history.**

As mentioned in the editorial, **this year marks the 200th anniversary of the world's first railway.** The Stockton and Darlington Railway opened the door to rail transport, making a fundamental contribution to progress, which, not surprisingly, is often symbolically reflected in the advent of railways. This is, therefore, a decisive date to which many 19th century modernisation processes are owed.

We assume that this historic milestone is one of the most suitable subjects with which to celebrate this event in a scientifically rigorous manner. **That is why IRHA is organising a study day in Paris next November, which we will report on in detail in the next newsletter.**

Our aim is to bring together as many scholars, operators and railway enthusiasts as possible from every country, to demonstrate to a wider audience the enduring importance of the railway. We are convinced that the train is currently an important solution to the mobility needs of our societies.



Inauguration of the Stockton and Darlington Railway, by John Dobbin, around 1825

ON 10 DECEMBER, A 24-YEAR CYCLE IN BRAZILIAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT CAME TO AN END

The 2000 Series trains made its last journey. Manufactured in 1999, these trains began operating on 27 May 2000 in the city of São Paulo (BR), on the Expresso Leste, initially serving Line 11-Coral and, from 2016, also Line 12-Safira.

Operated by **Companhia Paulista de Trens Metropolitanos (CPTM)**: “During this period, they carried more than one

billion passengers, equivalent to 4.6 times the population of Brazil, and covered around 47 million kilometres - a distance capable of circling the planet 1,293 times or making more than 60 round trips to the moon.” ([Technibus - Transporte Coletivo e Mobilidade Urbana.](#))

(Translated by Fernanda Lourencetti)

FROM APRIL UNTIL OCTOBER A TRAVELLING EXPERIENCE BECOMES AN EXPERIENCE IN HISTORY

Although railways are a British invention, the densest network in the world is in Switzerland, with more than 5,000 kilometres of track, integrated with bus, boat and cable car systems.

If you plan your trip carefully, you can board special trains with panoramic windows that turn any journey into a programme in itself. The Gotthard Panorama Express is one of them. It runs along tracks that in 1882 formed the first link between the north and south of the country via the Alps. The route was designed full of gradients, seven spiral tunnels and a 15-kilometre tunnel more than a thousand metres above sea level.

Since 2016, this route can also be taken by ordinary trains through the new Gotthard Tunnel, the largest in the world, which crosses the Alps at its base for 57 kilometres.

The trip reveals by video projections that tell the story of the labourers who built part of its infrastructure, one of the train carriages is a reminder of the first trains that travelled this route, and the trip provides even a statue of the engineer who built the railway.

Source: [Revista Ferroviária](#) (translated by Fernanda Lourencetti)



Gotthard
Panorama Express

HOW JAPAN BUILT A 3D-PRINTED TRAIN STATION IN 6 HOURS

[_I'm a bit sad about the demolition of the old station,' he said.](#)

[_But I'd be happy if this station could become a pioneer and benefit others.](#)

Workers in a rural area of Japan built an entirely new railway station in just six hours. The components of the structure were 3D printed elsewhere and assembled on site last March.

As railway operators say, it is a world first! The terminal **is expected to start to operate in July**, when equipment such as ticket machines and transport card readers will have been installed, according to West Japan Railway.

The new structure will replace a significantly larger wooden one that has served passengers in Hatsushima for more than 75 years. The building may look more like a shelter than a station, but building it the traditional way would take more than two months and cost twice as much. **The printing was done in a factory in Kumamoto Prefecture**, on the south-western island of Kyushu.

Source: [Revista Ferroviária](#) (translated by Fernanda Lourencetti)

THE 32ND EDITION OF THE CAMINOS DE HIERRO INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

[Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles](#)

The Jury included last year's winner, Eduardo Rivas, the former president of the Real Sociedad Fotográfica, Enrique Sanz, the photographer Antonio Tabernero on behalf of the Selection Committee, the photographers Paula Anta and Begoña Rivas, and on behalf of Adif and Renfe, Francisco Javier Abad and Ricardo Inogés.

In this edition, almost 2,000 photographs from 43 countries were submitted, from which a pre-selection of works was made, including those of the new category "Camino de Hierro en Instagram", aimed

at railway-themed photographs taken with a mobile phone and published on a social network. Subsequently, a new selection was made, which resulted in 31 finalist photographs (26 plus 5 from "Camino de Hierro en Instagram"), by 26 authors, from which the Jury chose the winners.

On 11 April, the 31 finalist photographs were selected. Due to the situation caused by the power outage, the awards ceremony was postponed. A new date will be announced shortly.

Source: [Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles](#) (translated by Fernanda Lourencetti)

PORT, RAILWAY AND INDUSTRY INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM



Promoted in collaboration with the [Network for the Study of Cities, Railways and Ports](#) - Historical Perspectives and Current Realities, as part of two internal [CIDEHUS](#) projects funded by the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation: **UF&Port** - The relationship between urbanism and the railway in Atlantic port cities on the Iberian Peninsula and in Brazil and **Railways and the Agri-food industry**: vectors of territorial organisation and changes to the Alentejo landscape (19th and 20th centuries), this was a meeting of industrial heritage researchers, held in a hybrid format (Évora University (Portugal) | Online).



The Scientific Committee was composed by Pedro Pablo Ortúñez Goicolea, Ana Cardoso de Matos, Fernanda de Lima Lourencetti, Domingo Cuéllar Villar and Julián Sobrino Simal. It was organised by Keitty de Oliveira Silva and Rita Policarmo Morais, from CIDEHUS -Évora University.

This event took place on March 27, and had the collaboration of researchers from Spain, Portugal and Brasil. You can get to know a little bit about their careers and work in the book of abstracts available [HERE](#).



EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

IV MEETING ON RAILWAY HISTORY.

After the bicentenary of the Stockton-on-Tees-Darlington Railway. The first repercussions in Spain.

July 12, 2025, Valladolid.

September 27th marks the bicentenary of the commissioning of the world's first industrial railway between Stockton-on-Tees and Darlington (United Kingdom). The University of Valladolid, the Instituto Universitario de Historia Simancas and ASIHF have considered it an opportune reason to dedicate the **IV Encuentro de Historia Ferroviaria in Valladolid to study the first repercussions that the beginning of the iron roads had in Spain.**

Opening: M^a Concepción Porras Gil (Director of the Simancas University Institute of History)

Presentation: Pedro Pablo Ortúñez Goicolea (Professor at the University of Valladolid)

Speeches:

- Miguel Muñoz Rubio (President of ASIHF): 'Marcelino Calero, the liberal mason who introduced the railway in Spain'.
- Juan Carlos Ponce (ASIHF): "The first repercussions in literature. The cases of Ramón de Mesonero Romanos and Modesto Lafuente".
- Francisco de los Cobos (lecturer at the University of Castilla y La Mancha): 'The dissemination of the first technical treatises on iron roads in Spain'.

8TH INTERNATIONAL EARLY RAILWAYS CONFERENCE

Darlington, England, Tuesday 23rd September 2025 to Friday 26th September 2025

For those who do not know, the Early Railways Conference is about early railways organisation and finance, the transfer of technology, and the results of archaeological excavations, with fresh researches presented, discussed and peer-reviewed for publication.

Bookings can be made on [Early Railways Conference website](#) from January 2025.



"DE LA LIBÉRATION DE CAMPS À LA CAPITULATION" - ÉVÉNEMENT MÉMORIEL À ALBERT

24 April to 8 May 2025

To mark the **80th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps and the surrender of Germany on 8 May 1945**, the ARPDO - Rotonde 80 association, the Cercle Généalogique des Cheminots and Rails & Histoire, in partnership with the municipality of Albert (Somme), are organising a major event.

From 24 April to 8 May 2025, the **Théâtre du Jeu de Paume in Albert will host a number of exhibitions, conferences and screenings covering key aspects of the Second World War:** the Resistance, deportation, the life of railway workers in the Resistance and poignant testimonies from deportees in camps such as Ravensbrück.

In addition to these exhibitions, **daily lectures will be held from 4.30pm to 6pm**, with the participation of historians, witnesses and specialists in the subject.

Highlights not to be missed:

- On Sunday 27 April, there will be a patriotic parade and an exhibition preview to commemorate the liberation of the camps.
- On Thursday 8 May, there will be a parade with costumed extras from the Digger Côte 160 association to celebrate the surrender of Germany.

Source: [Rails & Histoire](#) (translated by Fernanda Lourencetti)

10TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON RAILWAY HISTORY

Alcázar de San Juan, June 24-26, 2026



The Iberian Association of Railway History (ASIHf) has announced the 10th International Congress on Railway History, which will be held in the city of Alcázar de San Juan, La Mancha, Spain, on June 24-26, 2026, with the collaboration of the City Council, and the Fundación de los Ferrocarriles Españoles (Spanish Railway Foundation).

Alcázar de San Juan is a town where the railway has been the capital for its economic and social development, as it has been one of the most important railway nodes in the Iberian Peninsula. For this reason, followed by other nine sessions, the first session of the Congress, aims to gather all possible research on the railway history of the region.

Important dates:

-Up to 15 August 2025 to send the proposal, which must contain the title of the paper and an abstract of no more than 300 words.

-Until 31 March 2026 to send the paper, which must be between 2,000 and 6,000 words in length, and must be formatted according to TST standards (rules).

Both submissions should be sent to the following e-mail address: 10Congreso@asihf.org

Source: Asociación Ibérica de Historia Ferroviaria
(translated by Fernanda Lourencetti)

GREAT RAIL TALES PODCAST

A celebration of the people of railways through their own stories, told in their own words

Great Rail Tales is a collection of short engaging, moving, funny and often **surprising stories about British railways** that cover all aspects of railway life, from the past, to the present and into the future.

From the community heritage steam groups to the electrification of the future, from the commuters to the day trippers, from the guards and drivers to the engineers and coders.

Railway people and their stories have helped shape the modern world and in Great Rail Tales, they're going to tell those stories.

Follow the Great Rail Tales series wherever you get podcasts:

- [Apple Podcasts](#);
- [Spotify](#);
- [Amazon Music](#).

Source: [Railway 200](#).

RAILWAY READINGS

[Tranfers - Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies](#) published the article “Rail Mobility and the “China Model””, written by Dylan Brady.

TAKE A LOOK!

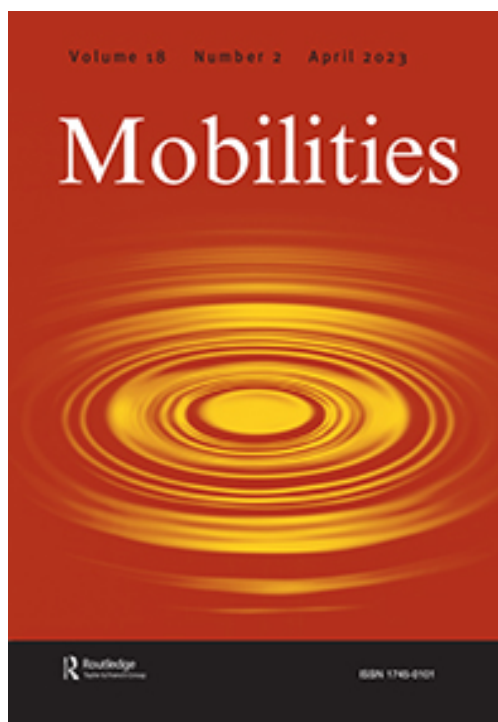


100 ans de signalisation ferroviaire lumineuse française

Didier Janssoone (2025)

The SNCF has just celebrated the centenary of its colour-light signalling! What is its history? What is its philosophy? How does it work? These are just some of the questions that the 272 pages and 650 illustrations in this book will answer for everyone - railwaymen, students in the railway industry, model-makers and enthusiasts alike - thanks to the rich iconography and numerous diagrams.

Source: [LRpress](#) (translated by Fernanda Lourencetti)



During 2024, the journal [Mobilities](#) published its **volume 19** with 6 issues!

In addition to other articles on mobility, these issues include:

‘A stop on the train’: the transient mentality of creative expats in Beijing, China

Daniel de O. Vasconcelos & Julie T. Miao

Mobility justice or transit boosterism? The use of rail transit as an urban transformation strategy in Kitchener, Canada, and Malmö, Sweden

Lina Olsson & Ren Thomas

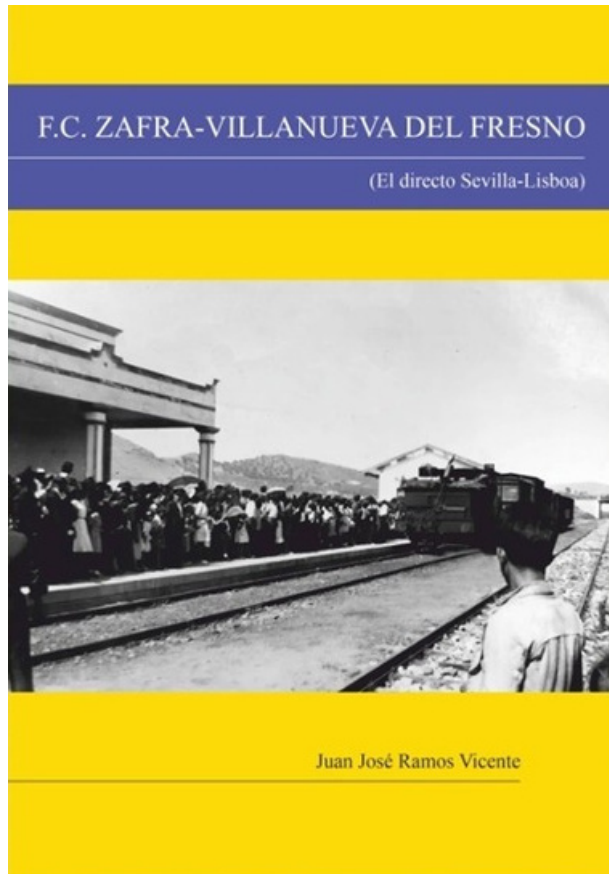
Understanding train tourism mobilities: a practice theories perspective

Ilze Mertena & Maarja Kaaristo

Ferrocarril Zafra-Villanueva del Fresno (El directo Sevilla-Lisboa)

Juan José Ramos Vicente

by Francisco Polo Muriel



This presents the history of a railway in the south of Extremadura and its *raison d'être*, as part of the cross-border railway project that aimed to connect Lisbon with Seville through Évora and Zafra. The study explores the vicissitudes that this project went through on the Spanish side, from its first studies to the construction of the section between Zafra and Jerez de los Caballeros, as well as its diachronic evolution as an active railway line. The book gathers all the aspects related to this railway line (engineering works, stations, rolling stock, traffic) and is complemented by abundant graphic documentation from archives and photo libraries consulted by the author.

This is the sixth book that Ramos Vicente has devoted to the railway in Extremadura.

His earlier books are:

- El ferrocarril de Talavera de la Reina a Villanueva de la Serena (Historia de una ilusión) (2010). Re-edited in 2015.
- Ferrocarril Palazuelo-Astorga. Una línea estratégica (2012). Reissued in 2024.
- El ferrocarril del Guadiato. Almorchón-Belmez-Córdoba (2016).
- Mérida-Seville Railway. First north-south-western connection (2020).
- Aljucén-Cáceres Railway (2023).



Association Internationale
d'Histoire des Chemins de fer

International Railway
History Association

Asociacion Internacional
de Historia Ferroviaria

Do not forget to visit
our website!

[https://aihc-irha-
aihf.com/](https://aihc-irha-aihf.com/)

NEXT ISSUE

August 2025



Here are some of the articles published by the Journal of Transport History (JTH), in its latest issue (n.45, issue 3):

The “veins and arteries of the country” Imagined and actual exclusion from railway connectivity in Bulgaria, 1878–1908

Malte Fuhrmann

Working around exclusive infrastructure – African workers and their families navigating race and gender on Rhodesia Railways, 1945–1964

Friedrich N. Ammermann; Nicole E.N. Sithole

Trains and cameras: Photography and the creation of a railway landscape in Portugal (late nineteenth–early twentieth centuries)

Hugo Silveira Pereira

SEE YOU AROUND:

“...we are in a situation of travelers in a train that has met with an accident in a tunnel, and this at a place where the light of the beginning can no longer be seen, and the light of the end is so very small a glimmer that the gaze must continually search for it and is always losing it again, and, furthermore, both the beginning and the end are not even certainties.”

(Franz Kafka, Blue Octavo Notebooks)