

November Historical Report

In this report I would like to give you an update as to number of vehicles on the "Historical Vehicle Database" which tallies to twenty-seven. These include Sydney Brass Sulkies, Buggies and Trade Vehicles which detailed photos and measurements have been taken but this is represent of a small fraction of what I perceive to be out there. However I have had a couple of people contact me with information and memorabilia to add to the slowly growing historical database but I think there is still a lot of information and vehicles to be explored.

I recently was shown several books by one of our members and the one I took particular interest in and was able to purchase was "The Coachbuilder Book Of Designs - Second Edition" originally published in 1909 by the Bishop Family. It has been reprinted in 1990 and contains the profiles and dimensions of some four hundred and ninety-two two and four wheeled vehicles found in Australia, a good useful reference book.

Moving away from Australia this year I attended "The Great Dorset Steam Fair" held in a 600 acre (300 Hectare) paddock Nr Blandford England. The name suggest steam yes, there are traction engines but also antique cars, trucks, farm machinery, bikes in fact all sorts of machinery and horse vehicles.

There is daily showing of all exhibitions working, digging ploughing and driving, during which the announcer gives a history lesson on the type of vehicle being presented and how it evolved.

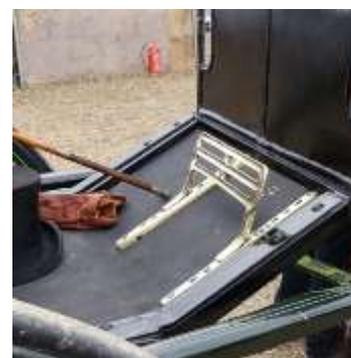


The hay wagon in the picture is one of many, the style is basically the same across the country but the size varies depending on where it is used. For example the hay wagon from Yorkshire is larger than one from Cornwall because the terrain is flatter and this "regionalising" of styles also appears in vehicles used for passenger transport.

In one Sulky at the show a brass footrest caught my eye, it would take a lot of cleaning.

In closing I am still waiting members to let me catalogue their vehicles or any other memorabilia.

Have safe and enjoyable Christmas and a Prosperous New Year and hope to see you and your vehicles in the new year.



Alan Ongley - Historical Convenor