
Editorial **Bridgehead for the Future**

Feature **Railways and Tourism**

Tourism—Major Economic Stakes

Georges Cazes Professor, Université de Paris 1 /Panthéon-Sorbonne

The number of international tourists grew 23-fold from 25 million in 1950 to 567 million in 1995 and will reach 1018 million in 2010. Boosted by globalization, tourism is now extending to most parts of the world. But despite its huge impact in many countries and regions, tourism is often ignored in economic analyses and regional studies. The author is a leading French scholar of tourism and identifies and evaluates the contribution tourism has made at the global, European, national and regional levels.

Thomas Cook & Son's Vesuvius Railway

Paul Smith Archivist, Thomas Cook Group Ltd.

Everyone knows the Naples folk song 'Funiculi Funicula', but few know that it was inspired by the opening in 1880 of a 806-m funicular to carry tourists on the final steep ascent to the summit of Mt Vesuvius. Even fewer people know that John Mason Cook, the son of Thomas Cook, bought this funicular. In 1903, he built a new 7.7-km railway from Pugliano at the foot of the mountain to the lower end of the funicular. The 1944 eruption of Mt Vesuvius damaged the funicular and the railway fell into serious difficulties. They were sold to a local company in 1945 and finally replaced by a road and chair lift in the 1950s. This article is a compact but interesting history of an almost forgotten mountain railway in Southern Italy.

Recreating the Golden Age of Rail Travel

Odette Anderson Public Relations Officer, Venice Simplon-Orient-Express Ltd.

American businessman and rail enthusiast James B. Sherwood, President of Sea Containers Ltd., bought and restored old Wagons-Lits sleepers and Pullman coaches to revive the Venice Simplon-Orient Express service on the London-Paris-Venice route. Following success in Europe, in 1993, he successfully launched the Eastern & Oriental Express on the Singapore-Kuala Lumpur-Bangkok route using remodelled Japanese-built carriages from New Zealand. Now Venice Simplon-Orient-Express Ltd. is preparing to inaugurate its third project, the Great South Pacific Express, which will run between Brisbane and Cairns in Australia from December 1998.

Prewar Tourism Promotion by Japanese Government Railways

Koichi Nakagawa Professor, Ryutsu-Keizai University

Tourism has long been considered an easy source of foreign currency. Japan was no exception and the railway was the first to take lead in promoting international tourism in prewar Japan. Japan's tourism industry was developed and integrated into the international network with the initiative and support of the Government Railways. Today, international tourism from Japan has become so popular that much more money is spent by Japanese tourists abroad than by foreign tourists visiting Japan. The author points out the necessity of reversing this trend because Japan's manufacturing industry is challenged by the growing competitiveness of other Asian economies and suggests that railways should take lead once again in promoting tourism to Japan.

History of Amusement Park Construction by Private Railway Companies in Japan

Isao Ogawa Professor, Shiga University

Japanese private railways are characterized by their participation in diverse non-railway businesses including real estate, department stores, baseball teams, etc. Most prewar private railway companies were involved in tourist and amusement facilities. The author reviews the management history of amusement parks—the forerunner of today's theme parks—run by private railways in the Kansai (including Kyoto, Osaka, Nara and Kobe) district, and explains why these railway companies started building amusement parks at the turn of the century.

**Another Perspective
An Exhibition Courier's View of Japan**

Dieter W. Hopkin Head of Library and Archives, National Railway Museum, York

The author visited Japan to make arrangements for an exhibition of British railway posters at the Tokyo Station Gallery in 1997. As a first-time but well-informed visitor, he walked around Tokyo and Osaka to discover the cultural importance of railways to the nation.

**Railway Technology Today 2
The Mechanism of Railway Tracks**

S. Miura, H. Takai, M. Uchida, and Y. Fukada
Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI)

This second of a 12-part series on recent developments in railway technology describes today's advanced track engineering, including new materials, new track designs and new maintenance technology.

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Photostory **Tourist Trains**
