

Archivists Report to LVTA AGM Meeting – 16th October 2022

Archive Collection

A few Archive acquisitions during 2021-22, mostly taxi photographs and old taxi magazines.

I continue to sort out the collection of old London taxi magazines and journals acquired from the Licensed Taxi Drivers Association (LTDA) in 2019 when they moved offices. The collection is estimated to be about 1,000 pieces and spans the 30+ year period from around the mid 1980's to 2020. It includes their own members journal called 'Taxi' plus other trade organisation journals such as Steering Wheel, Cab Driver and a few other taxi related publications.

It's quite a collection which is at present in dry storage but will shortly be transferred to our Vehicle Registrar who has kindly offered to store it for us. Many interesting taxi trade articles have emerged from the collection particularly the period adverts which have proved to be useful and have helped answer a number of inquiries in relation to the price of certain taxis.

There were the usual inquiries from family tree researchers during the year, contacting us seeking information on their long-departed cab driving relatives. Unfortunately, we hold no driver's records, only limited cab details from the early 1930's to mid 1985, much of which is ex Beardmore and M&O sales record material.

As previously mentioned most, if not all, of the very early PCO records were destroyed during the WW2 Blitz and even the old PCO at Penton Street held very limited retired drivers details. A number of record searches have been for DVLA registration number retention or allocation purposes. Please note that the majority of our later FX4 and Fairway records only show the original registration number so we cannot trace a cab unless this is provided whereas we can often trace earlier models with just chassis and / or body numbers.

Archive Material

Can I please remind members what the LVTA archives essentially consist of :-

1. Taxi trade magazines and newspapers
2. Newspaper cuttings and auto magazine articles on taxis
3. Various taxi books written over the years (from Desert Taxi to Bill Munro's publications).
4. Various sales brochures and pamphlets.
5. Workshop manuals and Drivers Handbooks (mostly all transferred to CD).
6. Old LVTA Newsletters.
7. Old LVTA Committee meeting notes.
8. Some DVD's containing taxi films (copyright may prohibit duplication).
9. Beardmore & M&O sales records (plus some AFS records).
10. Photograph collection of some 2000+ taxi related images.

Members are normally more than welcome to view any of the Archive collection by arrangement but I am in the process of downsizing and moving home so most of the archive collection is in storage. However, any request to view is possible by agreeing a mutually convenient time to allow me time to retrieve any particular requested item. Despite belief that the LVTA houses a collection of artefacts to rival the London Transport Museum please let me once again make it clear that the LVTA archive collection contains no large objects such as vehicles, meters, models, taxi plates, drivers badges etc. that said however, any such donations would be graciously received!

Yet again during the year a couple of LVTA members have sadly passed away. Whilst the last thing on relative's minds might be what to do with the deceased taxi related collection, it would be ever so beneficial to the LVTA if a mention was made in members wills relating to the donation (or sale) of any taxi related items to the LVTA Archive collection for posterity. I make no apology for repeating this request as it seems to fall on deaf ears year after year.

I have in the past acquired a number of taxi related archive items via e-bay and other online sites, however I now find that I am bidding against our own members on many occasions and many seem to want to pay unrealistic prices for taxi memorabilia.

LVTA Facebook Members Forum

I continue to select photographs that I feel may be of interest to LVTA members who view our Facebook page. I try to post photographs that show taxis actually working rather than just static photos of cabs on display.

Enfield Pageant of Motoring

The May 2022 Enfield Pageant of Motoring show was the first for nearly 3 years. Whilst it was limited this year to 2 days rather than the normal 3 it was a great success and well attended. I would ask that members put the late May Bank Holiday date in their diary's as this show is really worth attending.

Graham Waite
LVTA Archivist

11th October 2022