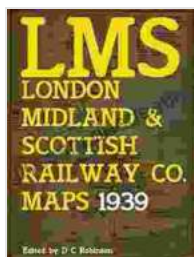


Delving into the Depths of London Midland and Scottish Railway Company 1939 Maps: Exploring a Legacy of Rail Transport

: Unlocking a Historical Treasure Trove

The year 1939 marked a significant milestone in the annals of British railway history, as the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company (LMS) unveiled a series of detailed and comprehensive maps that captured the intricate network of rail lines, stations, and landmarks that defined its vast operations. These maps, known as the LMS 1939 Maps, offer an invaluable glimpse into the golden age of steam locomotion and provide a rich source of information for historians, railway enthusiasts, and anyone interested in the social and economic impact of rail transport in the United Kingdom.



LONDON MIDLAND AND SCOTTISH RAILWAY

COMPANY: 1939 MAPS by D C Robinson

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 7556 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 25 pages

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Historical Context: The Rise of the LMS

To fully appreciate the significance of the LMS 1939 Maps, it is essential to delve into the historical context that gave rise to this remarkable railway company. The LMS was formed in 1923 as part of the post-World War I railway grouping in the United Kingdom. It brought together a diverse collection of railway companies, including the London and North Western

Railway, the Midland Railway, and the Caledonian Railway, creating one of the largest and most influential railway networks in the country.

The LMS inherited a vast and complex rail network spanning England, Scotland, and Wales. It operated over 10,000 miles of track, serving major cities such as London, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. The company's operations were not limited to passenger transport; it also played a vital role in the movement of goods and commodities, supporting the industrial and agricultural sectors of the United Kingdom.

The LMS Maps: A Cartographic Masterpiece

The LMS 1939 Maps were more than just ordinary railway maps; they were meticulously crafted works of art that reflected the company's pride in its operations and its commitment to providing exceptional service. The maps were produced by the LMS Drawing Office under the direction of Chief Draughtsman John Edward Smedley. Smedley and his team spent countless hours compiling data, surveying routes, and drafting the intricate details that would make the maps both accurate and visually appealing.

The LMS 1939 Maps were published in a variety of formats, including large-scale wall maps, smaller pocket maps, and even a special edition for use by the Royal Family. The maps were widely distributed to railway stations, schools, and businesses throughout the LMS network. They were also used extensively by the company's staff for planning and operational purposes.



Close-up of the LMS 1939 Map, showcasing the intricate details and vibrant colors.

Map Features: A Wealth of Information

The LMS 1939 Maps are a treasure trove of information for anyone interested in the history of rail transport in the United Kingdom. They provide a detailed overview of the LMS network, including:

- Every station and signal box on the LMS network

- All major and minor rail lines, including branch lines and sidings
- Distances between stations and locations
- Gradients and curves along the lines
- Locations of railway depots, workshops, and other facilities
- Geographical features such as rivers, canals, and mountains
- Towns, cities, and villages served by the LMS

In addition to their practical value, the LMS 1939 Maps are also visually stunning. They feature a vibrant color scheme that clearly distinguishes between different types of rail lines and geographical features. The maps are also adorned with decorative elements, such as heraldic shields and vignettes, that reflect the LMS's corporate identity.

Impact of the Maps: A Legacy of Excellence

The LMS 1939 Maps had a profound impact on the development of rail transport in the United Kingdom. They provided a valuable tool for planning and managing the LMS network, ensuring efficient and reliable services for passengers and freight. The maps were also used by railway enthusiasts to track the evolution of the network and to learn about the history of rail transport in their local areas.

Today, the LMS 1939 Maps remain an invaluable resource for historians and railway enthusiasts. They provide a unique snapshot of the LMS network at the height of its operations and offer insights into the social and economic changes that were taking place in the United Kingdom during the interwar period. The maps are also a testament to the skill and dedication of the LMS staff who created them.

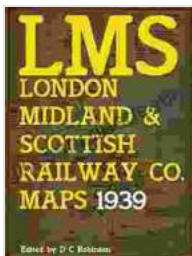
: Preserving a Railway Legacy

The London Midland and Scottish Railway Company 1939 Maps are a priceless historical artifact that provides a fascinating glimpse into the world of rail transport in the United Kingdom. They are a testament to the ingenuity and innovation of the LMS and to the importance of rail transport in the development of the country.

Today, the LMS 1939 Maps continue to be treasured by railway enthusiasts, historians, and anyone interested in the history of transportation. They are a valuable resource for research, education, and enjoyment. It is important to preserve these maps for future generations so that they can continue to inspire and inform us about the rich legacy of rail transport in the United Kingdom.

References

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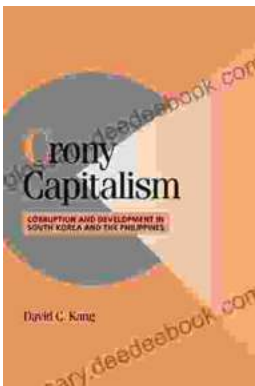
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