

SIR EDWARD BACK IN FULL SONG

As of the last week of January, our 4mm/00 reproduction of the Great Western Railway style of nameplate/numberplate/ancillary plate sets, produced to what we regard as quite a precise standard given the limitations imposed by etching at 1:76.2, are back on stream. At the time of writing, back orders for these - especially to adorn (we assume) the Hornby Class 50 'Sir Edward Elgar' - have been despatched to a considerable number of customers.

If you want any of these plates, you are recommended to order by Mail/Phone/Fax/Email or our Secure Website: we cannot guarantee to have them in stock at any given exhibition unless they have been ordered in advance.

The series comprises:

FEP 50007 SIR EDWARD ELGAR, black/brass, for GW150 livery	£8.95+p/p
FEP 50007 SIR EDWARD ELGAR, red/brass, for current GW150 livery in preservation	£8.95+p/p
FEP 47500 GREAT WESTERN, black/brass, for GW150 livery	£8.95+p/p
FEP 47079 G. J. CHURCHWARD, black/brass, for GW150 livery	£8.95+p/p
FEP 47628 SIR DANIEL GOOCH, black/brass, for GW150 livery	£8.95+p/p
FEP 47484 ISAMBARD KINGDOM BRUNEL, black/brass, for GW150 livery	£9.95+p/p
FEP 60081 ISAMBARD KINGDOM BRUNEL, black/brass, for current EWS GWR-style lined green livery	£9.95+p/p

All sets include a pair of nameplates, a pair of numberplates, a pair of two-part GWR garter crest plates ready assembled and a pair of BR double-arrow motifs (in the case of the Class 60 set, these are replaced by a pair of EWS 'Zoo' (Three Beasts) motif plates. All components for each come in a single fret in anti-tarnish-treated, hand-finished fine-etched brass.

We recommend that you fit the plates using a minute amount of clear varnish - RailMatch or Phoenix Precision, available from Fox - in a finish to as closely as possible match the finish of your model so that, if you inadvertently over-indulge with the varnish, the effect will not unduly detract from the finish of your model.

Remember, too, that Fox make lining sets for these locos!

F 4305 : £6.45+p/p - will give you a set of lining panels for a Class 47 in GWR150 green livery, plus lining strips and LA depot lettering for the different format for 50007.

F 4305/10 : £8.70+p/p - Provides two lining panels for the bodyside, orange cantrail lining and the small graphics including TOPS numbering which this engine carries.

BRITISH RAILWAYS ROAD VEHICLES : DOUBLE SAUSAGES FOR ALL - IN 4mm/00, THAT IS

After being out of print for a couple of month, we have been able to re-instate our BR road vehicle 'double sausages'. These popular items are available in cream lettering on maroon background, and vice versa, and each sheet provides a pair of each of four sizes. Current prices are shown below - these will be increased (as mentioned in our BUS STOP feature in this issue) in July to take account of VAT and increased costs.

FB BR1 BR Totems, maroon, 4 sizes	£2.50
FB BR2 BR Totems, cream, 4 sizes	£2.50
FB BR3 Cream fleet numbers, includes 4 sets 01-100, 2 alphabets, 4 sets region codes E, M, S, W, Sc	£2.00
FB BR4 BRITISH RAILWAYS small lettering in cream for van sides - pair	£0.50
FB BR5 BRITISH RAILWAYS Large lettering in cream for van sides - pair	£0.50
FB BR6 Set of van side posters, maroon lettering on white - 4 types	£1.50

FOXTAILS

THE NEWSLETTER OF FOX TRANSFERS

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ALL CORRESPONDENCE, PLEASE,
TO FOX TRANSFERS
138 MAIN STREET,
MARKFIELD, LEICESTERSHIRE
LE67 9UX ENGLAND

TEL +44(0)1530 242801 • +44(0)1530 245618

FAX +44(0)1530 245958

E-MAIL info@fox-transfers.co.uk

INTERNET Our Website is regularly updated

www.fox-transfers.co.uk

Fox Transfers. The Growing Range

For The Finishing Touch

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As the New Year trundles into existence and becomes less new, and the horrific plight of those affected by the tsunami in and around the Indian Ocean strikes home, everything in our little world assumes its rightfully insignificant proportions.

The slight reduction in our exhibition commitments for 2004/2005 is already starting to bear fruit in that we are slowly beginning to make headway in the research, origination and printing of those thousands of new items for which our customers have asked us over the years. That is not to say that everything you wanted is going to suddenly and miraculously appear over the next couple of months. Far from it.

But, as you will see elsewhere in this issue of FOXTAILS, we have continued to introduce a fair quantity of new items, some of which we wish we'd been able to produce quite some time back. However, hopefully better late than never, but it does emphasise the fact that, no matter how many people may want a specific transfer, we still have to try to ensure that we're producing the correct image to the correct size in the correct colours. We'd far rather delay production and get it right than rush into something only to be told that we've dropped one or more clangers.

MAIL MATTERS

Please remember when ordering by mail that envelopes bearing a Second Class stamp may take two or more days to reach us. First Class mail does not always reach us the day after it is posted.

All orders despatched by us are sent by First Class Mail to UK addresses, and by Air Mail to all Overseas addresses. The standard rates of postage for orders for MODELLING transfers and nameplates, as published both on our website and in our various price lists, cover orders for UNLIMITED QUANTITIES of MODELLING transfers and nameplates. In other words, whether you order one set of transfers or one thousand, we should charge you 50p for delivering to Wapping in the UK, or £3 for Airmail to Wagga-Wagga in Australia.

Carriage for paint, catalogues and Full Size transfers differ because of the different weights and packaging requirements, and these are published on our website and in our various price lists. Fox Full Size crests are always despatched by insured Royal Mail Special Delivery.

All products may be collected from our works BY PRIOR APPOINTMENT ONLY. Because of our exhibition and general business commitments, we need to ensure that there is a member of staff on the premises who can fully assist you with your purchases.

WHERE IN THE (RAILWAY) WORLD IS THIS?



THE WINNERS THE RESULTS OF OUR 22ND ANNIVERSARY COMPETITION!

The correct answer to our questions were as follows:

WHERE WAS THE ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN (LOCATION AND COUNTY)?

Long Rock /Ponsandane, Penzance, Cornwall. (Unless you dig out local authority documents for this location, the frontier (!) between Long Rock and Ponsandane is somewhat arbitrary. But don't tell the locals I said so.

WHAT IS THE PRIME USE OF THE SPECIFIED BUILDING AND UNDER WHOSE AUSPICES IS IT PRIMARILY AND CURRENTLY OPERATING?

The building was designed specifically for servicing InterCity 125 High Speed train sets (hence the building extensions at each end which permit under-cover work on the exteriors of power cars without their having to be detached from their train. First Great Western are responsible for the depot, and most of the work appears to be on their locos and rolling stock, although other Train Operating Companies make use of the facilities.

2mm/N WINNER : MR RT PARKER OF BICESTER
who receives £22-worth of our transfers for the 1950-1960 era.

4mm/00 WINNER : MR ROLAND CARP OF WESTERN-SUPER-MARE
who receives £22-worth of our transfers for the 1962-1966 era.

7mm/0 WINNER : MR P L PAY OF YORK
who receives £22-worth of our transfers for a similar timeband

THERE WERE NO ENTRANTS IN ANY OF THE LARGER SCALES.

STAP ME VITALS: WE CAN'T EVEN GIVE THEM AWAY!

The entries to our 22nd Anniversary Competition which we ran in the last issue of FOXTAILS were, to say the least, something of a disappointment. Out of the thousands of copies of FT which were mailed to customers, and handed out at exhibitions, we received precisely 16 entries, of which 4 claimed the building in question was our design and print works, and one thought it was in St Leonards, East Sussex. Good guess, but 'Go West, Young Man'.

Now, bearing in mind that said building is located within 100 metres/yards of the sea (visible in the lower portion of the illustration) some 300+ miles from Leicestershire, and is obviously long enough to swing a couple of hundred cats, in line...plus a 2+8 InterCity 125 HST train!

Still, if it were 'Fox House' just think what a hell of a layout we could have in there!!!

But then, I suppose I have banged on a little about our new works over the last few issues of our newsletter!

Q: WHY DO WE CHARGE FOR CATALOGUES AND PRICE LISTS?

A: First, it costs us a significant amount of money each year - several thousands of pounds - just to administer, update and reproduce the lists of the 11,000-plus products which we manufacture and/or sell. If we did not make a suitable charge for our catalogues and price lists, the cost would have to be recovered by the only other means at our disposal - our products. This would involve a hike in our product prices well into the double figures of percentage points - there is simply insufficient margin in our product prices to cover a proportion of the catalogue and price list costs.

Second, the cost of sending out the average catalogue, including substantial packaging, is over £1.00 per copy to a UK address. The current 4mm/00 Descriptive Price List alone is approximately 65p. Given that British transport transfer and nameplate production is in no way a mass market operation with the economies of scale which that attracts, we feel that our present policy on this subject is by far the fairer than the alternative for both ourselves and you, the valued customer.

THUNDERBIRDS ARE NOT GO!

You may have noticed in the modelling press of late that the arrival of Heljan's new Class 57 Virgin Thunderbirds has been greeted with criticism of the lack of the prominent nameplates and subsidiary plates. Several people have already contacted us to try and obtain sets to rectify this situation.

The simple fact is that we are not permitted, at this time, to do so. The Thunderbirds logo and its ancillary graphics are copyright items and Carlton Television, copyright holders, require an extremely substantial fee in return for reproduction rights. (This applied also to Virgin Trains who paid for the right to apply the series of plates to the real Thunderbirds.)

Our perceptive readers will have concluded from the foregoing that making plates for these models is a non-starter, at least as the situation exists in early 2005. Sorry!

01530 242801 BY FAR THE BETTER NUMBER TO RING OUR BELL

Purely and simply because from the above number, we can operate Call Divert when we are away from our works. The works number, being on a multi-line system does not allow this facility. So, using 01530 242801 permits us to provide you with a better contact service even when we're trolling around the nation's motorway system and attending exhibitions in far-flung parts of the country. Provided, that is, that Management is riding shotgun and therefore legally able to answer the phone and take down your order in real, joined-up writing.

NAMEPLATE OVERLOAD

We've been quite surprised at the extent to which our etched products have taken off over the last couple of years or three. Whilst we have been making these items for the last decade, the advent of our website has really brought home to customers old and new exactly what we have to offer.

Our new catalogue "HAND-FINISHED FINE-ETCHED NAMEPLATES, NUMBERPLATES, WORKS PLATES AND AUXILIARY PLATES, 4mm/00 VOLUME ONE" (£6 inc UK p/p) contains details of no fewer than 5,900 plate packs - from single shed-code plates to multiple sets with works plates, stainless steel smokebox numberplates and multi-colour, hand-printed crest-inlaid nameplates. From steam loco nameplates of the 1920s to bang-up-to-date 21st Century loco and multiple unit offerings. (And our GWR plates now offer the option of green plinths lined-out in orange.)

Since the catalogue was published in October, we have added a couple of hundred more sets of plates, and our production plans for 2005 should see at least 1,000 further sets added to our roster.

Watch this space for more information on our plate operation. Current work includes Jubilees, Royal Scots, Patriots, Hall, Manors, Castles and an awful lot more, not to mention a great number of modern image subjects.

SHANKS BINLINERS : THE EAST LONDON EXPRESS

Late in the year, Freightliner endorsed their waste haulage contract with Shanks for moving rubbish on the Dagenham-Calvert 'Binliner' train for the East London Waste Authority, by partially repainting Class 66 No 66522 in dual Freightliner/Shanks livery.

Fox were 'in at the beginning and have produced multi-colour transfers as an add-on pack to the existing Freightliner Packs.

2mm/N : F 2952 : Shanks 'East London Express' Add-on Pack; requires F 2951/2 to complete full livery : £5.95+p/p

4mm/00 : As above. Requires F 4951/2 to complete full livery: £5.95+p/p

7mm/0 : As above. Requires F 7951/2 to complete full livery: £9.95+p/p

NAMEPLATE CATALOGUE RECALL

NO-THIS ISN'T A BAD SALES PITCH! WE'RE JUST TRYING TO RECTIFY A MEGA C*CK-*P!

It has just come to light (we're not sure why it has taken so long) that during the costing of our nameplates, we (that's me - the ball stops here, etc) made some gross miscalculations on both the VAT and, therefore, the prices.

There are also certain areas where the descriptions of some loco classes' plates are less than comprehensive. Some are downright nonsensical.

We don't like to pay more tax than we are obliged to do. Like anyone. So we felt we ought to bite the bullet now.

IF YOU HAVE BOUGHT A COPY OF OUR ETCHED PLATE CATALOGUE DATED 'AUTUMN 2004' PLEASE RETURN IT TO US AT OUR USUAL MAILING ADDRESS

- WE WILL REFUND YOUR POSTAGE + ENVELOPE COST

- WE WILL SEND YOU A COPY OF THE CORRECTED CATALOGUE.

Please accept our unreserved apology for this situation.



WHERE WE'RE SHOWING: THE FOX TRANSFERS EXHIBITION DIARY FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2005

Having already appeared at the CMRA exhibition at St Albans, and The Little Midland Society show at Chesterfield, our First Half Exhibition Diary looks like this. The perceptive amongst you will note that it has been slightly curtailed over previous years, not only because of clashing dates (Epsom & Ewell v Nottingham/East Midlands) but because of our inability to maintain the sort of circus regime we used to practise.

JANUARY

29/30 : SOUTHAMPTON Eastpoint Centre, Burgoyne Road

FEBRUARY

12/13 : DONCASTER The BRM show at Doncaster Racecourse & Exhibition Centre

25/26/27 : GLASGOW The AMRSS show at the Scottish Exhibition Centre - SECC - on Clydeside.

MARCH

12/13 : KIDDERMINSTER Glades Arena, Bromsgrove Street

19/20 : NOTTINGHAM Harvey Hadden Sports Centre, Bilborough Park, Wigman Road, Bilborough. Five minutes from M1 Junction 26

26/27/28 : YORK AT EASTER New Knivesmire Stand, York Racecourse

APRIL

2/3 : LONDON FESTIVAL OF GREAT HALL, ALEXANDRA PALACE, RAILWAY MODELLING North London

MAY

7 ONE DAY : ASSOCIATION OF LARGER SCALE RAILWAY MODELLERS Rivermead Leisure Centre Reading

JUNE

4 : DEMU : DIESEL & ELECTRIC MODELLERS UNITED Town Hall, Burton upon Trent

11/12 : CHATHAM Covered Slip Historic Dockyard Chatham, Kent

If you cannot attend any of these exhibitions, then, as always, you may order by MAIL - PHONE - FAX - EMAIL OR ON OUR SECURE INTERNET SITE. Or you may call at our works BY APPOINTMENT ONLY - 4 HILL LANE CLOSE, MARKFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, MARKFIELD, LEICESTERSHIRE - only a couple of minutes from Junction 22 of the M1. Since we moved to our new home, more and more people seem to find it preferable to call and see us rather than waging war on the Leicester city traffic and road system. Can't say I blame them.

Bookings have also been made, or are about to be made for the following exhibitions in Autumn/Winter 2005:

Skipton - August

Telford - 0 Gauge Guildex - September

Leatherhead - 4mm Scaleforum - September

Manchester - October

Tolworth - November

Wakefield - November

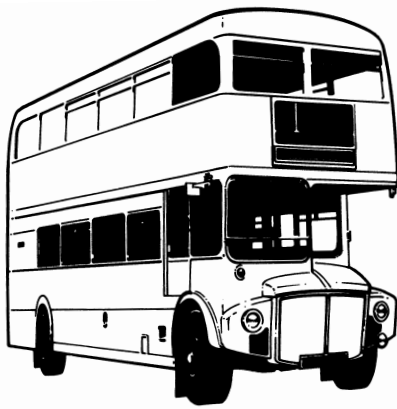
Warley NEC National Exhibition - December

Wigan - December

GRAB YOUR DIARY - MAKE A DATE (OR DATES) NOW AND COME AND SEE US. IT'S NOT TRUE - THE FOX TRANSFERS STAND ISN'T ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY SEETHING HORDES OF CUSTOMERS!

BUS STOP

Apart from one or two glitches which are likely to affect all walks of life, the transition of the bus transfer operation from Little Bus Company's auspices to their new home at Fox Transfers has progressed relatively smoothly, and most customers seem to be as happy as possible given that we're on a steep and constricted learning curve at this time.



We are currently in the process of re-printing some of the subjects in the almost 800-strong range and this process will be spread over several months.

We are also assessing the situation regarding suitable subjects for our first range extension of brand-new material: this is going to take some time - not only have we to deliberate on what we're going to do, we have to research the subject, obtain suitable illustrations from which to work and finalize sizes and colours. Not necessarily straightforward when much if not all of the material for the period in question is photographed at an oblique angle - in black and white!

ROAD VEHICLE TRANSFER PRICES

When we took over the range in October last year, we promised not to increase prices until July 2005. We should point out that, whilst this promise holds good, there will be a price increase at that time. As a VAT-registered business, we have to charge VAT at 17.5% on our products. This means that currently we are paying the VAT and not recouping it from our bus transfer customers. All good things must come to an end, someone once said, and this will be in the form of a price increase to cover the VAT, as well as both the materials and environmental cost increases that we have been trying to absorb as much as possible over recent years.

We assure you that the increases will be as small as possible - a current £1.00 RRP item, for instance, is likely to increase to £1.20. We hope you will understand, but we really are between a rock and a hard place.

OLD MAN COAL: CELEBRATING THE 'BLACK DIAMOND' BRIGADE

In response to requests from customers who are building industrial layouts, we have just started introducing some National Coal Board (NCB) transfers.

These will be in two tranches - first for wagons, then for locos; inevitably there will be some graphics which are not covered on the early subjects, purely and simply because all the vehicles were hand-painted, in many different variations, at many different locations. We'll do our best to pick up on all the more common styles, but it may well depend on you to point us in the right direction.

Our first releases are:

FRH 4732 : 4mm/00 : NCB lettering, numbering and inscriptions in white, including some tonnages and BOWES and MONKTON wordsets : £4.95+p/p

FRH 4733 : 4mm/00 : NCB lettering, numbering and inscriptions in black, including some tonnages and HAWTHORN wordsets : £4.95+p/p

MORE STEAMING NUMBERSETS!

In FOXTAILS 16 we announced the completion of the coaching stock set numbersets for the Southern Railway, and the Gill Sans style, also in yellow, for the similar fixed formations of coaching stock in the British Railways Southern Region era. We have now followed these with a series in straw also for BR Southern Region, for the 'blood-and-custard' era of the early 1950s. The details, as they say, are below. All are now readily available from us.

2mm/N : FRH 2027/20N : £4.45+ 50p p/p
4mm/00 : FRH 4027/20 : £4.95+ 50p p/p
7mm/0 : FRH 7027/20 : £5.95+ 50p p/p

Packing and postage charge is PER ORDER (NOT per item) for UK Inland addresses. This may increase in April when Royal Mail review their prices.

GOD'S WONDERFUL RAILWAY CRESTS



Recent output from our works includes the well-known twin-shield crests for GWR locos and coaching stock. These are now available as shown below, to add to the sizes produced years ago in 2mm/N, 4mm/00 and 7mm/0 and Full Size too, of course. They require nine passes through machine, each pass to apply one of the colours, plus the clear varnish. That, at least partially, should help to answer the perennial question 'why are some transfers more expensive than others?'

Some may find it interesting to note that our reproduction of these crests goes back to basics, at least typographically. On the scroll below the shields on one reproduction we saw, the lettering was created in a typeface which wasn't even designed until nearly 20 years after the Great Western Railway ceased to exist!

The full roster of Fox Transfers twin-shield GWR crests is as follows:

2mm/N	:	FRH 2104	:	£7.70	:	238 crests
4mm/00	:	FRH 4104	:	£6.45	:	63 crests
7mm/0	:	FRH 7104	:	£6.95	:	20 crests
Gauge 1	:	FRH 10104	:	£7.95	:	12 crests
2 1/2" Gauge	:	FRH 13104	:	£7.95	:	8 crests
3 1/2" Gauge	:	FRH 20104	:	£7.95	:	6 crests
5" Gauge	:	FRH 27104	:	£7.95	:	4 crests
7 1/4" Gauge	:	FRH 38104	:	£7.95	:	2 crests
Full Size	:	FFS 0007	:	£39.95	:	each*

Please add 50p per order UK Inland packing and postage. *£7.50 RMSD

PAINT YOUR WAGON!

As many of you will know, we stock in depth the modelling enamel paints by both Phoenix Precision and RailMatch. Last summer, Bob Shephard of Phoenix Precision retired and the business was sold to Chris Stapleton who subsequently moved the operation to Chelmsford. From our own experiences last year, we know that moving a business is something of a traumatic event, and there were bound to be the odd few delays.

We're glad to say that generally these have now been sorted, and usually we are able to supply direct from our extensive stocks. Occasionally, we find that there are 'runs' on particular shades, just as there are with certain transfers. Please bear with us on this - we are in the process of re-organising our paint storage, and once this is completed, we shall be able to keep on top of the job much more efficiently.

COMING SOON TO OUR DISPLAY CABINET

EWS SILVER SERVICE : Last year the EWS corporate hospitality train made its debut. Comprising re-cycled and much - altered Mk3 coaches - a First Open, a Catering vehicle and a Sleeper - the train will also be available for fund-raising activities to the Macmillan Cancer charity.

With dedicated haulage in the form of Class 67 67029 in a silver livery with full-body-height 'Zoo' (Three beasts) motif in toning anthracite (and matching DVT 82146) the three coaches are finished in deep maroon - NOT EWS maroon and NOT Royal Train claret - with silver lining and graphics.

As we go to press, a full train in 4mm/00 is in the final stages of preparation for location in our offices.

The Fox Transfers presentations of this livery (on which we have received extremely favourable comments since its release at the Warley National exhibition in December) are as follows :

2mm/N : F 2977/6 : £9.95+p/p : 'Zoo' motifs for bodysides, cab window panels and nose ends, plus TOPS numbersets for Class 67 loco and cabside 82/1DVT.

F 2977/7 : £9.95+p/p : Tapered-end bodyside lining composites with integral EWS logos and branding, TOPS numbersets and data panels for all three Mk3 vehicles.

4mm/00 : F 4977/6 : £9.95+p/p : As above.
F 4977/7 : £9.95+p/p : As above.

7mm/0 : F 7977/6 : 2 sheets £16.45+p/p : 'Zoo' motifs for bodysides, cab window panels and nose ends, TOPS numbersets for Class 67 loco and cabside 82/1DVT, and TOPS numbersets and data panels for the three Mk3 vehicles.