



I. V. Z. W.

# EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF MUSEUM & TOURIST RAILWAYS

Fédération Européenne des Chemins de Fer Touristiques et Historiques

Europäische Föderation der Museums- und Touristikbahnen

## **UPDATE NR 28**

**April 2016**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE HERITAGE RAILWAYS AROUND  
EUROPE NEWS ♦ VIEWS ♦ ARTICLES ♦ CURRENT EVENTS ♦  
OPINIONS**

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### **Current Training and Study Offers**

Two unique training and study offers are available right now; short courses on boiler maintenance in Great Britain and comprehensive training and education for railway experts in Austria.

„Boiler and Engineering Skills Training Trust“ (BESTT) is an initiative in Great Britain which enables key qualifications in boiler maintenance in a recognised professional training context so providing a sustainable future for the sector. BESTT was established by a consortium of heritage railways, traction engines and steam ships. To date BESTT has offered a one year full-time course. Now there is a shorter training module, including also riveting. The contact address for further information about costs, timetables and training locations is [enquiries@bestt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestt.org.uk)

The St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences in Austria is offering an overall railway technical education, which in its combination of academic study and hands on training is unique. The syllabus of the Bachelor and Masters courses provides an integrated

understanding of rail-related content hence its complex systems. The study units will offer a thorough professional grounding. For information see [www.fhstp.ac.at](http://www.fhstp.ac.at)

## **Jean Arrivetz leaves a great gap behind**



Jean Arrivetz in the cab and Pierre Virot in 1997. Foto: Maillary

Jean Arrivetz has left us for ever. In December he died at the age of 92. His work for FACS, UNECTO and FEDECRAIL remains unforgotten. His contribution was immense, in particular for the stretch of line between Annemasse and Sixt, the „Chemin de fer du Haut-Rhône“, the Touvet cablecar and above all the foundation of the „Chemin de fer du Vivarais“ together with Pierre Virot who died in 2013. Jean Arrivetz leaves a great gap in the world of heritage railways. Our condolences go out to his relations

## **FEDECRAIL “Bodensee” Conference 2016**

The « Bodensee » conference will be a two location event: Dornbirn in Vorarlberg(A) (Thu 21.04 – Wed 27.04) for the internal meetings and business sessions as well as a study tour programme visiting Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Then a transfer by train on Wed 27.04 to the Pontarlier area (F) for an Add-On visit programme to member railways in the West of Switzerland and also France.

## **Youth Exchange – An example worth copying**

Whenever there is talk about succession in cultural heritage the question arises how the younger generation can be won over to protecting and working towards it. So when

Livius Kooy presented a paper to the VVD Flemish Association for Industrial Heritage in Antwerp on the topic of the attempts made by FEDECRAIL to engage young people by organising Youth Camps and encouraging participation at the Annual Conference there was a great deal of interest. As the young heritage railway workers already maintain a Facebook Page and are considering setting up their own website, the next step would be to hold their own annual conference alongside the FEDECRAIL Assembly. When a speaker from the Brickworks Museum in Boom stressed how hard it is to find people to follow on from the volunteers over 75 years old, he concluded from Livius Kooy's paper that they must think about similar activities for young people, otherwise the museum could not survive in its present form. FEDECRAIL can consider this response as a confirmation that the youth exchange programme makes a valuable contribution towards providing an example for the future.

### **10th FEDECRAIL Youth Exchange 2016 in Germany**

FEDECRAIL and [VDMT](#), the German association for heritage and touristic railways invite to the 10th FEDECRAIL Youth Exchange 2016 in Germany. This event will take place from Friday 29th of July to Sunday 7th of August 2016 mainly on the surroundings of Nürnberg/Bavaria. Hosts are „Deutsches Dampflokomotiv Museum“ (Neuenmarkt – Wirsberg) and „Dampfbahn Fränkische Schweiz e.V.“ (Ebermannstadt). Details see „Youth Exchange“ on our homepage.

### **APHTRO Conference and AGM**

The annual conference and AGM of Fedecrail's Asian partner organisation APHTRO (Asian Pacific Heritage and Tourist Rail Organisation) took place in Bangkok from 21st to 23rd October. The conference was hosted by the State Railways of Thailand (SRT) in their historic headquarter building in Bangkok, next to the Hua Lamphong station. APHTRO itself is still in its early phase, searching for its organisational form. Therefore the AGM took about half of the conference day. During the AGM, the Bangkok Charter was ratified. The charter is best described as a mission statement of APHTRO's specific situation in Asia, where railway preservation has been so far the remit of professional railways rather than volunteers. Other presentations concentrated on the state of railway preservation in countries like Taiwan, the Philippines, India and of course Thailand. Fedecrail was represented by its vice president Heimo Echensperger, who took a stopover on his way to the Wattrain congress in Japan. He was invited by APHTRO to give a presentation about Fedecrail, its background, experience and successes, which was honoured by the audience with a number of questions. In comparison, the framework of the European Union made it much easier for Fedecrail to find its role and purpose than it is the case for APHTRO within the more diverse environment in Asia. The excursion programme included a visit to the Thonburi steam depot of SRT and a steam train excursion to Ayutthaya the former capital of Thailand with its wonderful temple ruins and it was complemented by the excellent care of SRT for their guests.

## **2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage**

Europa Nostra has recorded a pleasing success in EU policy. The European Parliament has voted by a substantial majority for the implementation of an integrated concept for European cultural heritage. As a result 2018 has been declared „European Year of Cultural Heritage“. Fedecrail is a member of Europa Nostra which is the association of non state-owned historic monuments.

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