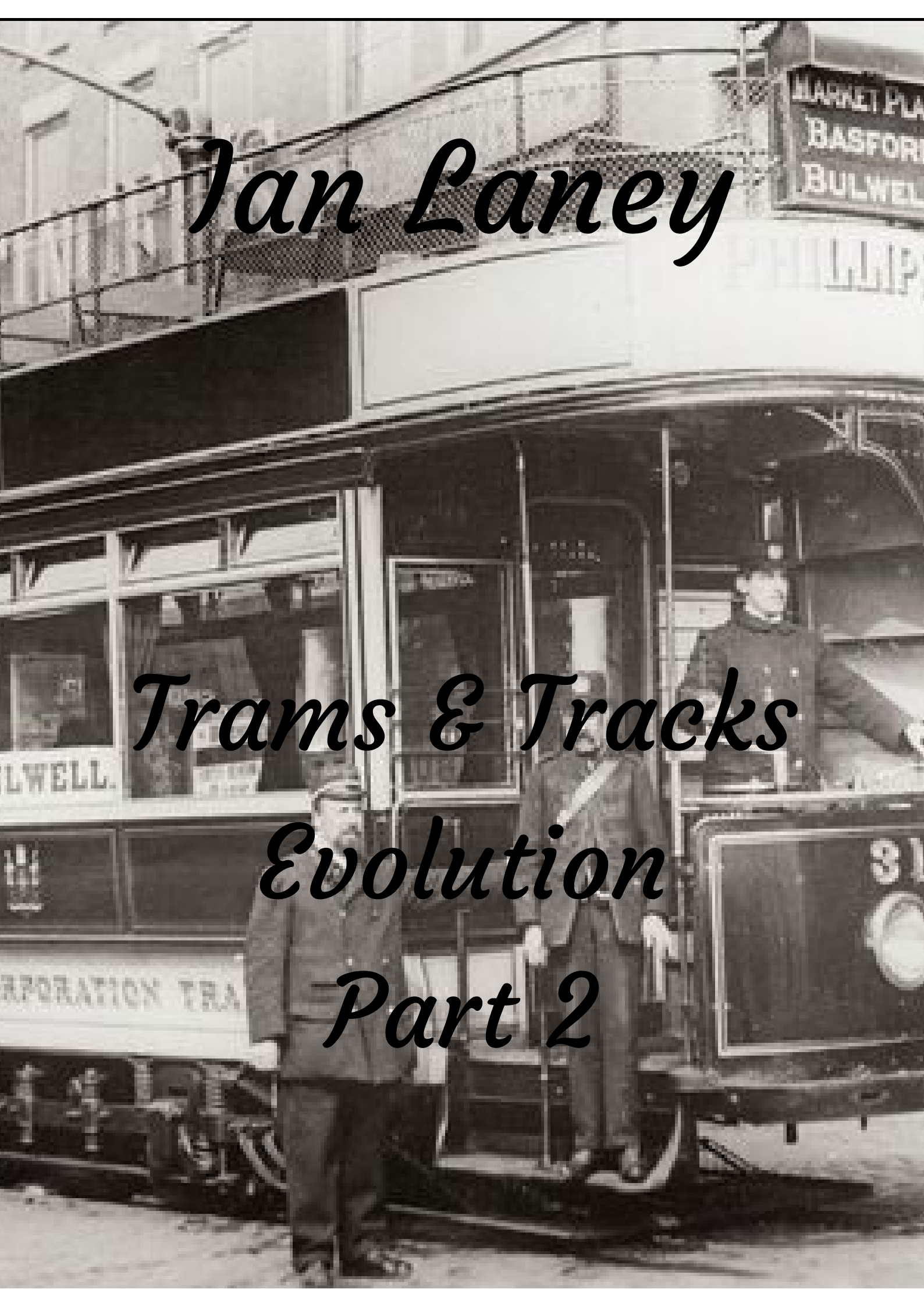

Ian Laney
Trams & Tracks
Evolution
Part 2

4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION i. 1870s - 1890s

Early electricity pioneers, such as Thomas Edison, tendered to concentrate on the possibilities of electric lighting

Colour error Normal

Moldova: 2009 Envelope - *100 years of electricity in Chisinău.*

to the exclusion of electric traction.

4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION i. 1870s - 1890s

It was not until 1879 that the world's first practical electric locomotive was built by Werner Von Siemens.

It was powered by a 2hp dynamo and was demonstrated at the Berlin Industrial Exhibition on a 300m circuit of narrow gauge track. This lead to the first conduit-powered tramways in 1881 by Siemens & Halske who built the Gross-Lichterfelde Tramway, the world's first electric tramway line.

Germany:
1941 Card
- local usage

4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION i. 1870s - 1890s

There were many problems with conduit tramway systems

Error - Black Engraved Omitted

Showing American conduit streetcar services in Washington, DC, and New York, NY.

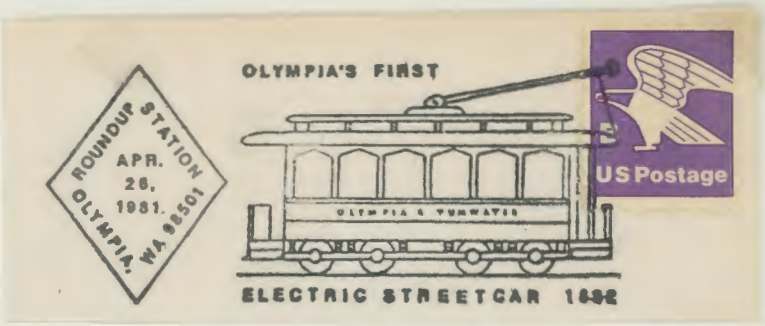
Romania: 1994 Envelope - *Conduit Tram* [uprated 45l for postal increase].

so overhead power, via trolley poles, was tried with differing results.

Trolley pole on a Uruguay streetcar

Charles Van Depoele developed the first tramway trolley pole

4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION i. 1870s - 1890s

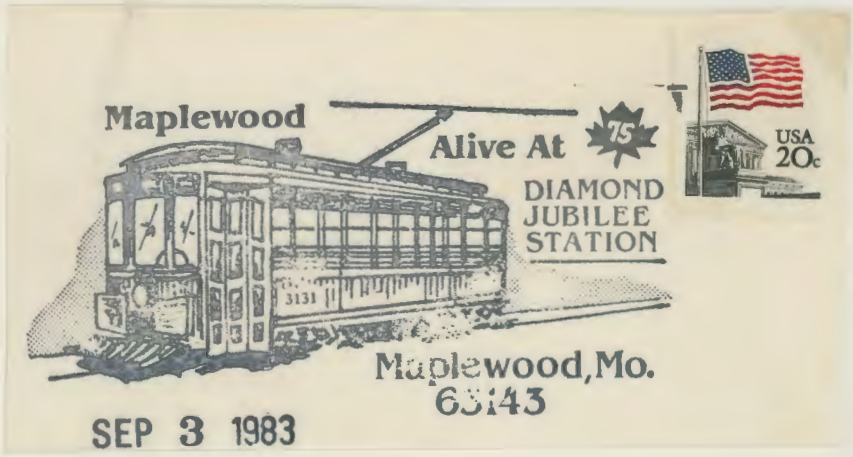


After many unsuccessful experiments in ways to feed electricity successfully through overhead wires using a trolley pole it was an American, F. J. Sprague, who in 1888

Reduced copy of indicium side

Germany (Württemberg): 1897 Card *[Translation - Greeting from the Industrial Sector Heilbronner Art Exhibition 1897]*

made the breakthrough.



4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION i. 1870s - 1890s

Hong Kong: 1990
Stitched Booklet

Electric tramway services soon spread worldwide.

4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION i. 1870s - 1890s

Austria's first electric service ran from Mödling to Hinterbrül in 1883.

Black Print

Austria: 1983 card tied with first day cancel

Services were quickly introduced to other Austrian cities and possessions.

Austria: 1896 Wrapper - uprated 1 Kreuzer [2 Kreuzer was the internal printed matter-rate while printed matters to Belgium cost 3 Kreuzer each]

4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION i. 1870s - 1890s

In France the first electric overhead powered service opened at Clermont Ferrand in France in 1889.

France: 1989 Die Proof - signed by the artist.

Colour error
Black instead of Grey

As issued

Imperf.

Not every tramway line was an immediate success.

In Melbourne, Victoria, where cable tramways were still being developed, the first electric tramway in Australia was installed between the suburbs of Box Hill and Doncaster in 1889. It's two small cars lasted no longer than 1896.

Australia: 1915 King George V Letter Card, Perf. 10.

Reduced copy of indicium side

Then, by the early 1890s successful services were in operation in the Australian colonies.

Australia: 1915 King George V Letter Card, Perf. 10.

Reduced copy of indicium side

4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION i. 1870s - 1890s

Soon electric tramway services were in operation in major cities,

Queensland: 1898 1d Queen Victoria Card, chocolate shades on buff.

Sydney "O" Class

and their suburbs plus many large towns.

Reduced copy of indicium side

Australia: 1915 1d King George V Letter Card, Perf. 10.

4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION ii. 1900s - 1950s

While in Central and South America, streetcar designs followed North American styles.

Paseo Montalvo - Guayaquil-Ecuador

Montalvo Promenade - Guayaquil-Ecuador 5

Reduced copy of indicium side

Ecuador: 1939 Card - Showing Park Tramway

Plate Proof

1936 Ultramarine

1937 Bright Blue

Imperf.

1942 Red

1944 Deep Blue

4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION ii. 1900s - 1950s

Although, due to the warmer climate, other South American streetcars

Argentina: 2009 Card tied with a first day of issue cancel

were more open in style.

4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION ii. 1900s - 1950s

Santa Teresa-Largo dos Guimarães-Porta Quente

Brazilians loved their streetcars, with a service utilizing the Viaduct of the Arches.

Proof
Red and Black
India paper

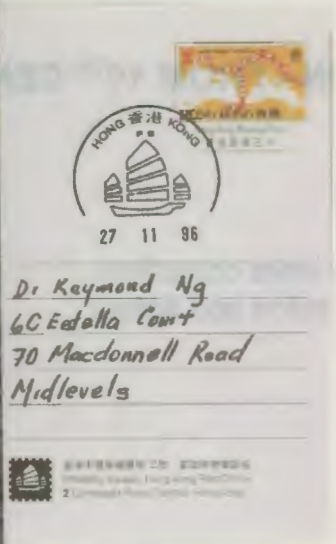
As Issued
Claret and Ultramarine
Thick paper

[*Showing streetcar tracks.*]

Sadly, services have ceased in many countries such as Mexico and Cuba.

4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION ii. 1900s - 1950s

Asian countries styles were diverse but were constantly being updated with improvements in comfort and safety.



Reduced copy of indicium side

Hong Kong: 1996 Card - Local usage - *HONG KONG '97 Stamp Exhibition.*

Joint issues

4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION ii. 1900s - 1950s

However, Turkey, Egypt and India followed European tramway styles.

India: 2011 Meghdoot Card - half the price of a regular Postal Card

While South Africa followed the styles of Great Britain.

Reduced copy of indicium side

Cape Of Good Hope, 1894 Queen Victoria Card [1d surcharge on ½d indicium for international postage]

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4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY
4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION ii. 1900s - 1950s

Black Print

It should be noted that Tramway administrations built conventional, yet most efficient, styles of tram car.

The bodies being very solid and built to last ....

Imperf.

Denmark: 1994 Folded Booklet

4 EVOLUTION - FROM 19TH CENTURY TO LATE 20TH CENTURY

4.d ELECTRIC TRACTION ii. 1900s - 1950s

.... and proved to give great service in multifarious locations.

Germany: 1946 Free Cover - *Slogan 'Tram: It is reliable and convenient billing!'*