Railways of South Africa and Namibia - Motive Power and Trains



This updated and revised second edition reviews the railway development within the South African region (including Namibia) from the beginnings, in 1860, over the following one hundred and sixty years. Comprehensive technical detail regarding the motive power, which had been placed into service with the state managed railway organisations, is covered within the various chapters. The major private railway operations and motive power in the region are also featured. Extensive photographic details of all the locomotive classes and designs are portrayed. In addition, there are numerous photographic records depicting well known trains which have seen service in the region over the years.

The documented railways and steam locomotive designs begin with those from the various systems which were in existence prior to the formation of Union, in 1910. This continues with categorised reviews of the all the subsequent motive power classes of the South African Railways and thereafter, Transnet, as well as the major private operators' locomotives. Next, there are special sections dealing with Metrorail (PRASA).

Namibia's railway system, which had commenced under German colonial administration in 1897, is featured here as well, since the system was administered by the South African Railways from 1915 until 1985, when national operator TransNamib was formed. Varied motive power from South Africa has hence been in service in the country for over 100 years.

This 430 page book contains around 950 black and white archive and 975 colour photographs, many of which have never been published before. In addition, there are some 400 technical drawings or diagrams, 70 major technical specification tables and 10 regional railway maps. For the entire time span to 2021, the author has spared no effort in order to depict the subject matter from a wide and varied perspective. This publication is highly recommended for the railway enthusiast who has a topical interest within this region of the African continent.

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