



THE WAY WE WERE

# 'People are looking for a little 1920s-style magic'

Roaring Twenties? Did somebody say Roaring Twenties? Well, yes, Martyn Pring, author of a delightfully illustrated book exploring the era of boat trains to the Continent and trans-atlantic sailings to America. His book, *Boat Trains - The English Channel & Ocean Liner Specials* looks at the various services that transported early British travellers to the northern French coast - and frequently, courtesy of Le Train Bleu, on to the Riviera.

It was a golden age of travel - the Roaring Twenties indeed. And could we be on the brink of creating a similar era again? Pring, a man with an admittedly rose-tinted view of the way things were, believes we may be.

"The global pandemic has given people the chance to revisit the past and think maybe there was something good about that way of travelling. It wasn't so fast, but there was a certain panache, a degree of entertainment that people are looking for again."

This trend was clearly evident before the pandemic - as witnessed by the growth of top-end rail operators such as Belmond, Golden Eagle, Rovos Rail and the Maharajahs Express, providing



▲ Pring's book celebrates a golden age

"total immersion in an experience of travelling in the style of a bygone era".

"Wouldn't it be nice to see some of those things introduced in regular scheduled services? I think people today are looking for little bits of magic in their every day travels."

*'Boat Trains - The English Channel & Ocean Liner Specials' by Martyn Pring (RRP £35) is available from Pen & Sword Books (pen-and-sword.co.uk)*

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

# Trans-Siberian treasures

While travel to Siberia is currently a little tricky, Siberia is coming to us this year in the form of a two-centred exhibition which will display priceless exhibits surrounding the story of what is universally recognised to be the mother of all train journeys - the Trans-Siberian.

Taking pride of place in the exhibition at the National Railway Museum in York will be the jewel-encrusted Fabergé egg embellished with the legendary Moscow-Vladivostok route. An Easter gift from Tsar Nicholas II to his wife in 1900, the egg is normally housed in the Kremlin Armoury Museum in Moscow.

The Science Museum in London is being lent a section of a 1km-long panorama painting by Pavel Pyasetsky, which appeared at the Paris Exposition of

1900 showcasing to the world the extraordinary feat of engineering the railway spanning 5,772 miles across seven time zones represented.

The simultaneous exhibitions - originally due to open earlier this year and now scheduled for late

June - have come about as a result of a unique partnership with JSC Russian Railways.

Other highlights of the exhibitions will include model carriages of a luxurious Siberian Express, a model of the Newcastle-built "Baikal" icebreaker and unique archival documents, diaries and drawings that bring to life the story of the railway and those who built it between 1891 and 1916.



For more information on Trans-Siberian: The World's Longest Railway and news of opening dates, see [railwaymuseum.org.uk](http://railwaymuseum.org.uk) and [sciencemuseum.ac.uk](http://sciencemuseum.ac.uk)

GETTY IMAGES

▲ A poster celebrates the glamour of train travel