

The Legendary Central London Buses from 1967-1987: Remembering the Iconic Rt and Rm Families

Step back in time and immerse yourself in the captivating world of Central London buses between 1967-1987. This era marked a significant period in the history of public transportation, as the city streets were dominated by the iconic Rt and Rm families of buses. These vehicles became an integral part of London's identity, beloved by both commuters and enthusiasts alike. Join us on a journey to explore the charm, legacy, and lasting impact of these remarkable machines.

The Rt Family: A Symbol of Resilience and Transformation

In the early 1960s, London Transport decided to replace its aging fleet of AEC Regent III RT buses with a modernized version. The result was the birth of the Rt family of buses, which soon became synonymous with the image of London's streets. The new design boasted numerous improvements, including enhanced passenger capacity, improved ventilation, and state-of-the-art engineering.

One of the standout features of the Rt buses was their iconic red livery, which became instantly recognizable and an integral part of London's visual landscape. The buses were decked out in these vibrant coats of paint and adorned with the famous London Transport logo – a roundel featuring a red circle and a blue bar. This symbol of authority and efficiency became a visual representation of London's bustling transport network.

Central London Buses 1967-1987: The RT and RM Families by Petra Tornack-Zimmermann (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 151 pages



Moreover, the Rt family underwent several transformations during its operational years. The initial variants featured a traditional open staircase at the rear, which allowed passengers to embark and disembark with ease. However, this design was later modified to incorporate an enclosed rear staircase, ensuring better safety and reducing the risk of accidents.

Throughout its service, the Rt family witnessed the evolution of London, from historic landmarks to modern high-rise buildings. These buses bore witness to the transformation of the city and, in turn, won the hearts of millions of Londoners who relied on them.

The Rm Family: Understanding London's Iconic Double-Decker Routemaster

Next on our journey through time, we encounter the legendary Rm family of buses, made up of the iconic Routemaster models. These buses are often regarded as the epitome of British engineering and design excellence. Built by AEC and Park Royal Vehicles in the late 1950s, the Routemaster buses became the nation's pride and joy.

The Rm buses boasted a unique "hop-on, hop-off" design, with multiple entrances and exits that allowed passengers to alight and board swiftly. The iconic red livery, similar to their Rt counterparts, made these buses instantly recognizable and a significant part of London's cultural identity.

Moreover, the Rm family introduced various functional and technological advancements that set them apart from their predecessors. These buses featured improved suspension systems, state-of-the-art engines, and advanced braking mechanisms – ensuring a smooth and unforgettable ride for passengers.

Another notable feature of the Routemaster buses was the iconic conductors situated at the rear entrance. These conductors would collect fares, maintain order, and ensure a pleasant journey for passengers. Their presence was a comforting sight, adding a personal touch to the London bus experience.

The End of an Era

As the 1980s dawned, the iconic Central London buses began to face numerous challenges. The push for modernization and the of new transport policies led to the gradual phasing out of the Rt and Rm families.

In 1968, the last of the Rt buses was withdrawn from regular service, marking the end of an era. However, these buses continued to find a place in the hearts of Londoners as enthusiasts and preservation societies fought to keep the memory of these beloved machines alive.

Similarly, the Routemaster buses bid farewell to regular service on London's streets in 2005. Nevertheless, due to their cultural significance and iconic status, a number of these buses have been preserved and can still be spotted today – offering an authentic taste of the past.

The Legacy Lives On

The Rt and Rm families of buses left an enduring legacy that still resonates with Londoners. These buses captured the spirit and essence of London, transporting millions of passengers through the city's vibrant streets. They were not just a means of transportation but symbols of resilience, innovation, and the captivating charm of the capital.

Today, when you step aboard a modern London bus, remember the Rt and Rm families that paved the way for the efficient public transport system that exists today. These buses may have faded away from the city streets, but their memory lives on in the hearts of those who rode them and in the annals of London's rich transport history.

So, next time you pass a vintage bus or see a photograph of a classic Central London bus, take a moment to reflect on the legacy of the Rt and Rm families. They were more than just vehicles – they were an integral part of London's story, forever etched into the memories of those who had the pleasure of experiencing their magic.



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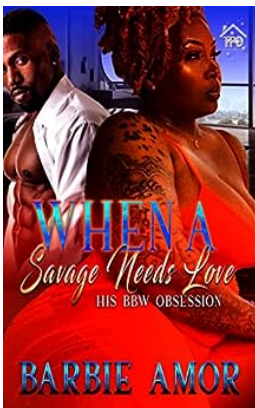
From author David Christie's home town in Essex, the Green Line route 721 (by RCL) was the usual way of getting to London – into Aldgate, one of his haunts as a young spotter in the '50s. From there a walk along to Bank, Aldwych, Trafalgar Square then Whitehall to Parliament Square, returning via the Embankment, invariably followed. This route was generally repeated when, in 1967, he started photographing LT buses. The author was able to capture the last of the RTLs in service, and on later trips to concentrate on the Routemasters. Also featured is the Vintage Route 100, using a 1930-built ST, which started in 1972.

With a stunning array of superb photographs, this is a wonderfully evocative and nostalgic look back on an iconic period in London's transport history.



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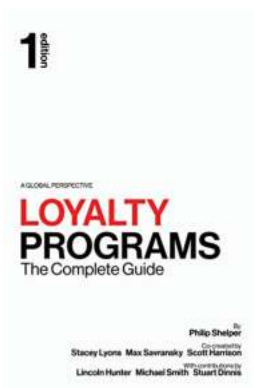
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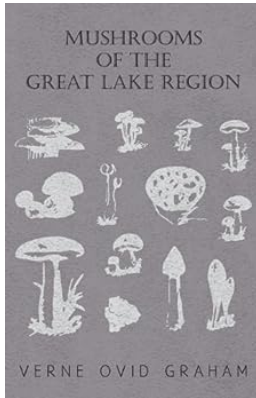
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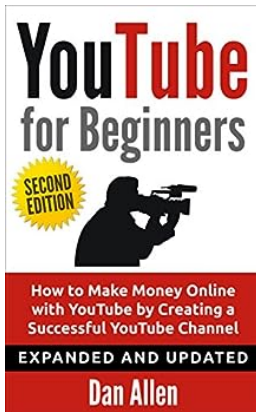
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