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Patrick B. Whitehouse, John Adams : Model and Miniature Railways before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Model and Miniature Railways:

The universal fascination of the model train hobby is captured in this lavish book, which ranges over many facets from tinplate toy to passenger-carrying miniatures. The lasting appeal of the hobby and its main attractions, nostalgic preservation in miniature and an absorbing creative outlet, are linked in the authoritative text and the many superb illustrations. The origins of the hobby are recalled, and its steady growth to the maturity of detailed authenticity. Models of all types are described - commercial products and exquisite hand-built replicas, locomotives and rolling stock, track, lineside equipment, buildings and scenery. Complex layouts and garden railways are covered, the methods of the expert builders are discussed, and there are chapters on some notable prototype and model locomotives. Some outstanding model collections are described. Miniature systems which have been painstakingly built over years, and each year give pleasure to countless thousands of spectators and passengers, are also described. This book is an absorbing treasury of pleasure and information for enthusiasts who regard model trains as anything from the child's toy which adults most like to play with to supreme examples of dedicated craftsmanship in miniature. Cover size: 9.75 x 13.5 inches.