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Aveling & Porter of Rochester

By Malcolm Ranieri

Paperback. Book Condition: New. Not Signed; Aveling & Porter as a firm are justly famed for their steam road rollers, the basic design continuing in production for 50 years, and whilst other manufacturers made rollers, some in high numbers, it is the Aveling with which the public identify as the humble road making steam engine which came down every road and street, until superseded by modern technology. Thomas Aveling, a farmer interested in engineering, started an agricultural machinery repair shop in 1850 in Rochester, Kent. Aveling experimented with traction engine and agricultural machinery design throughout the 1850s, and set up an iron foundry and engineering firm also in Rochester. Aveling also had workshops at Strood, Kent, on which at a later date the famous Invicta Works were built. The emblem of Kent is the 'rampant' horse, and every engine from the factory had this emblem plus the word 'Invicta' below, which is the Latin word for 'unconquered'. In 1862 Richard Porter brought capital and his name to the firm which from then on became Aveling & Porter Ltd. Aveling & Porter besides their famous steam rollers made ploughing engines, portables, agricultural traction engines, steam tractors, road locomotives and showman's engines, wagons, and a full range of agricultural equipment. It was the steam roller which dominated production however representing two thirds of...



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