

Leo King Collection

Finding Aid to the Collection at the Center for Railroad Photography & Art



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Collection Summary

Title: Leo King Collection

Span Dates: 1937-2001

Photographer Date Range: 1950 – 2000

Creator: King, Leo, 1938 – 2011

Extent: 10 archival binders, 1 slide case, 1 miscellaneous box (Approximately 14,000 images); 4 linear feet

Language: English

Repository: Center for Railroad Photography & Art, Madison, WI

Abstract: Photographs, negatives, slides, and digital images by Leo King, from his collection of approximately 14,000 images, which he donated to the Center. The collection spans more than fifty years and thirty states, focusing on Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Alaska. Major areas of focus include tourist and scenic railroads, structures including depots and engine terminals, and railroads in the landscape.

Selected Search Terms

Country:

United States

Canada

States/Province:

Alaska

Alberta, CA

Arizona

California

Colorado

Connecticut

Florida

Georgia

Illinois

Louisiana

Kansas

Maine

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

Missouri

Montana

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New York

North Carolina

Oregon

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

South Carolina

Texas

Utah

Vermont

Washington

West Virginia

Railroad Name:

American Locomotive Company	Great Northern Railway
Alaska Railroad	Illinois Central Railroad
Amtrak	Kansas City Southern Railway
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway	Lehigh & New England Railroad
Atlantic Coast Line Railroad	Long Island Rail Road
Baltimore & Ohio Railroad	Maine Central Railroad
Bangor & Aroostook Railroad	Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway
Bay Colony Railroad	Missouri Pacific Railroad
Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad	New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad
Boston & Maine Railroad	New York, Ontario & Western Railway
Brimstone & New River Railroad	New York, Susquehanna & Western Railway
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad	Nickel Plate Railroad
Burlington Northern Railroad	Railway Norfolk Southern Railway
Canadian Pacific	Penn Central Railroad
Central of Georgia Railway	Pere Marquette Railway
Central Railroad of New Jersey	Philadelphia & Reading Railroad
Central Vermont Railway	Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad
Chesapeake & Ohio Railway	Providence & Worcester Railroad
Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad	Savannah & Atlanta Railroad
Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad	Seaview Railroad
Colorado & Wyoming Railway	Southern Pacific Railroad
Conrail	St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad
Delaware & Hudson Railway	Union Pacific Railroad
Denver & Rio Grande Railway	Valley Railroad
Elgin, Joliet, & Eastern Railway	Wabash Railroad
Erie Railroad	

Administrative Information**Provenance**

Leo King donated his photograph collection to the Center to catalog and preserve in 2006.

Processing History

The collection was donated on May 12, 2006. Processing began in June 2015 and was completed in July 2015. Digitization began in July 2015. The finding aid was completed in July 2015.

Additional Notes

Selected photographs are publically available on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Flickr.

Copyright Status

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Access and Restrictions

For educational use only; please contact the Center for other usage requests.

Biographical Note

Leo King (1938-2011) grew up in Providence, Rhode Island, and developed an avid interest in trains while in grammar school. Leo had several careers, including serving in the Air Force and a career as a bridge operator over the Connecticut River. Beginning in 1988, he worked for Amtrak between Boston and New Haven as a train director and block operator. For thirty years he was an editor and writer and contributed articles to *Railfan & Railroad*, *RailNews* and *Passenger Train Journal*. Leo also worked as a radio broadcast anchor and reporter for various Rhode Island radio stations.

He photographed avidly wherever he lived and worked, even in Alaska with the Air Force. He retired to Middleburg, Florida, near Jacksonville, in 2002, maintaining his interest in writing about railroads and in railroad photography, as long he was physically able.

Scope and Content Note

The Leo King Collection includes approximately 14,000 images of various formats including about 550 photographs, 750 35mm and glass slides, 2,100 negatives, and 10,000 documents and digital files, which are stored in 10 archival binders, 1 slide case, and 1 external hard drive. The photographs range from 1937 to 2001, covering more than thirty states in the USA and over fifty different railroads. The collection includes approximately 200 photographs by other photographers and railroad memorabilia that was collected by Leo King throughout his life.

The collection has a strong focus domestically in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Alaska, and New England with the Alaska Railroad; Union Pacific; New York, New Haven and Hartford; and Amtrak, among others. Much of the collection focuses on the Alaska Railroad through Seward, Whittier, and Anchorage. The images emphasize locomotives, scenic railroad companies, railroad landscapes, and railroad-related buildings such as stations, depots, engine houses, and museums.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged by type of material within Leo King's original order. It is organized by prints, slides, negative, and miscellaneous materials.

Container List

<i>Binder</i>	<i>Series</i>	<i>Contents</i>
Binder 1		King-NewHaven-01
	Series 1.1	New York, New Haven and Hartford Providence, Rhode Island; Boston, Massachusetts New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad 1950-1955 Negatives
Binder 2		King-Anchorage-2
	Series 2.1	Anchorage Anchorage, Alaska Alaska Railroad 1968, July 4 35 mm slides
Binder 3		King-Alaska-3
	Series 3.1	Anchorage Anchorage, Alaska Alaska Railroad 1970 Negatives
	Series 3.2	Golden Spike Ceremony Anchorage, Alaska Alaska Railroad 1973, July 15 Negatives

<i>Binder</i>	<i>Series</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	Series 3.3	Whittier Shuttle Anchorage, Alaska; Nenana, Alaska Alaska Railroad 1973, July 15 Negatives
	Series 3.4	Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Alaska Railroad 1964-1973 Negatives
Binder 4		King-Press-4
	Series 4.1	Press ATSF, Missouri Pacific 1954, 1955 Press photos, builder's cards
Binder 5		King-Press-5
	Series 5.1	Press Photos New York, New York 1955 Press photos, postcards
Binder 6		King-EastSide-6
	Series 6.1	East Side Tunnel East Side Tunnel, Providence, Rhode Island New York, New Haven & Hartford; Conrail; Canadian Pacific; Providence & Worcester; CSRX 1950-1952, 1969-2000 Photographs, negatives

<i>Binder</i>	<i>Series</i>	<i>Contents</i>
Binder 7		King-Construction-7
	Series 7.1	Northeast Construction Providence, Rhode Island; Boston, Massachusetts; West Palm Beach, Florida; Connecticut 1954, 1993, July 1 Photographs
Binder 8		King-Photos-8
	Series 8.1	Providence Photos Providence, Rhode Island; Alaska Amtrak; Alaska Railroad; New York, New Haven & Hartford; Boston & Maine Railroad 1940, 1954, 1997 Photographs
Binder 9		King-Slides-9
	Series 9.1	Alaska Railroad Slides Arizona; Alaska; Connecticut Alaska Railroad; Amtrak; Burlington Northern Santa Fe; Providence & Worcester; Union Pacific 1995 Slides, glass slides, negatives
Binder 10		King-Slides-10
	Series 10.1	Southwest Glass Slides Arizona; Minnesota 1937-1947 Glass slides

<i>Binder</i>	<i>Series</i>	<i>Contents</i>
Binder 11		King-News-11
	Series 11.1	Model Railroad Clippings Amtrak Operating Rules; Dixie Line pamphlet Alaska Railroad 1971-1973, 2001 Newspaper and magazine clippings
Binder 12		King-CDs-12
	Series 12.1	Hard Drive 48 CDs of digital images and files, now transferred to external hard drive