Collection Summary

Title: Thomas F. McIlwraith Collection
Span Dates: 1957-2006
Bulk Dates: NA
Creator: McIlwraith, Thomas F.
Extent: Approximately 848 slides in one binder (as of May 2018)
Language: English
Repository: Center for Railroad Photography & Art, Madison, WI

Selected Search Terms

Country:
Canada
United States

State/Province:
California
Colorado
Delaware
Florida
Georgia
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Montana
Nebraska
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
South Carolina
Ohio
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Quebec
South Dakota
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington D.C.
Wisconsin
Wyoming

Railroad Name:
Ahnapee and Western Railway
Akron, Canton, and Youngstown Railroad
Amtrak
Atlantic Coast Line
Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway
Arcade and Attica Railroad
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad
Baltimore and Ohio Chicago Terminal Railroad
Baltimore Transit Company
Black Hills Central Railroad
BNSF Railway
Boston and Maine Railroad
Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad
Burlington Northern Railroad
California Western Railroad
Canadian National Railway
Canadian Pacific Railway
Central Vermont Railway
Chesapeake and Ohio Railway
Chicago and North Western Railway
Chicago and North Western Transportation Company
Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad
Chicago Great Western Railway
Chicago, Madison and Northern Railroad
Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad
Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad
Chicago South Shore and South Bend Railroad
Chicago Transit Authority
Chicago and Western Indiana Railroad
Clarendon and Pittsford Railway
Colorado and Southern Railway
Conemaugh and Black Lick Railroad
Connecticut Valley Railroad
Conrail
Conway Scenic Railroad
CSX Transportation
Dansville and Mount Morris Railroad
Delaware and Hudson Railway
Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad
Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad
Detroit and Mackinac Railway
East Broad Top Railroad and Coal Company
East Troy Electric Railroad
Erie Lackawanna Railway
Finger Lakes Railway
George Benson Waterfront Streetcar Line
Georgia Pacific Railway
Genesee and Wyoming Railroad
Grand Trunk Western Railroad
Great Northern Railway
Green Bay and Western Railroad
Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad
Illinois Central Railroad
Illinois Terminal Railroad
Kewaunee, Green Bay and Western Railroad
Lapeer Industrial Railroad
Lake Champlain and Moriah Railroad
Lake Superior and Ishpeming Railroad
Lehigh Valley Railroad
Maine Central Railroad Company
Maine Coast Railroad
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
Metro-North Railroad
Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad
Missouri Pacific Railroad
Monadnock Northern Railroad
Monon Railroad
Montpelier and Barre Railroad
Morrison-Knudsen Rail
Mount Washington Cog Railway
Napierville Junction Railway
New Hampshire and Vermont Railroad
New Jersey Transit
New York Central Railroad
New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad
New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway
Norfolk Southern Railway
Norfolk and Western Railway
Northwestern Pacific Railroad
Oregon, Pacific and Eastern Railway
Pacific Great Eastern Railway
Penn Central Transportation Company
Pennsylvania Railroad
Philadelphia Transportation Company
Pittsburgh Railways
Providence and Worcester Railroad
Quebec North Shore and Labrador Railway
Reading Railroad
Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad
San Francisco Municipal Railway
Santa Fe Southern Railway
Savannah and Atlanta Railway Company
Seaboard Coast Line Railroad
Shaker Heights Rapid Transit
Soo Line Railroad
Springfield Terminal Railway
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
Southern Railway
Southern Pacific Railroad
Southern Railway
State Belt Railroad
St. Johnsbury and Lamoille County Railroad
Strasburg Rail Road
Toledo, Peoria and Western Railway
Union Pacific Railroad
Vermont Railway
VIA Rail Canada
Washington Terminal Company
Western Maryland Railway
White Pass & Yukon Route Railway

Administrative Information

Provenance
This collection was donated to the Center for Railroad Photography and Art by Thomas F. McIlwraith in 2017.

Processing History
The collection was processed by Natalie Dust in 2018.

Additional Notes

Copyright Status
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Access and Restrictions
For educational use only, please contact the Center for other usage requests.
Biographical Note

Thomas F. McIlwraith (Jr.) (b. 1941) was born to Beulah and Thomas F. McIlwraith (Sr.) in Toronto, Canada in 1941. The son of a prominent University of Toronto anthropologist with the same name, McIlwraith (Jr.) is the sixth “Thomas McIlwraith” in his family line. He attended the University of Toronto where he obtained a B.A. in 1963 and an M.A. in 1966.

From 1966 to 1970, McIlwraith resided in Madison, Wisconsin, while pursuing a PhD (1973) in Historical Geography at the University of Wisconsin. McIlwraith and his wife, Duane, who taught French in Evansville at the time, settled on South Park Street near the main line of the Chicago and North Western Railway. McIlwraith frequently shot images of the line during his walks to campus along Badger Road (prior to the construction of the Beltline Highway). His route also passed the junction of the Milwaukee Road and the Chicago and North Western Railway on Lake Monona. McIlwraith particularly enjoyed photographing the Milwaukee Road’s ‘Varsity’ at this spot during the UW football season.

McIlwraith’s professional interests in agricultural and transport history also led him to photograph locations outside of Madison. During day trips in rural Wisconsin, McIlwraith shot the Illinois Central Railroad near Bellevue as well as at the Stewart Tunnel and the Milwaukee Road at New Lisbon, Portage, Columbus, and Wisconsin Rapids. McIlwraith also seized the opportunity to shoot photographs during his semiannual travels between Madison and Toronto, frequently varying his driving route to pass by different locations. Images captured during these trips depict rail subjects in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and other locations in the Upper-Midwest.

In 1970, McIlwraith returned to Canada and became a faculty member at Erindale College (now the University of Toronto at Mississauga), where he served as Professor of Historical Geography until his retirement in 2005. McIlwraith’s scholarship and research have focused on the cultural landscape of Ontario, and he has written and spoken extensively on the subject. In 1997, he authored Looking for Old Ontario, an assessment of how the built landscape of countryside and towns reflects the evolving culture of the province throughout two centuries. McIlwraith’s expertise in the field has also led to his participation in various Municipal and Provincial boards concerned with heritage conservation.

In retirement, McIlwraith has been researching railroad construction and its social impact. Woven through his research career is the life of a railway enthusiast: following steam locomotives on Ontario branch lines in the 1950s, riding Peter Witt and Palouse River & Coulee City Railroad streetcars in Toronto, and spending a lifetime of travelling by train throughout Canada, Great Britain and Japan. McIlwraith and his wife, Duane, currently live in retirement in Mississauga, Ontario.
Scope and Content Note

As of May 2018, the Thomas F. McIlwraith Collection consists of approximately 848 color slides stored in archival plastic sleeves stored in archival clamshell binders. The collection has a strong focus on diesel locomotives of the American Midwest and East Coast with an emphasis on Wisconsin.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged in accordance with the original numerical sequence used by the photographer, Thomas F. McIlwraith. This arrangement is based chronological order and the locations in which the photographs were taken.

Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Binder</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>