

# Thomas F. McIlwraith Collection

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

CRP&A | CENTER FOR RAILROAD  
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

Prepared by Natalie Dust  
Last updated: 2019 May 16

## 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

**Abstract:** Chromogenic color slides by Thomas F. McIlwraith. The collection focuses primarily on the American Midwest and East Coast from 1957 – 2006.

## 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

Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway

Atlantic Coast Line

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Arcade and Attica Railroad                           | Delaware, Lackawanna and Western<br>Railroad  |
| Baltimore and Ohio Railroad                          | Denver and Rio Grande Western<br>Railroad     |
| Baltimore and Ohio Chicago Terminal<br>Railroad      | Detroit and Mackinac Railway                  |
| Baltimore Transit Company                            | East Broad Top Railroad and Coal<br>Company   |
| Black Hills Central Railroad                         | East Troy Electric Railroad                   |
| BNSF Railway   | Erie Lackawanna Railway                       |
| Boston and Maine Railroad                            | Finger Lakes Railway                          |
| Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad                      | George Benson Waterfront Streetcar<br>Line    |
| Burlington Northern Railroad                         | Georgia Pacific Railway                       |
| California Western Railroad                          | Genesee and Wyoming Railroad                  |
| Canadian National Railway                            | Grand Trunk Western Railroad                  |
| Canadian Pacific Railway                             | Great Northern Railway                        |
| Central Vermont Railway                              | Green Bay and Western Railroad                |
| Chesapeake and Ohio Railway                          | Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad                |
| Chicago and North Western Railway                    | Illinois Central Railroad                     |
| Chicago and North Western<br>Transportation Company  | Illinois Terminal Railroad                    |
| Chicago, Burlington and Quincy<br>Railroad           | Kewaunee, Green Bay and Western<br>Railroad   |
| Chicago Great Western Railway                        | Lapeer Industrial Railroad                    |
| Chicago, Madison and Northern<br>Railroad            | Lake Champlain and Moriah Railroad            |
| Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and<br>Pacific Railroad | Lake Superior and Ishpeming Railroad          |
| Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific<br>Railroad         | Lehigh Valley Railroad                        |
| Chicago South Shore and South Bend<br>Railroad       | Maine Central Railroad Company                |
| Chicago Transit Authority                            | Maine Coast Railroad                          |
| Chicago and Western Indiana Railroad                 | Massachusetts Bay Transportation<br>Authority |
| Clarendon and Pittsford Railway                      | Metro-North Railroad                          |
| Colorado and Southern Railway                        | Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad                |
| Conemaugh and Black Lick Railroad                    | Missouri Pacific Railroad                     |
| Connecticut Valley Railroad                          | Monadnock Northern Railroad                   |
| Conrail  | Monon Railroad                                |
| Conway Scenic Railroad                               | Montpelier and Barre Railroad                 |
| CSX Transportation                                   | Morrison-Knudsen Rail                         |
| Dansville and Mount Morris Railroad                  | Mount Washington Cog Railway                  |
| Delaware and Hudson Railway                          | Napierville Junction Railway                  |
|  | New Hampshire and Vermont Railroad            |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| New Jersey Transit                                | Santa Fe Southern Railway                             |
| New York Central Railroad                         | Savannah and Atlanta Railway Company                  |
| New York, Chicago and St. Louis<br>Railroad       | Seaboard Coast Line Railroad                          |
| New York, Susquehanna and Western<br>Railway      | Shaker Heights Rapid Transit                          |
| Norfolk Southern Railway                          | Soo Line Railroad                                     |
| Norfolk and Western Railway                       | Springfield Terminal Railway                          |
| Northwestern Pacific Railroad                     | Southeastern Pennsylvania<br>Transportation Authority |
| Oregon, Pacific and Eastern Railway               | Southern Railway                                      |
| Pacific Great Eastern Railway                     | Southern Pacific Railroad                             |
| Penn Central Transportation Company               | Southern Railway                                      |
| Pennsylvania Railroad                             | State Belt Railroad                                   |
| Philadelphia Transportation Company               | St. Johnsbury and Lamoille County<br>Railroad         |
| Pittsburgh Railways                               | Strasburg Rail Road                                   |
| Providence and Worcester Railroad                 | Toledo, Peoria and Western Railway                    |
| Quebec North Shore and Labrador<br>Railway        | Union Pacific Railroad                                |
| Reading Railroad                                  | Vermont Railway                                       |
| Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac<br>Railroad | VIA Rail Canada                                       |
| San Francisco Municipal Railway                   | 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**

© 2018, Center for Railroad Photography & Art.

### **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

| <i>Binder</i>     | <i>Pages</i> | <i>Contents</i>   |
|-------------------|--------------|---|
| McIlwraith<br>-01 | 001-043      | 1957-2006, California, Colorado, Delaware, 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,<br>Amtrak, Chicago and North Western Railway, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, Chicago South Shore and South Bend Railroad, Delaware and Hudson Railway, Denver & Rio Grand Western Railroad, Erie Lackawanna Railway, Illinois Central Railroad, Mount Washington Cog Railway, Pennsylvania Railroad, San Francisco Municipal Railway, Southern Pacific Railroad, Union Pacific |