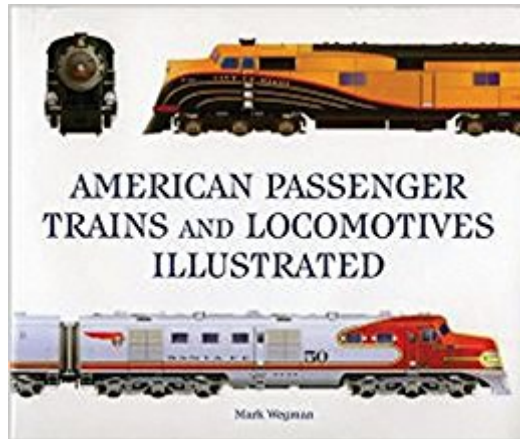




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American Passenger Trains And Locomotives Illustrated



Synopsis

Over the course of 15 years, author Mark Wegman researched original railroad company drawings, records, and even paint chips to render 180 color profiles, front view, top views, and interior layouts representing the steam, diesel, and electric locomotives and the passenger cars of more than 40 of the most celebrated golden-age "name" trains across the nation. Wegman's drawings are accompanied by histories of each train and dozens of period photographs, postcards, menus, luggage stickers, and print ads. The result is a lavishly appointed journey back in time to the zenith of the US passenger train travel.

Book Information

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: Crestline Books; Reprint edition (July 30, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0785831274

ISBN-13: 978-0785831273

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 11.1 x 0.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #692,693 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Mass Transit #99 in Books > Arts & Photography > Vehicle Pictorials > Trains #200 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > History > Railroads

Customer Reviews

Lifelong railfan Mark Wegman is a project engineer in the defense industry. Trained as a civil engineer at Pittsburg State University, he combined his professional background with his railroad avocation to produce the artwork and history in this volume over the course of a 12-year period. He resides in Columbia, Missouri.

Color reproduction poor (e.g., blues are rendered purple, greens kind of olive); material covered is appropriate to a grade schooler, and is so general in nature as to be almost meaningless, and though there are a few useful passenger car diagrams these are not utilized for all roads. Very limited endorsement: good if giving as a gift to a 3rd or 4th grade student.

On an impulse when old-time (pre-Amtrak) railroads popped into my mind, I purchased this book. It has quickly become one of my all-time favorite impulse purchases. Beautifully illustrated with full-color side-views of several dozen classic American passenger trains, the book also features floor plans of selected railroad cars (sleepers, lounges, diners, domes, etc.), archival photos, period magazine advertisements, and reproductions of menus from some of the classic dining cars. The book covers the period from about 1910 to 1970, when the government's consolidation of the surviving passenger lines into the Amtrak system ended the golden age of the American passenger train. Brief but informative text describes each train, its unique design features, its builder, its dimensions, its typical configuration, and its purpose and route. This is a book that will appeal to the rabid railroad enthusiast, the middle-aged or elderly person who remembers riding the rails as a youth, and the younger person who wonders what it was like to travel via the railroads before the dominance of the high-speed jet airliner.

This book gave a good summary of the wonderful age of passenger rail travel when it was at its best. The illustrations and photographs are well done and add a necessary touch to the book. But as I have read several of these books, I have enjoyed the excitement of the early days of passenger rail, but then the feeling of sadness creeps in when it all dwindles away because of the airlines and the interstate highways. It's good that Amtrak is there to pick up some of the old routes, but there are so many gaps in the train system today. The golden age of passenger rail travel is truly missed!

Hi-Gary here: I'm a train artist/painter, and I've found this book to be a great help for accuracy when producing a painting. As an example, I was able to refer to the color scheme depicted on a Southern Railway locomotive-difficult normally, as color photos were just a bit rare in 1930!! Clear, concise views and well-researched color schemes on the engines and cars. Don't expect a lot of historical photos of trains, although there are some good ones. Excellent illustrations, historical photos and art, interesting facts and figures presented chronologically.

The author set out to produce a collection of carefully researched brief histories and accurately rendered illustrations. It's an admirable effort, but someone who knows about trains and about graphic presentation should have thoroughly reviewed the galley proofs. The book would have been greatly improved by: consistent scales and dimensioning, and readable-size labels; avoiding copy-and-paste errors; and most of all, accurate color matches for the reds and greens that turned out as shades of brown.

I have been a train nut my entire life and still I learned many new facts about some trains I'd not heard of. This book is an excellent value with very high quality illustrations and paper stock. If you're a modeler, the color quality and detail will be quite valuable. And if you're a regular old train buff this will be a great addition to your collection.

What a bargain! The drawings by the author of locomotives and passenger cars of the mid-20th century highwater mark of American rail passenger service are priceless. If you love that era, you will love this book.

if you love the streamliners for their beauty, you will love this illustrated book! full pictorials of each car inside and out, of many of the top long distance and regional streamliners in their heyday. includes interior diagrams. book is so very well done.

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