



THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
of Cincinnati
and
Hamilton County

800 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio
45202-2071

Contact
Phyllis Hegner
Phone•369•4571
or
Richard Helmes
Phone•369•6959

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Fax 513•369•4565

February 15, 2002

Railroads in Retrospect at the Main Library Two Exhibits & Programs Explore Cincinnati's Railroad History

Since 1841, when the first train steamed over the shaky tracks of the Little Miami Railroad, Cincinnati has been a railroad town. More rail lines came in the following years, and by 1860 the Queen City was a large and important railroad terminal. Around 50 separate railroads operated within Hamilton County. Many were short in length, and most operated for a few years before being merged or renamed. By 1920 most of the city's important trackage was controlled by seven trunk line railroads. Today, only two major rail systems operate locally. Two exhibits at the Main Library explore the story of Cincinnati's Railroads from the mid-19th century to present.

Stop, Look & Listen: A History of Cincinnati Railroads

This exhibit and combined program take a look at Cincinnati's overall railroad story through books, pamphlets, photographs, ephemera, and more. While railroad passenger travel is a major aspect of this historic picture the exhibit also includes information on railroad yards, suppliers, bridges, tunnels, accidents, and freight service in the Queen City. The Rare Books & Special Collections Department prepared this exhibit with the assistance of John H. White, Jr., who wrote the exhibit's historical text. Mr. White, who has published 12 books and over 130 articles on transportation, was employed by the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American history for over 30 years, his last position being that of Senior Historian. He is currently professor at Miami University where he teaches the history of travel. This display, currently on exhibit in the Rare Books and Special Collections Department, runs through May 19.

Programs in Conjunction with Exhibit

- A slide program by author, historian and former curator of transportation for the Smithsonian Institution John H. White, *Stop, Look & Listen: A History of Cincinnati Railroads*, takes place at the Main Library (800 Vine St.) in the Huenefeld Tower Room on Sunday, February 24 at 2:00 p.m.
- A musical review of railroad history, *Railroads in Story and Song*, with the Ohio Minstrels takes place in the Atrium at the Main Library (800 Vine St.) on Sunday, March 24 at 2:00 p.m.

The Cincinnati Connection: Passenger Trains in the 1950s

This exhibit focuses on passenger travel. Before railroading began yielding to the automobile and airplane, Streamliners were a primary mode of transportation for many Cincinnatians. To recognize their impact on transportation, a special display initiated by the Government & Business Department will feature seven railroad lines that once rolled out of Cincinnati to other Metropolitan cities in the east. The tracks for one of them, the Norfolk Southern, is still owned by Cincinnati and runs all the way to Chattanooga. This exhibit along with

artifacts on loan from the Cincinnati Railroad Club, will be on display from March 9 – 28 at the Main Library (1st Floor, South Building).