

VIRTUAL CONVERSATIONS: Fall Edition

An Online Conference by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art

September 19, 2020



CRP&A | CENTER FOR RAILROAD
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

1930 Monroe Street, Suite 301, Madison, Wisconsin, 53711
608-251-5785 | info@railphoto-art.org | www.railphoto-art.org

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Sponsors of the Web Ex conference platform are Michael Schmidt and the Tom E. Dailey Foundation Inc.

Conference Volunteers

Bon French, Nona Hill, Sharon Hill, Albert O. Louer, Peter Mosse, Ken Rehor, Brian Schmidt, Richard Tower, Otto Vondrak

Front Cover:
Apurva Bahadur
Southbound BCN freighter overtakes
315 Pune–Kolhapur passenger train
at Alandi, near Pune, India, on
January 26, 2008.

Schedule

Saturday, September 19, live sessions on Cisco Webex (all times are U.S. Central)

- 9:30 A.M. *Webex meeting opens, Attendees' show on repeat*
- 10:00 A.M. **Welcome and Introduction**, Scott Lothes
- 10:10 A.M. **CRP&A Collections Update**, Adrienne Evans
- 10:25 A.M. **CRP&A International Perspectives**, Scott Lothes
- 10:40 A.M. **A Showcase of Indian Railways**, Apurva Bahadur
- 11:30 A.M. *Break (East/Central U.S. Lunch), Attendees' show on repeat*
- 12:15 P.M. **European Photography, Then-and-Now**, Rolf Stumpf & Mike Valentine
- 1:05 P.M. **The Railroad History Collections in the University of Connecticut Archives**,
Laura Smith
- 1:50 P.M. *Break (West U.S. Lunch), Attendees' show on repeat*
- 2:35 P.M. **Drawing the Line**, Roger Watt
- 3:20 P.M. **In Search of Something Different**, Darryl Bond
- 4:10 P.M. **Railway Photography as an Art Form**, Frederick Manfred Simon
- 5:00 P.M. *Conclusion*

Presenters

A Showcase of Indian Railways, 10:40 A.M.

Apurva BAHADUR, Pune, Maharashtra, India

This presentation exhibits Apurva Bahadur's railways images from picturesque locations in the western parts of India. His aim is to showcase the busy Indian Railways (IR) in action, whose trains move huge amounts of people and goods over vast distances at probably the cheapest fares in the world. As the state-owned Indian Railways moves towards modernization through gauge conversion, track doubling, and electrification, some of these images serve as historical evidence to the period only a few years ago when trains were simpler and less complicated. The presentation will take the audience through a virtual tour of a few sections comprising only a miniscule part of the immense and varied IR system.

Based in Pune (pronounced as Poo-nay), in the west of India, Bahadur has been shooting images of trains in the relatively distant hinterlands of his home city and the coastal Konkan region. Focusing on capturing trains in scenic locations, his photoshoots combine railfanning, trekking, and hill-climbing. An engineering technical documentation specialist by profession, Bahadur has been following his railway photography passion for more than thirty years.



In Search of Something Different, 3:20 P.M.

Darryl BOND, South Hill, Oamaru, New Zealand

In his presentation, Darryl Bond will share some of his favorite images as a background to the events and influences that have shaped his journey through railway photography over the past four decades. He will show a diverse range of styles and subjects from adventures around the world while also attempting to explain how to overcome the challenges of photographing trains in a country whose indigenous Maori name translates to "Land of the Long White Cloud."

Born in New Zealand, Bond has been attempting to photograph trains since he was eleven years old with varying degrees of success. Most of his working life was spent with an American software company, which transferred him overseas "for two years." Following more than twenty years in Australia, the U.S., the Netherlands, and Ireland, he returned home, and is restoring his first-generation, six-axle, diesel-electric locomotive.



Railway Photography as an Art Form, 4:10 P.M.

Frederick Manfred SIMON, Duluth, Minnesota



Simon will share photographs and stories from his perspectives within the railroad industry.

Frederick Simon is an image-maker and raconteur (professional railroader, advisor, consultant, freelance photographer, videographer, and author) who has lived and worked in the Great Plains and the Inland Northwest. His background as a railroader and photographer gives him a perspective and ability to develop a unique style of emotive and provocative railroad imagery. Simon is the moderator and creator of the popular Facebook group SteelWheels. Photography and is currently working on his first book.

The Railroad History Collections in the UConn Archives, 1:05 P.M.

Laura SMITH, Storrs, Connecticut



The Railroad History Collections in the University of Connecticut Archives consist of archival materials related to southern New England's railroad heritage, dating from the birth of railroad transportation in the United States in the 1830s, to the early 2000s. At the core of the collections are the official records of the New Haven Railroad, supplemented by almost 100 additional collections from railroad photographers, scholars, and collectors that provide evidence of the railroad's vital impact on the livelihood and growth of the region.

Laura Smith has served as an archivist in Archives & Special Collections of the University of Connecticut Library since 1999 and oversees the business, railroad, and labor collections. She will discuss highlights of the collections, the railroad resources available in the UConn Library's digital repository, and ways the archives works with researchers to provide access to their resources.

European Photography, Then-and-Now, 12:15 P.M.

Rolf STUMPF, Fürth, Germany

Mike VALENTINE, Innsbruck, Austria

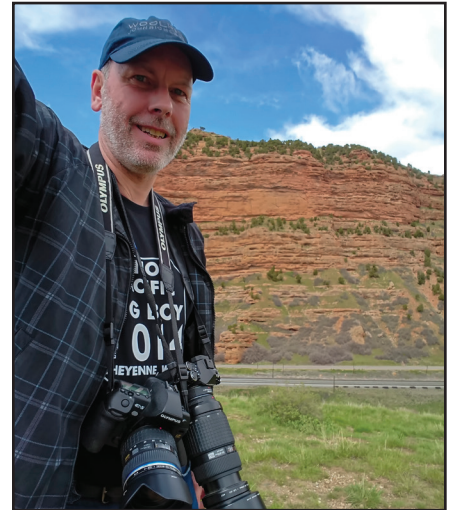
Stumpf will present the “then” photography of East and West Germany of the 1970s and 1980s through the travels he made as a young man before the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, as well photography made in North America, Greece, and Portugal. In part two, Valentine will share more recent photography of European railways.

Rolf Stumpf first gained an interest in railroads at a busy railway junction near his grandparents’ house where regular steam operations lasted until 1976. He got his first camera in 1984, the main focus being on steam locomotives and branch lines, later shifting his primary target to North America and diesels built by ALCO/MLW in service around the Mediterranean Sea, such as Greece and Portugal.

His first of two books went to press in 1996 while he was finishing a degree in engineering geology. Rolf was guest editor for seven issues of a magazine series about North American railroading from 2000 through 2015 for German publisher Eisenbahn-Kurier. His photography has appeared in most of the German railfan periodicals, numerous books, and calendars, as well as in Greek, Hungarian, British, and North American publications such as *Trains*, *Railfan & Railroad*, *The Streamliner*, and others. From 1998 through 2016 Rolf ran a small publishing business producing sixteen audio-CDs and eight DVDs/Blu-ray discs. The “Overland” project filmed in 2014 has yet to be finished.

In 2015 he joined his wife Maria’s business running two clothing stores after working seventeen years as a freelancing geologist consulting for major infrastructure projects (waterways, not railways).

Michael R. Valentine is recently retired and the former manager of Training Product Group at Leoni Engineering Products & Services, Inc. He has had more than 200 photographs published in *Trains* and other periodicals and in books from the United States and Europe. He served on the Center’s board of directors until he moved to Austria in 2019.



Drawing the Line, 2:35 P.M.

Roger WATT, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



Watt's presentation will cover a lifetime of drawing steam locomotives, the process of creating his art, and exhibiting his pieces internationally.

Roger Watt was born in the United Kingdom in 1947. He went to art school in the late 1960s, prior to embarking on a career as an art/creative director in international publishing and as a professional photographer. His drawings have been hung in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in London and the National Railway Museum in York, England. He had his first solo show at the OK Harris Gallery in New York in 2014, and he has since been exhibited in other galleries across New York, London, and Vancouver. He currently has prints on display at Anthony Brunelli Fine Arts in New York and The Plus One Gallery and Folio Illustration Agency in London. He is also a member of the British Guild of Railway Artists and a founding member of the American Society of Railway Artists.

Images from Conference Presenters



Above: KiwiRail Train 937 drives along the Katiki Coastline on South Island, New Zealand, in June 2020. Photograph by Darryl Bond

Following: New Haven Railroad track workers in Newington, Connecticut, May 17, 1947. Photograph by Seth Holcombe. From "The Railroad History Collections in the University of Connecticut Archives," presented by Laura Smith







Previous, top:
Roger Watt
Times Square
Graphite on board
10.5 x 16.5 inches
Simpson Collection

Previous, bottom:
Eastern Washington Gateway Train
HL20 with some fifty covered hoppers
in tow approaches Wilbur Hill, on
November 17, 2020. Photograph by
Frederick Manfred Simon

Above:
A banker locomotive pushes trains through steeply graded "ghat" sections (mountain passes) of the Indian Railways at Monkey Hill, Bhor ghat, Near Khandala, India, on October 7, 2017. Bankers usually return light to the bottom of the gradient and often are used by local residents to travel in this remote section with no road access. While riding the buffer beam may seem unsafe, very few accidents occur due to the low speeds and the dexterity of these people, who travel like this every day, in all types of weather. Photograph by Apurva Bahadur



Narrow gauge locomotive 99 1761-8 was put into service in 1933. On March 15, 1990, it was the first of its class in Saxony to be equipped with air brakes. It is seen here taking water at Dippoldiswalde, Germany, after successfully finishing a test run with a load of ten passenger cars. Photograph by Rolf Stumpf



A Deutsche Bahn commuter train runs along a poppy field in Radebuel, Germany, on June 12, 2020.
Photograph by Mike Valentine

All-Time Conference Presenters

February 22, 2003

Lake Forest College

- John Gruber
- Don Horn
- David Plowden
- Brian Solomon
- Matt Van Hattem

March 20, 2004

Lake Forest College

- Mark Hemphill
- Joel Jensen
- Anne M. Lyden
- Bill Middleton
- Mel Patrick
- David Plowden and John Gruber

March 19–20, 2005

Lake Forest College

- Shirley Burman
- Steve Crise
- Tom Garver
- Robert Harr
- Sayre Kos
- Michael R. Valentine
- Jim Wrinn

March 25, 2006

Marquette University

- Jeff Brouws
- Chris Burger
- Kevin P. Keefe
- Sayre Kos
- Greg McDonnell
- Gil Reid
- Michael R. Valentine

March 24, 2007

Lake Forest College

- Steve Barry
- Simpson Kalisher
- Sayre Kos
- Miško Kranjec
- John Roskoski
- Jim Shaughnessy
- Walter E. Zullig Jr.

April 12, 2008

Lake Forest College

- Jeff Brouws
- Victor Hand and Don Phillips
- Don Horn
- Scott Lothes
- David Plowden
- Tony Reevy

April 17–19, 2009

Lake Forest College

- Mark Hemphill
- Kevin P. Keefe and John B. Corns
- Stuart Klipper
- Scott Lothes, panel with Steve Barry, Mike Schafer, and Matt Van Hattem
- Kelly Lynch
- Kevin Scanlon
- Don Sims

April 23–25, 2010

Lake Forest College

- Frank Barry
- Ted Benson and Tom Taylor
- Jeff Brouws
- Jim Brown
- Ian Kennedy
- Linda Niemann and Joel Jensen
- David Plowden
- Alex Ramos

April 15–17, 2011

Lake Forest College

- Lewis Ableidinger
- Lina Bertucci
- John Gruber
- Olaf Haensch
- Clark Johnson and Richard Solomon
- Stan Kistler
- Joe McMillan
- Gordon Osmundson
- Karl Zimmermann

April 13–15, 2012

Lake Forest College

- Bill Botkin
- Shirley Burman
- Steve Crise
- Tom Fawell
- Christian Goepel
- Drake Hokanson
- Joel Jensen
- Clark Johnson and Richard Solomon
- Henry Posner III
- Chris Starnes

April 12–14, 2013

Lake Forest College

- Wes Carr
- Pablo Delano
- Michael Froio
- Matthew Kierstead
- Cate Kratville
- Mitch Markovitz
- Tony Reevy
- Casey Thomason
- Steve VanDenburgh
- Jim Wrinn, panel with Steve Barry, Alexander Benjamin Craghead, Marc Entze, Don Phillips, and Matt Van Hattem

May 16–18, 2014

Lake Forest College, Chicago History Museum

- Jeff Brouws
- Mike Danneman and Ron Flanary
- Travis Dewitz
- John Gruber
- Victor Hand
- Kevin Keefe
- Blair Kooistra
- Kathi Kube
- Mel Patrick
- Glenn Willumson

April 10–12, 2015

Lake Forest College

- Diane Bacha, with Ron Flanary, Don Hofshommer, Joel Jensen, Don Phillips, Jim Wrinn
- Ed Bartholomew
- Ted Benson, Dick Dorn, Dale Sanders, and Dave Stanley
- Justin Franz
- David Kahler
- J. Parker Lamb
- Jeff Mast and Michael R. Valentine
- Peter Mosse
- Bill Stewart
- James Swensen
- Axel Zwingenberger

April 8–10, 2016

Lake Forest College

- Steve Barry
- Wendy Burton and Kevin P. Keefe
- Charlie Castner and Ron Flanary
- John Gruber and John Ryan
- Todd Halamka
- Ronald C. Hill
- Emily Moser
- Steve Patterson
- Tony Reevy
- John Sanderson
- Alan Shaw
- J. Craig Thorpe

**October 29, 2016
University of
Connecticut**

- Mark Aldrich
- Robert Joseph Belletzkic
- Victor Hand
- Matt Kierstead
- Shaun O’Boyle
- Jim Shaughnessy
- J.W. Swanberg

**April 28–30, 2017
Lake Forest College**

- Drayton Blackgrove
- Katherine Botkin
- Jean Bublely and James J. Reisdorff
- Alexander Benjamin Craghead
- Dan Cupper
- Nicholas Fry
- Eric E. Hirsimaki
- John P. Kelly
- Kevin P. Keefe
- Dennis Livesey
- Alan Miller
- Adam Normandin
- David Styffe
- Paul Wertico with David Cain and John Moulder

**April 13-15, 2018
Lake Forest College**

- Jim Wrinn
- McNair Evans
- John Austin
- George Hiotis
- Bill Stewart
- Robin Coombes
- Kevin P. Keefe and Scott Lothes
- Alan Furler with Victor Hand
- Robert Gould and Matt Kierstead

**September 22, 2018
California State
Railroad Museum**

- Ted Benson and Tom Taylor
- Shirley Burman
- John Gruber and John Ryan
- Richard Koenig
- John Signor
- J. Craig Thorpe

**March 29-30, 2019
Brigham Young
University Museum
of Art**

- Alexander Craghead
- Dan Davis
- Barre Fong
- Justin Franz
- Victor Hand
- Drake Hokanson
- Christine Hult-Lewis
- Elrond Lawrence
- Ashlee Whitaker
- Additional panelists, Kevin P. Keefe and James Swensen

**Sept. 13-15, 2019
Lake Forest College**

- Ben Bachman
- Gil Bennett
- Jennifer Bodine
- Barre Fong
- John Free
- Oren Helbok
- Charlie Hunter
- Ron Perisho
- Eric Williams

**April 18, 2020
Virtual Conversations,
Cisco Webex**

- Gil Bennett
- Travis Dewitz & Todd Halamka
- Fred Frailey & Kevin P. Keefe
- Justin Franz
- Oren Helbok & George Hiotis
- Elrond Lawrence
- Dennis Livesey
- Scott Lothes
- Ken Rehor
- Camron Settlemier

Next conferences:
• *Spring 2021 TBD*
• *October 2, 2021*
University of Connecticut

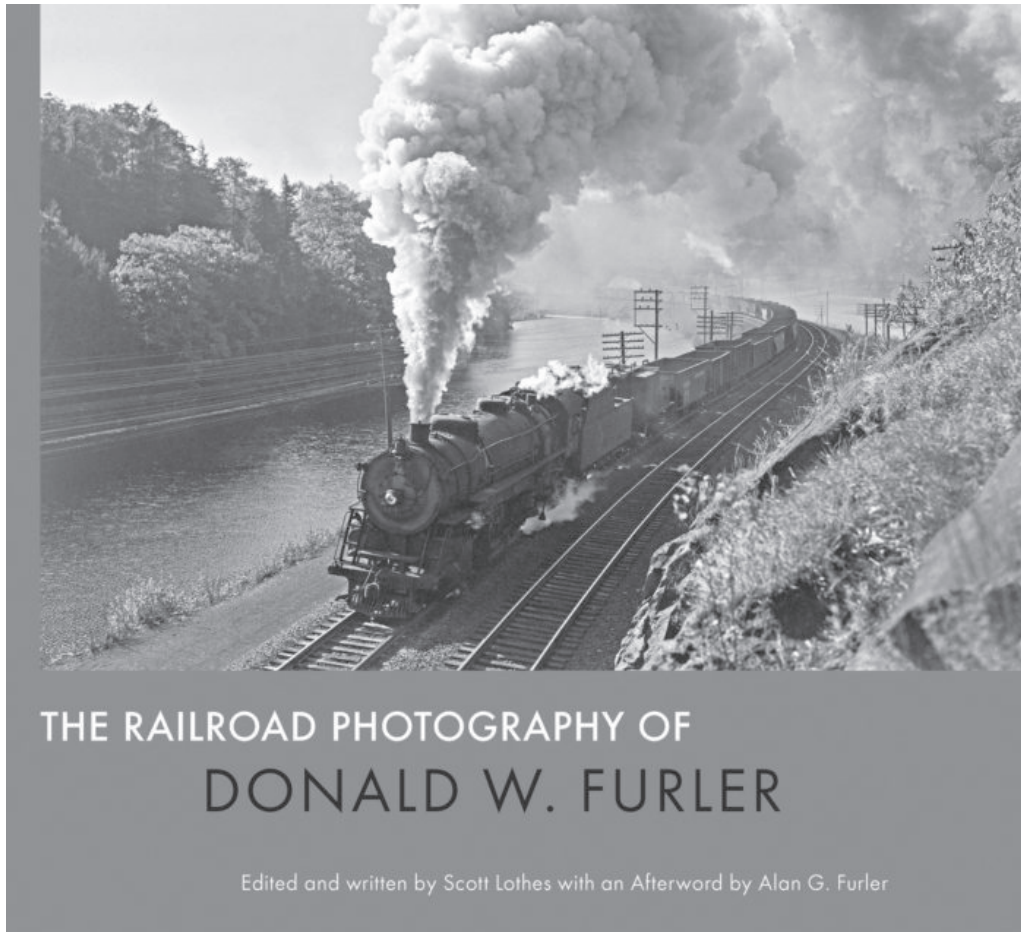


CRP&A board member Michael P. Schmidt introduces a presenter at Conversations 2019.

Attendees enjoy lunch in Calvin Durand Hall at Conversations 2019, hosted at Lake Forest College, Illinois. Photographs by Henry A. Koshollek



The Railroad Photography of Donald W. Furler



Donald W. Furler helped write the rules of railroad action photography. From taking engine pictures as a teenager in the early 1930s, he joined an elite group of railroad photographers who created a new aesthetic to portray the drama of steam railroading in motion. From the late 1930s through the 1950s, he dedicated nearly all of this free time to documenting operations throughout the northeastern United States and Canada, using a succession of ever-larger cameras for maximum detail and clarity. The Furler Collection is a cornerstone of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art's archive, and we are proud to present this monograph.

Scott Lothes, the Center's president and executive director, wrote the text and selected the photographs. His lead essay examines Furler's life and photography, his relationship with the first editors of *Trains* magazine, and the changing railroad landscape of the Northeast. Maps by David Styffe present those railroads as they appeared in 1946 at the height of Furler's activity and as they are today. Alan G. Furler, the photographer's son, provides a poignant and personal Afterword.

\$60 plus \$5 for domestic shipping, hardcover, 10×11 inches, 216 pages, 200 duotone photographs

Available now at: www.railphoto-art.org/category/books/

Directors, Officers, and Staff



Jeff Brouws, Stanfordville, New York, brings the Center knowledge of nineteenth and twentieth century photography and a broad background in publishing, with seven photography books to his credit. His photographs can be found in numerous public and private collections.



Norman Carlson, Lake Forest, Illinois, spent thirty-four years with Arthur Anderson where he led the transportation industry practice for eleven years. He is president of the Shore Line Interurban Historical Society and managing editor of its publication *First & Fastest*.



Adrienne Evans (Archivist), Madison, Wisconsin, received a master's degree from UW-Madison's School of Library Information Studies in 2014. She worked at History Colorado for two years before coming to the Center in 2017.



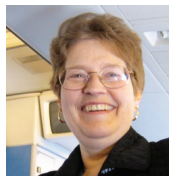
T. Bondurant French (Chair), Glen Ellyn, Illinois, is the executive chairman of Adams Street Partners, one of the largest and oldest managers of private equity investment in the world. A lifelong rail enthusiast, Bon has photographed some 700 different railroads.



H. Roger Grant, Clemson, South Carolina, is a professor of history at Clemson and an active writer of railroad history. His dozens of books include company histories of several railroads. He is a native of Albia, Iowa, and previously taught at the University of Akron.



Todd Halamka, Western Springs, Illinois, is a practicing architect and founder of Todd Halamka + Partners in downtown Chicago. His focus on railroad photography began in 2011, combining his lifelong love of trains and the outdoors with his fascination for image making.



Nona Hill (Treasurer), Madison, Wisconsin, and Clark Johnson, her husband, managed High Iron Travel, operator of the *Caritas*, the most widely traveled private car in America. She helps lead multiple passenger rail advocacy groups in Wisconsin.



David Kahler (Vice-Chair), Pittsboro, North Carolina, has practiced architecture for more than thirty years and has been recognized as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He is active as a consultant and advisor, and authored *The Railroad and the Art of Place*.



Kevin P. Keefe, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, recently retired as vice-president-editorial for Kalmbach Publishing Co. He served as editor of *Trains* from 1992 to 2000. As a student at Michigan State, he worked on Pere Marquette steam locomotive no. 1225, and later authored a book about it.



Natalie Krecek (Archives Assistant), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center in 2018 as an intern and was promoted to archives assistant in 2019. She received a BA degree in anthropology from North Central College in 2017. Her past work experience includes an internship at Chicago's Field Museum.



Scott Lothes (President and Executive Director), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center's staff in 2008. He is a regular contributor to *Trains*, *Railfan & Railroad*, and other railroad publications, with more than seventy bylined articles and some 600 photographs in print.



Albert O. Louer, Williamsburg, Virginia, recently retired as Director of Principal Gifts at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He worked in museums for fifty years and has research and collecting interests in the Pullman Co. and Midwestern railroads.



Peter Mosse, New York, New York, grew up in England and moved to the U.S. in 1977 to set up a precious metals trading subsidiary for the UK Rothschild banking group. He began collecting railroad paintings in 1980 and now owns more than 150 original works.



Hailey Paige (Exhibitions and Event Coordinator), Madison, Wisconsin, received a master's degree from Eastern Illinois University in Historical Administration in 2017. She has held several positions in the museum field before coming to the Center in 2017.



Michael P. Schmidt (Secretary), Owosso, Michigan, is an orthopedic surgeon and a collector of railroad photographs and paintings. He is Vice Chief of Staff, Chief of Surgery, and serves on the board of trustees of his hospital.



Richard Tower, San Francisco, California, has spent much of his career in the railroad industry with Southern Pacific and Amtrak, and as a consultant. With his wife Caroline, he manages the Candelaria Fund, which supports many community organizations.



Inga Velten (Development Director), Madison, Wisconsin, joined the Center in 2017 and has twenty years of experience in nonprofit fundraising and administration, with expertise in data management, prospect research, and major gift fundraising.

About the Center

The Center for Railroad Photography & Art is a national nonprofit arts and education organization founded in 1997 and based in Madison, Wisconsin. As its mission the Center preserves and presents significant images of railroading, interpreting them in publications, exhibitions, and on the Internet.

Efforts to preserve railroad artwork and photographs have led to the Center's amassing an archive of more than 400,000 images, including the complete works of several well-known photographers. Full processing of these collections includes housing them in archival-safe storage materials and digitizing the images as well as their captions, or metadata. The Center is actively adding to its archive and conducts these preservation activities both in house and in concert with the Archives & Special Collections of the Donnelley and Lee Library at Lake Forest College.

The Center also collaborates with partners across the country on its presentation work. Foremost is *After Promontory*, an exhibition developed for the sesquicentennial of the first transcontinental railroad completed in 1869. A photography exhibition featuring images from the 1860s to the present, the show examines the significance and lasting impact of the transcontinental railroads on the American West. The exhibition has already been featured at nine venues and is scheduled to travel to two more in 2021.

The Center prepares other traveling exhibitions about railroad workers and individual photographers and artists such as David Plowden and Ted Rose. Venues have included Grand Central Terminal, the California State Railroad Museum, and the Chicago History Museum. The Center has brought twenty unique exhibitions of significant railroad photography and art to more than 100 venues throughout the country.

Publication of *Railroad Heritage*, the Center's journal, occurs quarterly. Each issue features work by historic and contemporary photographers and artists plus news of the field. Special issues have honored workers, women in railroading, and individual photographers, and have concisely explained railroad history and preservation.

The Center has published several books, including most recently *The Railroad Photography of Donald W. Furler*. Furler helped write the rules of railroad action

photography. From taking engine pictures as a teenager in the early 1930s, he joined an elite group of railroad photographers who created a new aesthetic to portray the drama of steam railroading in motion. From the late 1930s through the 1950s, he dedicated nearly all of this free time to documenting operations throughout the northeastern United States and Canada, using a succession of ever-larger cameras for maximum detail and clarity. The Furler Collection is a cornerstone of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art's archive, and we are proud to present this monograph.

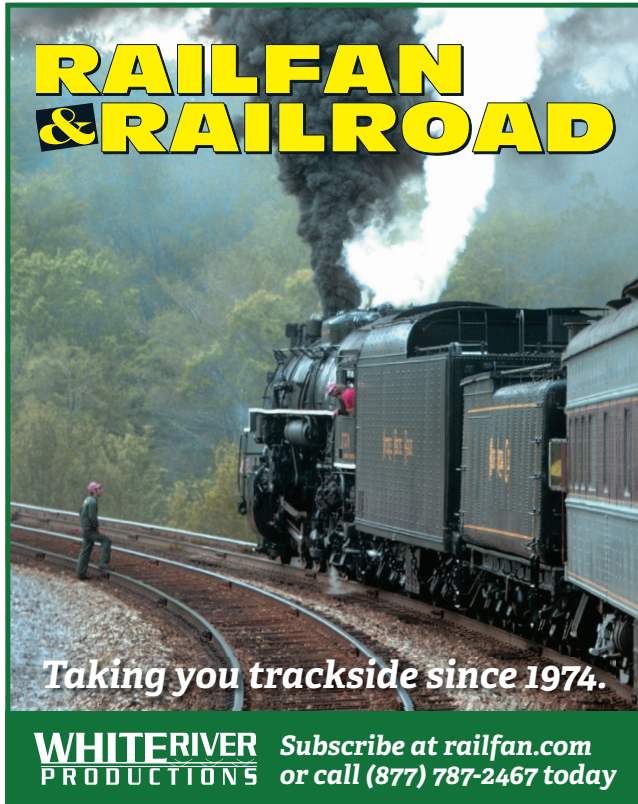
Each year going back to 2003, the Center has hosted a conference at Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Illinois. Though we departed from tradition this year due to unprecedented circumstances, Virtual Conversations continues to provide a forum for veteran and young photographers alike—as well as artists, historians, editors, and railroaders—to mingle both socially and formally, present and discuss their work, and address photographic and artistic issues. Thanks to the generosity of several conference patrons, the Center has been able to bring you this program and plans to organize more events in the future.

The Center launched a new series of regional conferences in 2016; last year's version featured a transcontinental theme at the Brigham Young University Museum of Art on March 29-30. The Center looks forward to continuing this series with a second northeastern-themed conference at the University of Connecticut in Storrs on October 2, 2021.

The annual John E. Gruber Creative Photography Awards Program recognizes recent work by railroad photographers in the United States and abroad. Named for the Center's principal founder, the awards program includes an exhibition at the California State Railroad Museum. The theme for this year's program was "Connections." See more details about the program on our website.

Visit www.railphoto-art.org to learn more about the Center, browse images from our archives, and find links to other online platforms at Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, Instagram, and YouTube. Follow them to stay informed of current events and trends in railroad photography and art as well as the Center's research and acquisitions.

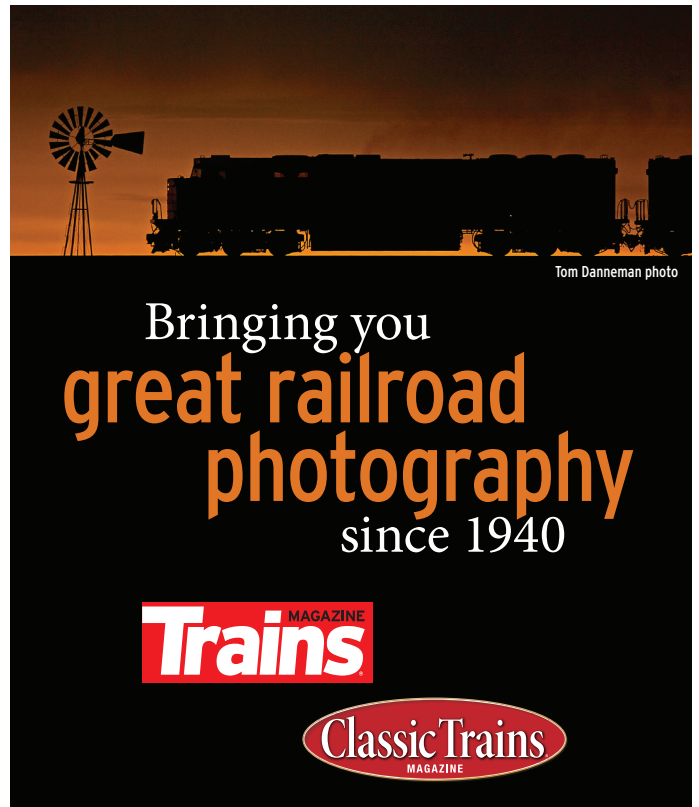
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