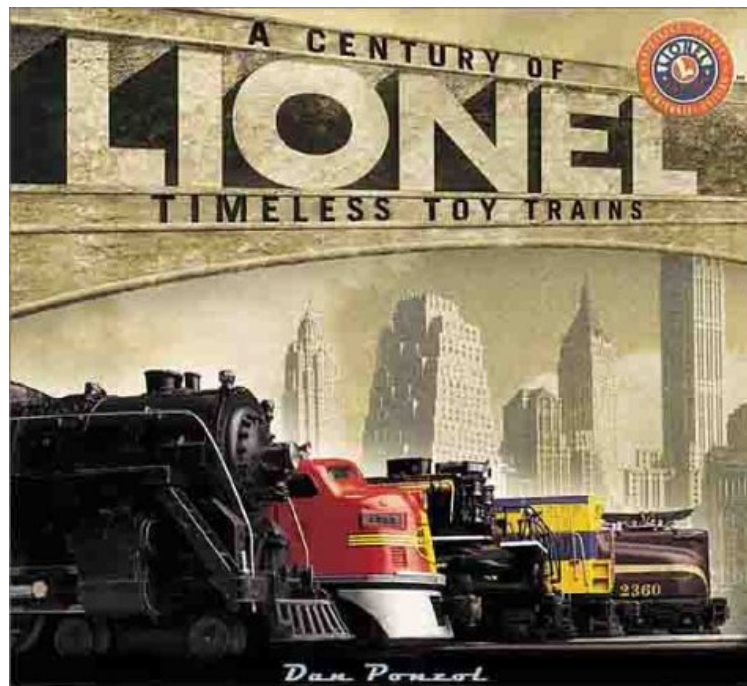


Lionel: A Century of Timeless Toy Trains

Dan Ponzol

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#520551 in Books Freidman/Fairfax Publishers 2000-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 .82 x 11.93 x 11.04l, #File Name: 1567999662160 pages | File size: 28.Mb

Dan Ponzol : Lionel: A Century of Timeless Toy Trains before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lionel: A Century of Timeless Toy Trains:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. TAKE A RIDE ON THE MARVELOUS IRON HORSE FOR KIDS AND ENTHUSISTSBy richard e whitelockBack to the past when boys were boys and they could play trains with their dads and later their kids. Historical information from the beginning up to the end of the 20th century are covered. Great colored photographs and lots of background material. You will enjoy this one immensely. As America expanded and broadened its borders, the culture of its modes of transportation also changed with the times. And it was every kids dream to ride the rails and command the locomotive. Lionel and American Flyer gave us that opportunity in the comfort of our basements and man caves. And we shared the adventure with of grand father and fathers, Marvelous memories were made and remain within our mind's eyes until the day we pass on into the past. Great stuff!32 of 34 people found the following review helpful. An Iconoclast's View of "Lionel: A Century . . ."By WILLIAM H FULLERThis is best described as a "coffee table" book, both because of its large format of 11" by 12" and because of its content. While the text gives an adequate overview of the history of Lionel electric trains, it does not approach the depth and detail that has already been attained by other authors. Perhaps it is best compared to a textbook for a freshman level survey course, somewhat on the superficial side and with scant detail but adequate to provide a general understanding of the topic. While there is a bibliography, there are no citations within the text, so it is impossible to pursue the author's source for any particular claim or assertion. As disturbing as this are textual omissions; for example, while external socio-economic factors are often cited as causes for the decline of large-scale electric trains in the late 1950s through the 1960s, other authors have also called into question the competency of internal management

once Lionel passed from its founder's control. Yet, there is no hint of mismanagement in Ponzol's book, and very few names are named anywhere in it. Inasmuch as the book is "officially licensed" by Lionel, one must wonder whether special pains were taken to avoid any innuendo or slight where the Lionel name might be concerned. Speaking of omissions, the list of model train clubs in the back omits one of the major ones, the Lionel Collectors Club of America, while including a listing for the defunct Lionel Ambassadors Club. The full-color photography occupies a major portion of the book, with quite a few full-page photos. Most of the pictures are of extreme close ups of Lionel locomotives, cars and accessories chosen to provide examples of the major manufacturing eras of Lionel trains, i.e., pre war, post war, and modern. This is not intended as a photographic inventory of all or even most Lionel production, and only a very minute percentage of that production appears. Many photos focus sharply on a front corner of the model, allowing everything else to dissolve into a blurry cloud. Considering the extensive depth of field achieved by using a pinhole lens, this blurring must result from a conscious artistic decision, one that should have been reconsidered. Better histories are available in Ron Hollander's "All Aboard!" and in Tom McComus and James Tuohy's six-volume set "A Collector's Guide and History to Lionel Trains," although neither extends to the present day. The "Collector's Guide" volumes also contain a fairly comprehensive photographic inventory of Lionel production through 1980. However, for those who want an overview of Lionel's history without committing the time required to study multiple volumes, Ponzol's book does provide a satisfactory solution packaged in an attractive, well bound volume.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. wonderful coffee table book with amazing illustrations
By Richard J. Ferrante
Gave as a gift, wonderful coffee table book with amazing illustrations. Perhaps not as informative as other more in depth historical reviews, but with the photography - it doesn't need to be. Very happy with purchase.

Happy 100th birthday to a true American classic! Celebrate the hundred-year anniversary of one of the most beloved toys of the 20th-century: the timeless Lionel train. Other playthings have left their mark on the pages of American history and some still evoke a misty-eyed nostalgia, but no toy has had as dramatic an impact as these miniature cars, tracks, and accessories. Their magic makes children wide-eyed with joy at Christmas and continues to inspire collectors of all ages. Enjoy the history of Lionel's rise to greatness in a splendid oversize tribute, featuring breathtaking images of perfectly preserved trains from every era, including some of the most famous and rare models, as well as reproductions of legendary catalogs and ads. A wealth of enlightening detail about individual pieces puts them in their proper place in the total Lionel output. The definitive tribute to a most cherished American institution.