



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate publication

WHAT'S IN THE BOX!

Bitten by the Collecting Bug

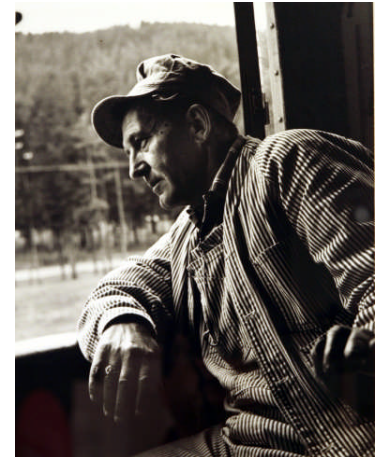
Portraits of Collectors

Montreal, April 5, 2009 – The behaviour of collectors has been discussed and studied by philosophers, psychologists and doctors. All kinds of faults and virtues are ascribed to collectors, but the one thing everyone agrees on is the sincerity of their overriding passion. They collect, first and foremost, for the pure pleasure of it, pursuing an often exhaustive quest for the things that thrill them. The new exhibition at Exporail, the Canadian Railway Museum, testifies to the obsession that drives collectors.

Frederick Angus, for instance, documented the history of Canada's railways and bequeathed a diverse, outstanding collection to the museum. **Robert Nicholls** methodically documented 70 years of railway history and built up an impressive archival collection. **Karl Bury** photographed North America's railway rolling stock and gave the museum no fewer than 60,000 slides. **Elizabeth Willmot** was also fascinated by railway landscapes, especially shots of rail workers. She has left a magnificent,



captivating collection of pictures of railway employees. **John Rankin** was a major figure in the railway industry in the late 19th century. His papers offer a unique window on a bygone age. **Daniel**



Laurendeau has been enchanted with Montreal streetcars since he was a child. Today, his collection is an absolute gold mine.

Along with **Robert Aubut**, **Daniel Poirier** and **Don Ball**, all these collectors have one thing in common: the hours and hours of painstaking work they have devoted to their collections and their desire to let everyone enjoy them. In appreciation of their donated collections, Exporail, the Canadian Railway Museum, pays tribute to them with this exhibition. The objects displayed in **What's in the Box?** bear witness not only to the collectors' passion but also to the extraordinary world of men and machines in which refinement and brute force co-existed in perfect harmony. The exhibition can be seen at Exporail until April 2010.

Find out all about the museum at www.exporail.org

Exporail – 110 St. Pierre Street, Saint Constant – Information: 450-632-2410

The Museum's regular activities are funded in part by the ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec and benefit from the support of the cities of Saint-Constant and Delson. The government of Canada, through the Canadian Arts and Heritage Sustainability Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Department of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, participates in special projects at Exporail. Financial support is also provided by Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, Emploi-Québec Montérégie, CLD de Roussillon, CRÉ Vallée-du-Haut-Saint-Laurent, MRC de Roussillon and the North American Railway Foundation. Exporail is a project of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association.

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PORTRAITS OF COLLECTORS

Frederick Angus Collection

The Frederick Angus collection is the only one in this exhibition that is on display before it has been processed. This remarkable legacy includes photographs, newspapers, scrapbooks, booklets, engravings and books carefully preserved by a true railway history aficionado. The remarkable collection put together by Frederick Angus is a major contribution to the Museum's collections.

Robert Aubut Collection

Robert Aubut worked for over forty years in the department that printed tickets for the Canadian Pacific Railway. The collection that bears his name contains samples of ship and train tickets produced between 1888 and 1892.

Don Ball Collection

Don Ball began his career with the Pullman Company in the United States and served as the director of the well-known Steamtown National Historic Site railway museum established first in Vermont, then in Pennsylvania. Mr. Ball has published a number of books and has given Exporail a major collection consisting mainly of black and white photographs, showing railway landscapes, structures, employees and vehicles from 1940 to 1969.

Karl Bury Collection

Karl Bury spent his entire life restoring steam locomotives and airplanes. He also travelled throughout Canada and the United States to photograph North America's rolling stock. This colossal project produced over 60,000 slides of diesel locomotives and freight cars, which were left to Exporail by Bury.

Frank Lanoue Collection

Frank Lanoue, whose real name was Elphérie Lanoue, spent his life working for the Canadian Pacific Railway, building and maintaining railway lines at Farnham. During the winter, he drove snowplows. His son has many impressive stories about the snowstorms he lived through, sometimes finding himself completely stranded for hours. The collection includes documents and photographs, preserved by the family, that relate Frank Lanoue's career from 1900 to 1969.

Daniel Laurendeau Collection

A member of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association, Daniel Laurendeau has been passionately interested in Montreal's streetcars since he was a child. He collects and documents everything connected with them: tickets, photographs, transfer tickets, documents, objects and post cards. His collection is a treasure trove for anyone interested in the history of Montreal's streetcars.

Robert Van Vleit Nicholls Collection

Dr Robert Van Vleit Nicholls was one of the founders of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association. As volunteer in charge of archives for many years, he tirelessly carried out research and published books and articles on railway history. Throughout his life, he patiently acquired documents, books, photographs and objects that were meaningful for railway history, and these were gradually added to Exporail's collections. His legacy is the outcome of over 70 years' passion for railways.

Daniel Poirier Collection

A member of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association, Daniel Poirier has been interested in railway station architecture since the moment when he became aware that the Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue station, which he wanted to photograph, had been demolished. Since 1985, he has been travelling through Quebec, Ontario, the Maritimes and the northern United States to record and immortalize the heritage architecture of railway stations. His photographs are preserved in albums that he has given Exporail. Each image, placed in alphabetical order according to the station's name, includes information about the building's history.

John Rankin Collection

Born in Scotland, John Rankin came to Montreal in 1854 where he established Rankin, Beattie and Company and was involved with various railway companies, including the Montreal and Sorel Railway, the Great Northern Railway and the Quebec Montmorency and Charlevoix Railway. His great-granddaughter donated his papers to Exporail, enabling us to follow his business dealings between 1881 and 1926.

Elizabeth Willmot Collection

Photographer and writer Elizabeth Willmot was interested in Ontario history and particularly the history and conservation of railway stations built between 1902 and 1993. Personally involved in saving railway stations, she published several books on buildings that had escaped demolition. As a photographer, she also made thousands of black-and-white portraits of railway workers. This is a tiny part of her collection of more than 5,000 images related to railways and other topics.

Benoît Lafontaine Collection

This collection, although small, provides fine examples of railway telegrams, while sharing an important event in the life of Benoît Lafontaine.

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**From May 18, Exporail, located in Saint-Constant,
will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

INFORMATION: 450-632-2410

www.exporail.org

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