

UPDATE

Be sure to check the searchable online database at www.coxrail.com, updated weekly

September, 2001

(Next newsletter: December)

Want to help solve some mysteries?

Can you help clear up some long-standing mysteries? Following is a list of **stock certificates** that I know almost nothing about. Most of these listings originated over the years with unillustrated, multi-item auction lots.

Please send 8½ x 11 copies or electronic images of any certificates you may have. In many cases, I know of other certificates for these companies, but none for the dates listed. If there is any response to solving these mysteries, I will list mysterious bonds in a future newsletter.

- The Addison Rail Road Co (green)
- Air Line RR (Texas)
- Alabama & Florida of Alabama
- Alaska Midland
- Allegheny & Western Railway Co (pre-1898)
- Allied Railway Equipment
- American Car Co
- American Street Railway Paving & Improvement
- Arkansas RR
- Arkansas Southern Railroad Co (pre-1898)
- Atlanta Knoxville & Northern Railway Co
- Atlantic Shore Ry Co
- Augusta & Knoxville RR
- Automatic Electric & Mechanical Railroad Signal Co
- Barclay RR & Coal Co
- Belvidere Delaware RR Co (pre-1909)
- Brunswick & Florida RR

1873 Erie Railway pass issued to William Cornelius Van Horne as general superintendent of the St Louis Kansas City and Northern Railway. The year before, at age 29, Van Horne had become the general superintendent of the Illinois Central.



Eight years after this pass was issued, Van Horne became general manager of the Canadian Pacific, and helped push that line to cross-continent completion in 1885. He later became the president and chairman of the board of the Canadian Pacific, as well as executive in several other railways. He was knighted in 1894.

So far, Van Horne's signature has only been reported from Cuba Railroad stock certificates. Several examples are known from 1906 to 1910 with his autograph as president.

- The Buffalo New York & Philadelphia Railway Co
- Cayuga & Torresdale Street Ry
- Cedar Rapids Iowa City & Southern Construction
- Chaffee RR
- Charles River Street Railway Co (pre-1883)
- (The) Chicago Kalamazoo & Saginaw Railway Co
- Chicago St Louis & Kansas City
- Chicago Terre Haute & Western
- Chicago & Western Indiana Traction

267 new certificates since June

	1st edition	2nd edition	currently
Total certificates in database (counting <i>all</i> variations of issued, unissued, specimens, proofs, autographs, denominations, printed dates, etc.)	8,559	14,112	15,224
Distinct varieties	7,152	11,146	11,954
Certificates with celebrity autographs	699	1,175	1,219
Celebrity autographs known	232	342	349
Railroads and railroad-related companies known	17,276	19,805	20,371
Companies represented by at least one certificate	3,516	5,001	5,302

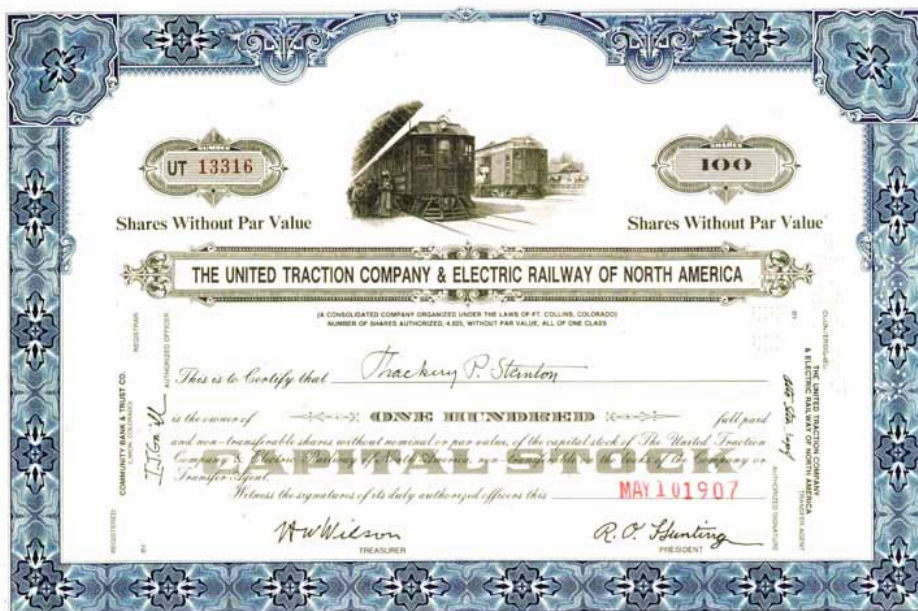
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Chickasha Street Ry
 Choctaw & Chickasaw
 Cincinnati & Baltimore RR
 (The) Cincinnati Jackson & Mackinaw Railway Co
 Cincinnati & Muskegum Valley RR
 City & Suburban Ry Co
 (The) Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad Co (1850-1878)
 (The) Columbus Hocking Valley & Toledo Railway Co
 Commonwealth Avenue Street Ry Co
 Connecticut Central Railroad Co
 Covington Short Route Transfer
 Cumberland & Pennsylvania RR Co
 Dakota & Pacific
 Detroit Harbor Terminals
 Doylestown Ry
 Durbin Automatic Safety Car Coupler
 Easton & Northern RR
 Electrical Automatic Railroad Safety Signal
 Ephrata & Lebanon Street Ry
 Evansville Belt
 Fairmont & Helens Run Ry
 Fall River & Providence RR
 Fort Street & Elmwood Railway Co (post-1872)
 Frankfort & Utica Street Ry
 Geneva & Corning
 Germantown & Northern
 Goshen & St Louis Ry
 Grafton Center Railroad Corp
 Green Bay & Wisconsin
 Green & Coates Street Philadelphia Passenger Ry Co (post 1907)
 Greenwich Tramway
 Hackensack & New York Extension
 Hempfield RR
 Horn Pond Branch
 Housatonic Rail-Road Co (1850s)
 The Ithaca Auburn & Western Railway Co
 The Kansas City Wyandotte & Northwestern Railroad Co
 The Kansas & Nebraska Railway Co of Kansas
 LaGrange Connecting
 Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway Co (post 1870)
 Lancaster & Eastern Street Ry
 Lancaster Mechanicsburg & New Holland Ry
 Lancaster & Quarryville Street Ry
 Las Vegas & Hot Springs Electric Ry & Power Co
 Liberty & Vienna
 Lookout Incline Ry
 Lookout Mountain Incline Ry

Lykens Valley Rail Road & Coal Co In Dauphin County
 Lynchburg Halifax & North Carolina Rail Road Co
 McGhee College & St Louis Coal Mining & RR
 Meridian Brookhaven & Natchez
 Middlesborough Mineral Railway Co
 Midland Railroad Co (Massachusetts)
 Milwaukee Benton Harbor & Columbus Ry
 Milwaukee & Minnesota
 Mississippi Valley Railroad Co
 Moline & Peoria Ry Co
 Monorail of Baltimore City
 Montville Street Railway Co
 New Orleans Algiers & Opelousas Ry
 New Orleans Opelousas & Great Western Rail Road Co (pre-1855)
 New York & Albany RR
 New York Pennsylvania & Ohio Railroad Co (pre-1885)
 The Northern Central Railway Co (1950-1969)
 Northern Puerto Rico
 Northwest Branch Ry
 The Ohio & Northwestern Railroad Co
 Ontario & Quebec Ry
 Penhorn Creek Railroad Co
 Pennock Battery Electric Light & Ry
 Peoria Belt
 Peoria Terminal Railway Co (post-1901)
 Plymouth & Brockton Street
 Portland Terminal Co
 Pressed Steel Car Co
 Puget Sound Chelan & Spokane
 Raitan North Shore RR Co
 Ray & Gila Valley RR
 (The) Rensselaer & Saratoga Rail Road Co (pre-1857)
 Rockaway Valley RR Co
 Rogers Locomotive Co
 Rumford Falls & Buckfield Railroad Co
 Sacramento Northern Railroad
 Savannah & Statesboro
 Scranton & Northeastern
 Sound Shore RR
 Spartanburg & Union
 Springfield & Xenia Traction Co
 St Andrews & Quebec RR
 St Louis Transit Co
 St Paul Southern Electric Ry
 Toledo Wabash & Western Ry
 Toms River RR Co
 Toronto Grey & Bruce Railway Co
 Tulsa Street Ry
 Union Belt Line Street
 Union Tank Car Co
 Van Brunt & Erie Basin
 Virginia Transit
 Walden & Melrose RR
 Ware River Rail Road Co (pre-1906)
 Washington & Ohio RR
 West End RR Co
 West End Connecting RR Co
 West Side Community RR
 West Virginia Central & Pittsburg Railway Co
 (The) Western Virginia & Kentucky Rail Road & Coal Co
 Whitehall & Plattsburgh RR
 Wilmington Charlotte & Rutherford Rail Road Co
 Wilmington New Castle & Delaware City Railway Co
 Worcester Railroad Co



SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Ever hear of *The United Traction Company & Electric Railway of North America*? Me neither! I found this certificate at a rail show in June.

This is a well-engraved fantasy certificate by American Bank Note Company with one of its classic interurban vignettes. It is indistinguishable from normal certificates except for a few minor features. The owner's name is printed. The certificate is printed on planchette paper, but dated 'May 10, 1907'. The pinhole cancellation date reads '4-10-87'. On the back is a notice that reads, "The United Traction Company & Electric Railway of North America does not exist. This certificate has no monetary value and was created as a reminder that market trends should never be ignored and to serve as a conversation piece suitable for hanging in your office compliments of the National Bank of the Rockies."



Are numbers of shares important?

I finally struck a chord in the June issue. I received more responses to that question than any other question I have asked in the last three years!

I asked if anyone collected certificates based on the numbers of shares. I wondered why so many dealers listed shares instead of serial numbers in their catalogs. I thought I was missing something.

Most collectors said numbers of shares were not important to them at all. A few advanced collectors said they were attracted to high share values when they represented large or controlling interests in companies.

Thankfully, several dealers also wrote letters. All admitted that they referenced numbers of shares out of habit, custom, and imitation of other dealers. In some cases, they said they included numbers of shares just to have something to say about very plain certificates.

I looked over my old price lists and freely admit that I did the same thing when I was in the business.

Respondents did not say much about serial numbers. The few who did, agreed that they like seeing serial numbers included in descriptions of scarce certificates. (I correspond with a few collectors about serial number censuses, so I know it is very important to *some* people.)

One writer wondered conspiratorially why dealers did *not* include serial numbers.

In defense, I point out that a couple of European dealers record serial numbers of all their certificates. And Smythe and Winslow often include serial numbers of some of their rarer certificates.

Finally, correspondence with one e-mail writer prompted me to add serial numbers to the searchable online database. Now you can see **all** the serial numbers I currently know about.

Or, rather, all the serial numbers I have added so far.

Regrettably, I have only recorded serial numbers for the last couple of years. Consequently, I am going back through all my references and recovering serial numbers I overlooked for a decade. Talk about time-consuming! I can only add about 500 numbers per week. So, please be patient because I have a long, long way to go!

Catalog needed

Do you have a copy of Smythe catalog 166 you can let me copy?

State seals on stocks and bonds

States and provinces in the U.S. and Canada use official seals to validate their business dealings and laws. I imagine states in Mexico do the same.

State seals are similar to corporate seals. They are about 2½ inches in diameter, made of metal, and used in hand-held tools to emboss official paper documents.

State seals are political in nature, so they are designed to represent qualities that states deem important. Some designs are quite complicated, given the small metal disk upon which the designs appear. However, codification of the designs is often more intricate than even the designs themselves.



Official Colorado state seal



Modified Colorado state seal from bond of The Moffat Tunnel Improvement District

State codes generally prohibit exact reproduction of seal designs except for official state business. Nonetheless, state seals are strong and identifiable designs, so businesses often modify them for commercial use.

Modified state and provincial seals appear on at least 636 varieties of railroad certificates. Pennsylvania's state seal is the most heavily-used. Seals from Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Georgia are also very popular.

Interestingly, the most commonly depicted image on Pennsylvania railroad certificates is actually *not* the state seal. It is more properly be called a "Coat of Arms."



Central design of Pennsylvania's official seal



"Coat of Arms" from Pennsylvania's state flag

The actual state seal shows an eagle, a ship, a plow, and sheaves of wheat. The most popular Pennsylvania design is the one that appears on the state flag. It shows two black horses flanking the principal design elements of the state seal. On certificates, the design is usually modified with more robust horses and one of the horses is usually white.

You may view all the U.S. state seals on my web site at: www.coxrail.com/state-seals.htm.

I am designing a "Finding Chart" for state seals. State seals are usually heavily modified, so I want to include only the elements that appear on certificates, not just the official elements.

To help me out, would you send copies or scans of any state seals that appear on your certificates? While there are lots of photos in catalogs, they are just too small to see details. An enlarged copy of the seal portion is really I need. (The Colorado seal from the Moffat Tunnel bond is a good example.)



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Address correction requested