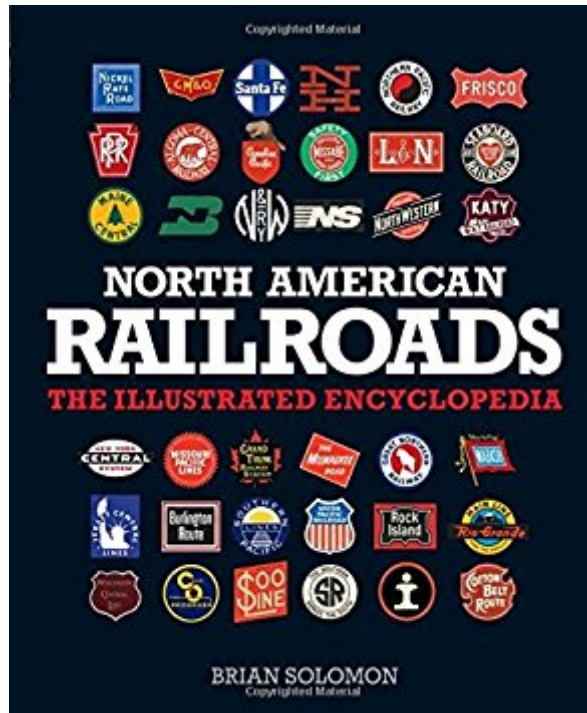


The book was found

# North American Railroads: The Illustrated Encyclopedia



## Customer Reviews

I was really looking forward to this book. I have a number of Railroad books but what was needed was an encyclopedia that you could use to look up facts etc. When I listed this one by Brian Solomon my hopes were high. Brian Solomon has written a number of excellent books so maybe this one would be the one topping them all? Unfortunately this is sadly not so. "North American Railroads The illustrated Encyclopedia" is not an encyclopedia but just one more of these coffee table books with large pictures and very little information. Mr Solomon has chosen to present 100 railroads in the US and Canada. He is not trying to list them all and that is understandable considering how many they are and have been. The problem is the selection. He has listed most of the bigger names but suddenly you find "Strasburg Railroad" and "East Broad Top Railroad" but there is no "Chessie System" or "Jersey Central". I find it very hard to understand how a museum railroad like Strasburg can be in the book instead of Chessie. When you put the designation "Encyclopedia" on a book you just can't leave out major carriers. A rough estimate shows that about half of the available space are illustrations and the rest is text. Here the selection of illustrations gets to be a problem. A large part of the illustrations are not of trains or train yards etc but of time tables, children menus, advertisements etc. Actually, a large number of railroads have only one or two photos of the trains. Also, there are a lot of B&W photos that are acceptable when you want to show older equipment like steam engines but why show diesel engines in B&W when there are so many perfect color photos? Is it the cost of production?

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