Jay T. Last Collection of Transportation: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Diann Benti.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens.
Prints and Ephemera
The Huntington Library
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Jay T. Last Collection of Transportation: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates
Dates (inclusive): 1835-1976
Collection Number: priJLC_TRAN_Stocks
Collector: Last, Jay T.
Extent: approximately 1,180 items in 6 binders, 4 flat boxes, and 7 oversize folders
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Abstract: The railroad stock and bond certificates in the Jay T. Last Collection of Transportation consist of more than 1,100 railroad stock and bond certificates primarily issued by American railroad companies to individuals in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Language: English.

Note:
Finding aid last updated on September 22, 2015.

Access
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Preferred Citation
[Item title, Call number]. Jay T. Last Transportation Collection: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance
This collection forms part of the Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History, which was donated to the Huntington Library by Jay T. Last in 2005 as a gift in progress. The bulk of the transportation ephemera was transferred to the Library in 2010.

Background
The Jay T. Last Collection is an unparalleled archive of printed paper artifacts that documents American lithographic, social, and business history. The collection began in the early 1970s when physicist and Silicon Valley pioneer Jay Last moved to Southern California and started collecting citrus box labels he found at local flea markets and rummage sales. As his collection grew, Last realized that these labels conveyed important information about commercial printing, graphic design, and social history, and he expanded his collection to include other forms of American visual culture. Today this collection contains more than 200,000 lithographic prints, posters, and ephemera of mostly nineteenth and early twentieth century American origin and represents works by more than five hundred lithographic companies.

Scope and Content
The railroad stock and bond certificates in the Jay T. Last Collection of Transportation consist of more than 1,100 railroad stock and bond certificates primarily issued by American railroad companies to individuals in the 19th and 20th centuries. Among the most recent items is a 1976 bond issued by the Canadian National Railway Company.

The decorative details of specific documents vary across the collection, though many items contain engraved and lithographed designs and images. Visual decorations include ornate patterned borders, embossed corporate and gold seals, logos, and vignettes primarily depicting railroad locomotives and trains, as well as landscapes and views of the American frontier, eagles, Columbia, Native Americans, farmers, miners, political surveyors, wheat bundles, and portraits of political figures and railroad company executives. The certificates range in size from approximately 6 x 7 inches to 28 x 17 inches and some of the bonds still have coupons attached. Most of the printed certificates have been filled in by hand with the
shareholder or bondholder’s name, shares or bond information, and authorizing signatures of company executives, though some are unissued and blank.

Jay T. Last Collection of Transportation Prints and Ephemera
Jay T. Last Collection of Transportation: Railroad Passes

Arrangement
The collection is physically arranged according to the general size of the item with small certificates in six binders (approximately 685 items), medium-sized certificates in four flat boxes (approximately 400 items), and large and oversized certificates seven flat-file folders (approximately 90 items); within these groups, items are arranged alphabetically by company name.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library’s Online Catalog.

Genres
Business records.
Business records -- United States -- 19th century.
Business records -- United States -- 20th century.
Legal documents -- United States -- 19th century.
Legal documents -- United States -- 20th century.
Bonds (legal records).
Stock certificates.
Stock certificates -- United States -- 19th century.
Stock certificates -- United States -- 20th century.

Subjects
Railroad companies.
Railroads -- Pictorial works.
Railroads -- United States -- History -- 19th century.

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**Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates (small size)**

Scope and Content Note
These six binders contain railroad stock and bond certificates that are 8x10 inches or smaller in size.

Binder 1: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, A-Ce by company
Binder 2: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, Ch-E by company
Binder 3: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, F-L by company
Binder 4: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, M-N by company
Binder 5: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, O-Sc by company
Binder 6: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, Se-Z by company

**Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates (medium size)**

Scope and Content Note
These four flat-top boxes contain railroad stock and bond certificates that are between 8x10 inches and 11x14 inches in size.

Box 1: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, A-C by company
Box 2: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, D-K by company
Box 3: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, L-O by company
Box 4: Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, P-Z by company

**Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates (large size)**

Scope and Content Note
These seven oversize folders contain railroad stock and bond certificates that are larger than 11x14 inches in size.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder  1</td>
<td>Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, A-B by company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OV Folder 2</td>
<td>Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, C-G by company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OV Folder 3</td>
<td>Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, H-M by company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OV Folder 4</td>
<td>Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, N-O by company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OV Folder 5</td>
<td>Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, P-R by company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OV Folder 6</td>
<td>Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, S-T by company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OV Folder 7</td>
<td>Railroad Stock and Bond Certificates, V-Y by company</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>