



The Majesty of Big Steam

Brian Solomon

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Relive the romance and power of the steam locomotive era, the product of a century of continuous research and development.

In the United States, the final decades of steam power were characterized by very large and capable locomotives. Beginning in the 1920s with Alco's three-cylinder types and Lima's "Super Power" concept, steam locomotive design crossed new thresholds of power and efficiency.

A host of new wheel arrangements combined with innovative technology and new materials to create a final generation of refinement. Lima's Berkshire of 1925 demonstrated the value of the four-wheel radial trailing truck in its ability to support a firebox large enough to supply high power and fast running. Within a few years the 2-10-4 Texas, 4-6-4 Hudson, and 4-8-4 Northern had led the way, and by the late 1920s, large modern articulated types were taking shape.

The Majesty of Big Steam is full of these late-era locomotives, the last generation of steam power before the diesels took over.

Dramatic photos show Berkshires, Hudsons, and Northerns at work, as well as massive articulateds at their finest. Witness New York Central's *Great Steel Fleet* being whisked along behind some of the most refined American-designed engines. See Southern Pacific's cab-forward oil burners crest the California Sierra, and Baltimore & Ohio's EM-1 war babies lift tonnage over the Appalachian mountains. Norfolk & Western continued to refine 4-8-4s and articulated types, even as the rest of America was buying diesels, and ran these well-oiled machines longer than any other line. Don't miss a single one!

The Majesty of Big Steam Details

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From Reader Review The Majesty of Big Steam for online ebook

Sharron says

I won this book in a Good reads giveaway. What a wonderful introduction to the History of steam locomotives. I knew nothing about them before feel much better educated and appreciative of what magnificent wonders they are. You can tell the author has a great love for his subject!

The pictures are amazing, makes one sad that they are considered part of a bygone era. Don't know anyone who does not have a love for trains, we have always ridden on steam trains at historical places when they are available, last summer the White Pass Railway in Skagway, Alaska!

Dan Howard says

Another great book by Solomon. He has brought together some masters of rail photography, conducted significant research, and presents a wonderful history of significant steam locomotive models that can be enjoyed by steam novices, aficionados, and everyone in between.

In addition to his own photos and text he has collaborated with noted photographers including Richard J. Solomon, John E. Pickett and Jim Shaughnessy; along with John Gruber contributing both photographs and wonderful essay titled "David P. Morgan and Steam".

With a bibliography consuming three columns of fine print over two pages, it shows that the author has done his homework. An excellent informational supplement at the end of the book is 22 pages of expanded/detailed captions for each of the 120+ color & black and white photos.

The Majesty of Big Steam is quite pleasurable for anyone who delves between its covers. The technical locomotive information is not overbearing, and provides even more enjoyment to readers who have even a basic understanding of the mechanics of steam locomotives.

What sets this book apart from others is that it is not just mechanical information accompanied by photos. Solomon puts the locomotives into historical perspectives and geographical context through excellent accompanying text related to the designers, builders, railroads on which they ran, and cargo that they hauled.

Highly recommend this book to anyone with an historical interest in North American steam locomotives.
