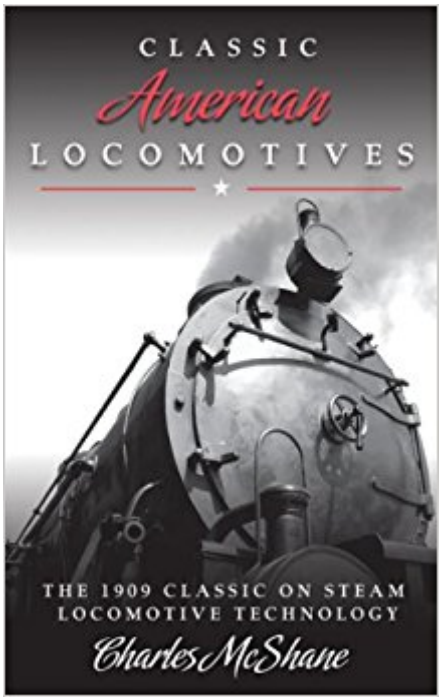
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Classic American Locomotives: The 1909 Classic On Steam Locomotive Technology



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Synopsis

Anyone who has watched in anticipation as a powerful steam engine rolled into a station, belching iconic billows of black smoke, or heard the memorable blue note sound of a steam engine whistle will revel in Charles McShaneÃ¢â ¬â„¢s amazingly detailed exploration of the inner workings of the classic steam engine.This historical record from 1909 will delight fans of classic American steam locomotives and those who have an unwavering love for classic American history. YouÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll be able to look over hundreds of detailed illustrations, from mechanical side valves and engines to locomotives like the Baldwin and the Richmond. Not only will you see the beauty of these historical machines, but McShane also explains every aspect of how these incredible behemoths of the railways operated.With detailed examinations of the engineering of the classic steam engine, you will be able not only to understand and admire the outer workings of these locomotives, but also to learn what a side valve, steam injector, and pressure gauge are, and how they work. This classic will be loved by all and fit perfectly as the centerpiece of any train aficionadoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s library.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Written in 1899, this material was quite thorough for its day. The diagrams are, for the most part, clear and descriptive. The photographs are often not. To be critical - on the first page the author (McShane) gets Thomas Newcomen's name spelled wrong. Nor does he credit James Watt with how he improved on Newcomen's design. When mentioning Richard Trevithick's mobile rail engine, he misses why this engine ran off the tracks (the rails broke because they were cast iron, not because of anything wrong with the engine).McShane seems to have some connection with railroading, though I suspect it is as office executive. But, to give him credit, the book is very informative about early steam locomotive design and function. He explains the numerous and rapidly evolving firebox, smokebox, boiler, air, valves, drive systems, etc. All of his narrative comes from compiling manufacturers' literature and from correspondence with railroaders, insurance inspectors, and from Power Magazine articles, though his chapter on water chemistry leads us to think he is also a chemist.There is an interesting section on troubleshooting and the methods to solve or correct problems, both on the road and in the yard.

Did not see the book in person. Had it sent to my brother-in-law as a gift. He loves trains and collects model trains. He really likes this book, so on that basis, I am giving it five out of five stars!

If your idea of classic locomotives is anything made before 1910 then this is the book for you. Of course that probably makes you 110. As I am a mere 66 I was rather hoping for engines of the 20th century. I am again guilty of not reading the fine print.

I have never seen a book with so many misspelled words. Very distracting. You would think a publisher would at least run a spell check.

Its a good book...tells you more than you want to know....unless you are a mechanical engineer needing to fix or restore one of these locomotives. Even then, its really a survey of the art...its somewhat technical (no advance formulas), just solid technical info...lots of line drawings of the various mechanisms, valves, govenors for a steam locomotive made in America. I would say it was written, after the peak of the technology, but not during the decline of it.. ..had many years of experience, most of the innovations where pretty much done.

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