CLEVELAND, CINCINNATI, CHICAGO & ST. LOUIS RAILWAY COLLECTION, 1898–1927

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF 3 Manuscript folders, 1 Oversize Manuscript folder, 1 OVA COLLECTION: 3 Graphics folder; 1 OVB Graphics folder; 1 OVC Graphics

folder; 2 Oversize Graphics folders.

COLLECTION

DATES:

1898-1927

PROVENANCE: Purchased from Emery Chonody, Greenwood, Indiana,

September 2000.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE

FORMATS:

RELATED

HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION

2001.0020

NUMBER:

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railway, otherwise known as the Big Four Railroad, began in 1848 with the charter for the Indianapolis and Bellefontaine Railroad. This railroad then merged with the Bellefontaine and Indiana to become the Bellefontaine Railroad in 1864. By 1868, just twenty years after the first charter, the Bellefontaine Railroad joined with the Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati forming the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis Railroad. By 1889, after additional mergers, the railroad finally became known as the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railway.

In the early 20th century, the railway began including New York Central in addition to their own name on their letterhead. The railway was fully leased to the New York Central by 1930. The Big Four in Indiana constituted a substantial holding for the New York Central. It would eventually become trackage of the Penn Central Company after the merger of the New York Central and Pennsylvania Railroads. Eventually the tracks became part of the Conrail, which in turn became part of Norfolk Southern and CSX.

While many railroads were absorbed into the Big Four over time, one in particular is of note for this collection. The Peoria & Eastern Railroad formed in 1890 when the Big Four purchased the eastern portion of the Ohio, Indiana and Western Railroad, and they purchased the western part of the same. However, the Peoria & Eastern Railroad leased their tracks for use by the Big Four as well. Some of the Peoria & Eastern tracks are now abandoned while other portions remain as part of Amtrak's passenger service.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

Simons, Richard S. and Francis H. Parker, *Railroads of Indiana*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1997.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains company correspondence for the Big Four Railroad, including their Peoria & Eastern Railway connection, and as part of the New York Central System. The correspondence mostly relates to switches and track improvements as well as gravel pricing and availability. Some correspondence relates to drawings associated with track and property improvements on or near the railway's rights of way in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Listings for those drawings for which correspondence is present in the collection include a note about where to find the start of the correspondence related to that project. Additional drawings for which there is no related correspondence are also present. The correspondence has been arranged chronologically. The drawings are also arranged chronologically and all drawings present in the collection have been listed separately, though they are often stored with other drawings of a like size.

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CCC&StL Ry, Cleve–Indpls Div: Track Serving The Automatic Incubator Co., Delaware, Ohio, Nov. 9, 1926	OVA Graphics Folder 1
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