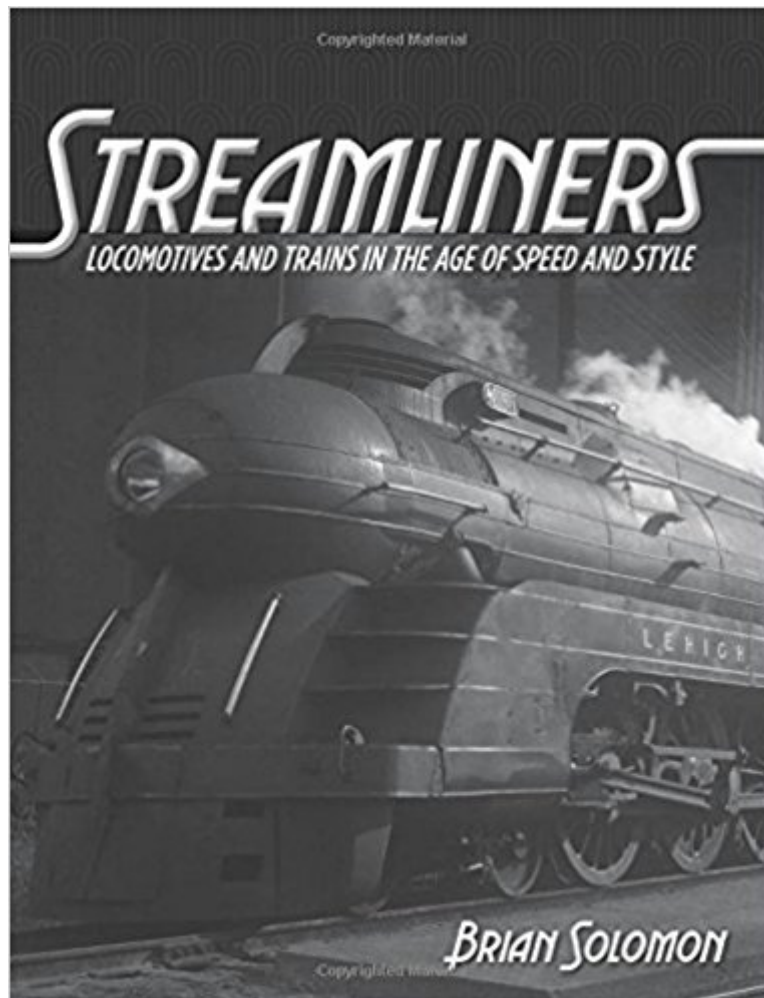




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# Streamliners: Locomotives And Trains In The Age Of Speed And Style



## Synopsis

See the streamlined trains of the 1930s in all of their sleek glory. In the 1930s, streamlined styling was applied to everything from kitchen appliances to farm tractors as it captured the American imagination. Keen to regain passenger traffic lost to automobiles and expanding roadways, railroads hired industrial-design giants like Raymond Loewy, Otto Kuhler, Henry Dreyfuss, and Brooks Stevens to produce sleek, futuristic shrouds for locomotives. These streamlined locomotives and trains became the most iconic in American history. Even today, classic designs like stainless-steel Zephyrs, shrouded Hudsons, and EMD E-units remain the popular conception of what a locomotive "looks like." *Streamliners : Locomotives and Trains in the Age of Speed and Style* explores the historical and scientific context for the development of streamlined locomotives and trains, the designs that became standard-bearers of North American speed and luxury, and the contemporary popularity of the streamlined look in popular culture. Illustrated with rare historical photographs in both black and white and color, as well as period advertising, route maps, and patent design drawings, *Streamliners* elucidates the story of this fascinating design trend by following the various technologies and styling trends and how they changed the look of American railroading. Profiles of prominent designers and preserved streamliners in use today round out and complete this picture every railfan will want. Streamlining was the product of the last great era of American passenger trains, when elegantly styled, named trains connected cities across the continent on fast schedules. *Streamliners* thoroughly explores the connections between style, speed, and the rails.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"If you enjoy streamliners in any capacity this a wonderful book to have in your collection, filled with a blend of historical facts and excellent photography!" - American-Rails.com  
"If you enjoy streamliners in any capacity this a wonderful book to have in your collection, filled with a blend of historical facts and excellent photography - American-Rails.com"...a book I couldn't put down...chock full of impressive photograph - Edson Leader, Alberta, Canada

Brian Solomon is one of today's most accomplished railway historians. He has authored more than thirty books about railroads and locomotive power, and his writing and photography have been featured in the world's top rail publications, including *Trains*, *Railway Age*, *Passenger Train Journal*, and *RailNews*. He divides his time between Massachusetts and Ireland.

Brian Solomon is a prolific writer and many of his books in the realm of north american railroading, past and present, have been fairly enjoyable, if a bit light on detail. Not quite coffee table books yet not sufficiently informative for some. This book rises from that level and provides the reader with a decent retrospective look at the evolution of the streamline age in railroading, complete with details about some of the pioneering industrial designers who played a key role in promoting a streamline presence in the industry. I am glad I purchased this volume and I expect it will receive wide and deserved acclaim.

Very comprehensive. However, it was disjointed, with sometimes the same model locomotives appearing on non-sequenced pages and in different sections. Chronology also got mixed up. And trolleys/interurbans were scattered throughout. Perhaps if the book was sectioned by type--- steam locomotives, prewar diesel electric locomotives, postwar diesel electric locomotives, electric locomotives, trolleys/interurbans, turbines and other locomotives, etc.--- that would have made the book easier to read. Perhaps a section on the great designers would also have helped.

A lot of photos I haven't seen before. Interesting format

very pleased with the book

Great pictures and a great book for anyone interested in trains.

Not up to Mr. Solomons' normal quality!

Many people believe that streamliners first appeared in the mid 1930s, while others may consider the McKeen Motor Car of the early 1900s the start of the streamlined rail era. In this book, Solomon identifies the roots of railroad streamlining with Henry Bessemer's wind resistance experiments on railway cars in the 1840s. From that point approximately 170 years ago, he brings us forward through the years to the 1960s, generally considered the end of the streamliner era. Along the way, he details important contributions of both well known and lesser known individuals, shows how their contributions and improvements built upon what came before, and presents remarkable photos, diagrams, and illustrations of their streamlined railway equipment. Names such as Raymond Loewy, Edward G. Budd, William R. McKeen Jr., Otto Kuhler, and Henry Dreyfuss are quite synonymous with railroad streamlining. In addition to noting the achievements of these famous individuals, Solomon delves deeper and presents historic details related to those with whom the reader may be less familiar and/or may not realize made contributions to the streamliner movement. In addition to notables such as the aforementioned Henry Bessemer, some of the many important people we learn about include Frederick Upham Adams, William B. Stout, Albert G. Dean, Martin Blomberg, and Mary Coulter. Beyond those directly responsible for design and engineering work, the impacts of railroad leaders on the streamliner movement are also presented. Union Pacific's Edward Henry Harriman, Burlington's Ralph Budd, and Southern Pacific's Angus McDonald are but a few of the executives about whom we learn encouraged and/or promoted the streamliner movement within their companies. It is important to note to some prospective readers that this is not a "picture book" and there could be disappointment if one is looking for a book filled with photo upon photo of the same models of streamlined steam, diesel and electric locomotives and passenger cars dressed up in various different railroad liveries. That said, this work includes dozens of fantastic photos, illustrations and diagrams to accompany the detailed and engaging historical text. Beyond Solomon's own photos, this book includes the work of such masters as Jim Shaughnessy, Wallace W. Abbey, and Richard Jay Solomon as well as the author's father, plus excellent selections from the collections of Robert A. Buck, Jay Williams, and John E. Pickett. Solomon has once again partnered

with prolific author and photographer John Gruber, who contributed a number of biographical essays to the book. The work concludes with a sampling of where some of the preserved streamlined railroad equipment can be found today. The final chapter identifies several tourist/excursion lines and museums, and both short line and Class I railroads in the United States, where these historic machines are exhibited and/or operated. *Streamliners: Locomotives and Trains in the Age of Speed and Style* is a must-read for those who want to learn about the history of railroad streamlining and absolutely enjoyable for those with even a passing interest in the subject.

Wonderful and very complete review of the locomotives that once defined power, speed and style. These machines were once living, breathing functional art that served a utilitarian industrial purpose. Recommended for any one interested in railroad history, industrial design and/or the ethos of progress as manifested in machinery. Also: This book has saved me a bundle! Instead of buying models of the locomotives I can repeatedly look at the pictures and read again about the history. If this book is of potential interest to you then you might also want to explore "The Machine Age in America, 1918-1941" which documents the entire range of "machine ethos" as expressed in both industrial and consumer products of that era.

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