



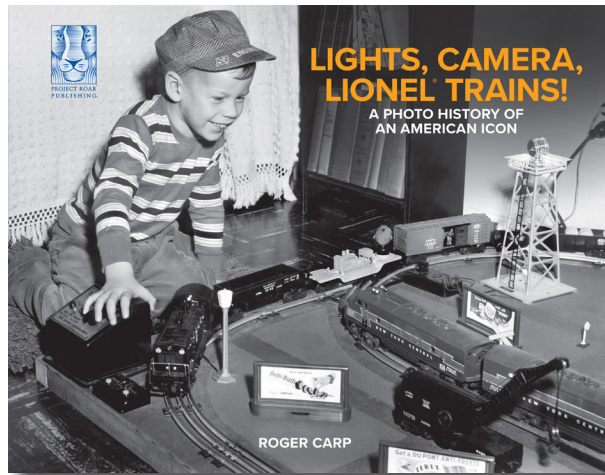
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Lights, Camera, Lionel Trains! **A Photo History of an American Icon** by Roger Carp

The latest from Project Roar Publishing is a uniquely compelling history of Lionel trains. The new book, *Lights, Camera, Lionel Trains! A Photo History of An American Icon* by Roger Carp, is a most unique presentation of Lionel's history. The book, presented through an array of photos, many of which you've probably never seen before, makes for an interesting read. The book is presented in landscape mode – much like a postwar Lionel catalog.

The opening of the book begins with an introduction of text and photos that takes you through page 21. From there begins a gallery of 100 photo essays. The layout of the book makes for an easy and pleasant read. You can open this book anywhere and find a full-page photo and on the facing page start reading about it. This is a book you can pickup, open it anywhere and read anytime. Each two-page spread offers a photo and a story to go with it.

Less than 15 of the 224 pages in the book do not have a photo on them. There are over 220 photos, many in color. The photos are the highlight of this book and fall into categories of sports, show business and politics – this in addition to corporate photos of Lionel and its employees. Many of the photos show Lionel trains in a scene from a movie. You'll see many celebrities playing with trains. Have you ever seen James Cagney handling a ZW transformer? How about Rita Hayworth, Olivia de Havilland, Spencer Tracy, Joe DiMaggio, Jimmy Walker, George Marshall, Roy Campanella, Spike Jones, the I Love Lucy gang, Huntz Hall, Enzo Pinza, Count Basie, Harry Belafonte, Harpo Marx, and Nat King Cole to drop a few names of some of the celebrities photographed with Lionel Trains? The photos are clear and sharp. Publisher John Schmid has taken great



pains to ensure the best quality of the photos. Several photos show children at play, often with other family members. Other photos include employees of the Lionel Corporation, including of course Joshua and Lawrence Cowen. We even get a little insight into the relationship of the two Cowens. I found that especially interesting. There are several photos showing off Lionel's showrooms over the years beginning with Lionel's first showroom at 381-383 Broadway in New York City. We even see a Standard gauge layout built for Macy's famous Manhattan department store in 1931. There are photos of Lionel's San Francisco and Chicago showrooms. I could go on in this review with a comment on each of the many photos in this collection, but space just doesn't allow, and I hope by now I've garnered your interest.

The book will certainly find interest among Lionel enthusiasts, but it is also written with others in mind who might find the topic memorable and a reminder of earlier days. The text does not assume the prior knowledge a

Lionel collector might have and terms that would be obvious to a trains collector are explained at their first inclusion in a story. For example, the first time Standard gauge is mentioned in the introduction, a description and dimensions are given. **This book is another example of a quality publisher and dedicated author putting together a fine work** with help from the collection of many enthusiasts sharing their

knowledge and photos. Roger credits many for their help in the opening page of the gallery. In this effort, author **Roger Carp and publisher John Schmid have most certainly succeeded on providing a delightful and memorable tribute to this iconic company.**

Lights, Camera, Lionel Trains! A Photo History of an American Icon by Roger Carp, is available from Project Roar Publishing. Two versions are offered. A collector's edition, limited to 250 numbered copies autographed by both author and publisher is available for \$99.95. The regular edition is \$49.95. Both editions are hardbound and measure 11 by 8 ½ inches and prices are plus shipping. You can order online at www.projectroar.com or call 630-653-7627.

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