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# **Guide to the Harwood Short Line Railroad Papers, 1998-2007 – 107.1069**

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

The Strong

One Manhattan Square

Rochester, NY 14607

[library@museumofplay.org](mailto:library@museumofplay.org)

URL: <https://www.museumofplay.org/collections/brian-sutton-smith-library-archives-of-play/>

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## Summary Information

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|--|---|
| <b>Repository:</b>                       | Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong   |
| <b>Creator:</b>                          | Shook, Charles Harwood, Sr.   |
| <b>Creator:</b>                          | Shook, Elizabeth Drake  |
| <b>Title:</b>                            | Harwood Short Line Railroad papers  |
| <b>ID:</b>                               | 107.1069  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]:</b>                 | 1998-2007   |
| <b>Physical Description:</b>             | 0.75 Linear Feet (1 box)  |
| <b>Language of the Material:</b>         | English   |
| <b>Mixed Materials [107.1069] [box]:</b> | 1   |
| <b>Abstract:</b>                         | This collection documents Charles Sr. and Elizabeth Shook's creation of an O-gauge electric train layout in their Dobb's Ferry, New York home. The materials date from 1997 to 2007. The collection consists of newspaper clippings, articles, scrapbooks, a track template, and a DVD. |

### Preferred Citation for Publication

Harwood Short Line Railroad papers, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong.

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## Biographical Note

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In 1998, Charles H. Shook Sr. and his wife Elizabeth (Betty) Drake Shook began assembling an O-gauge electric train collection in the basement of their home in Dobbs Ferry, New York. The Shooks embraced their hobby with dedication and zeal. When they offered their collection, named the Harwood Short Line Railroad, to the museum seven years later, it had grown considerably. As Chuck described his collection in a letter, it consisted of "a 20' by 20' toy train layout of towns, industrial areas, mountains and flat lands built around Lionel and related products.

Charles Harwood Shook was born in Kansas City, Missouri on October 19, 1926. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1948. Following his service, he worked for Kodak, Ford Motor Company, and the Williams Company. Shook returned to college and earned his master's degree and PhD in Accounting from Oklahoma State University. Shook was an Accounting Professor for over 25 years at Mercy College. In June 1949 he married Elizabeth Drake Shook. They travelled the country together and were married for 70 years. Charles Shook Sr. died in September 2019.

Elizabeth 'Betty Ann' Drake Shook was born on April 2, 1927. She grew up in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York and graduated from Mt. Holyoke College in 1949. Betty Ann was a Ruling Elder and a Deacon in the Presbyterian Church. She volunteered at the Red Cross, Community Kitchen, and Habitat for Humanity and participated in many garden clubs. Betty Ann died in November 2020.

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## Collection Scope and Content Note

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This set of papers supports the donation of an O-gauge electric train collection by Charles and Elizabeth Shook. The train collection, which they named the Harwood Short Line Railroad, consisted of a 20-foot-by-20-foot toy train layout of towns, industrial areas, mountains, and flat lands built around Lionel and related products.

The papers consist of subject file clippings and articles related to model trains and building train layouts, three scrapbooks, a track template, and a DVD depicting the history and components of the Harwood Short Line Railroad.

The original order of the papers has been maintained. Materials were removed from acidic notebooks, envelopes, and sleeves and were placed in archival folders. The collection has been arranged into three series. The physical materials are housed in one box. Additional scope and content information can be found in the "Collection Inventory" section of this finding aid.

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## System of Arrangement

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Series I: Reference, 1998-2007

Series II: Scrapbooks, 1998-2007

Series III: Audiovisual, 2007

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Harwood Short Line Railroad papers were donated to The Strong as a gift of Elizabeth Drake Shook and Charles Harwood Shook on April 23, 2007 as a part of 53 boxes of model railroad materials. The entire collection was accessioned as Object ID 107.1069.

### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research use by staff of The Strong and users of its library and archive.

### Conditions Governing Use

Though the donor has not transferred intellectual property rights (including but not limited to any copyright, trademark, and associated rights therein) to The Strong, they have given permission for The Strong to make copies in all media for museum, educational, and research purposes.

### Processed by

Doris C. Sturzenberger, September 2009. Updated by Stephanie Ball, October 2024.

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## Related Materials

### Separated Materials

Associated objects accepted by the museum at the same time as the papers and currently housed with the museum's object collections comprise the Harwood Short Line Railroad: 5 operating trains, 400-plus sections of 3-rail track, 52 switches, transformers, controllers, and 90-plus buildings.

Associated items accepted by the museum's library include books, magazines, DVDs, videos, and catalogs about model trains and building train layouts.

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## Controlled Access Headings

- Railroads -- Models
- Railroads -- Buildings and structures -- Models
- Lionel Corporation

## Collection Inventory

### Series I: Reference, 1998-2007

box 1

#### Series Scope and Content Note

This series consists of subject file clippings and articles related to model trains and building train layouts.

| Title/Description | Instances |          |
|-------------------|-----------|----------|
| Accessories       | box 1     | folder 1 |
| Bridges           | box 1     | folder 2 |
| Buildings         | box 1     | folder 3 |
| Circus            | box 1     | folder 4 |
| City              | box 1     | folder 5 |
| Cleaning          | box 1     | folder 6 |
| Dock              | box 1     | folder 7 |

|                                |       |           |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Electrical (wiring, soldering) | box 1 | folder 8  |
| Engine terminal                | box 1 | folder 9  |
| Farms and fences               | box 1 | folder 10 |
| Grades                         | box 1 | folder 11 |
| Industrial                     | box 1 | folder 12 |
| Kids (games)                   | box 1 | folder 13 |
| Layout                         | box 1 | folder 14 |
| Lighting buildings             | box 1 | folder 15 |
| Lumber                         | box 1 | folder 16 |
| Mine                           | box 1 | folder 17 |
| Mountains                      | box 1 | folder 18 |
| Operations                     | box 1 | folder 19 |
| Parts/repair                   | box 1 | folder 20 |
| People                         | box 1 | folder 21 |
| Photo                          | box 1 | folder 22 |
| Quarry                         | box 1 | folder 23 |
| Refinery                       | box 1 | folder 24 |
| Right of way                   | box 1 | folder 25 |
| Roads                          | box 1 | folder 26 |
| Rooftops                       | box 1 | folder 27 |
| Scenery (adhesives)            | box 1 | folder 28 |
| Siding                         | box 1 | folder 29 |
| Signs                          | box 1 | folder 30 |
| Snow/winter                    | box 1 | folder 31 |
| Sounds                         | box 1 | folder 32 |
| Stations                       | box 1 | folder 33 |
| Trees                          | box 1 | folder 34 |
| Trestles                       | box 1 | folder 35 |
| Tunnels                        | box 1 | folder 36 |
| Vehicles                       | box 1 | folder 37 |
| Village                        | box 1 | folder 38 |
| Visitors (show time)           | box 1 | folder 39 |

|       |       |           |
|-------|-------|-----------|
| Water | box 1 | folder 40 |
| X-mas | box 1 | folder 41 |
| Yard  | box 1 | folder 42 |

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## Series II: Scrapbooks, 1998-2007

box 1

### Series Scope and Content Note

This series contains three scrapbooks containing clippings, articles, product information sheets, and manuals on the subjects of railroads, product information, and a power plan that details and electrical system the Shooks built to power their layout. The series also contains the track template.

### Subseries A: Power plan scrapbook

| Title/Description                | Instances |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Index                            | box 1     | folder 43 |
| Transformers                     | box 1     | folder 44 |
| Barrier strips                   | box 1     | folder 45 |
| Circuits                         | box 1     | folder 46 |
| Track power circuits             | box 1     | folder 47 |
| Switch power circuits            | box 1     | folder 48 |
| Track and switch ground circuits | box 1     | folder 49 |
| Circuits for accessories         | box 1     | folder 50 |
| Circuits for buildings           | box 1     | folder 51 |
| Electrical equipment             | box 1     | folder 52 |
| Other electrical                 | box 1     | folder 53 |

### Subseries B: Product information scrapbook

box 1

| Title/Description | Instances |           |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Index             | box 1     | folder 54 |
| Standards         | box 1     | folder 55 |
| Accessories       | box 1     | folder 56 |
| Cars              | box 1     | folder 57 |
| Engines           | box 1     | folder 58 |



|  |                  |           |
|--|------------------|-----------|
| TrainMaster                            | box 1            | folder 59 |
| Track                                  | box 1            | folder 60 |
| <b>Subseries C: Railroad scrapbook</b> | box 1            |           |
| <b>Title/Description</b>               | <b>Instances</b> |           |
| Index                                  | box 1            | folder 61 |
| Railroad history                       | box 1            | folder 62 |
| Model and toy trains                   | box 1            | folder 63 |
| Railroad stamps                        | box 1            | folder 64 |
| Railroad trivia                        | box 1            | folder 65 |
| <b>Subseries D: Template</b>           | box 1            |           |
| <b>Title/Description</b>               | <b>Instances</b> |           |
| Tinplate track template, 1:12          | box 1            | folder 66 |

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## Series III: Audiovisual, 2007

box 1

### Series Scope and Content Note

This series contains a DVD depicting the history and components of the Harwood Short Line Railroad. The envelope contains the DVD, DVD insert, and a HSLRR DVD hints sheet. The DVD contains 10 parts:

- History
- The Engines
- The Santa Fe Railroad
- Chatanooga Choo Choo
- Hobo Lullaby
- Bridges, Grades
- Trestles and Tunnels
- White Christmas
- America the Beautiful
- Complete DVD, Parts A through J, sequentially

|                                       |                  |             |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| <b>Title/Description</b>              | <b>Instances</b> |             |
| Harwood Short Line Railroad DVD, 2007 | box 1            | envelope 67 |

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