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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

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### 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

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

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## Collection Inventory

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### 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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<b>Series III: Audiovisual, 2007</b>		box 1
<b>Series Scope and Content Note</b>		
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History</li> <li>The Engines</li> <li>The Santa Fe Railroad</li> <li>Chatanooga Choo Choo</li> <li>Hobo Lullaby</li> <li>Bridges, Grades</li> <li>Trestles and Tunnels</li> <li>White Christmas</li> <li>America the Beautiful</li> <li>Complete DVD, Parts A through J, sequentially</li> </ul>		
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Harwood Short Line Railroad DVD, 2007	box 1	envelope 67

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