



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Baldwin Locomotive Works Engine Registers and Order Books

NMAH.AC.0157

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Baldwin Locomotive Works Engine Registers and Order Books
Date:	1822-1956
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0157
Creator:	Baldwin Locomotive Works
Extent:	7 Cubic feet 6 Microfilm (35 mm)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Museum's Division of Transportation by the Baldwin Hamilton Corporation in 1976.

Ownership and Custodial History

On loan to Dibner Library, January 1979-March 1985. Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Transportation (now the Division of Work and Industry) via Dibner Library, March 1985.

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center

Baldwin Locomotive Works Drawings (NMAH.AC.0353)

Consists of builder's drawings of locomotives and tenders, 1870-1890.

The DeGolyer Library of Southern Methodist University

University has a collection of 8,500 original Baldwin engineering drawings; the library has published three guides to their records.

Processing Information

Collection processed by NMAH Staff, undated.

Preferred Citation

Baldwin Locomotive Works Engine Registers and Order Books, 1833-1956, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Original volumes are fragile. Researchers should consult the microfilm located in the National Museum of American History library (mfm 720).

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical Note

The Baldwin Locomotive Works was the largest and most successful locomotive building firm in the world. It was begun as a machine shop owned and operated by Matthias W. Baldwin in 1831. Baldwin turned out its first locomotive engine from its shop in Philadelphia in 1832; within a few years the company was producing two a month and employed 240 men. By 1852, 500 engines had been produced; by 1861, 1,000; and by 1868, 2,000. At that point, the company employed between 1,600 1,700 men, and was one of the very largest machine works in the nation. In 1906 Baldwin began construction of a large auxiliary plant in the Philadelphia suburb of Eddystone. In 1928 the Broad Street plant was closed and all work transferred to the Eddystone Plant.

Baldwin had been forced by hard financial times to take on a series of partners between 1839 and 1846, and the firm's name changed repeatedly as a result. It was known as Baldwin, Vail & Hufty (1839 1842); Baldwin & Whitney (1842 1845); M. W. Baldwin (1846 1853); and M. W. Baldwin & Company (1854 1866). After Baldwin's death in 1866 the firm was known as M. Baird & Company (1867 1873); Burnham, Parry, Williams & Company (1873 1890); Burnham, Williams & Company (1891 1909); it was finally incorporated as the Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1909.

The company's phenomenal growth ended with in the mid 1920s as the United States railroad industry began its long decline. Despite various mergers and acquisitions and an increased attention to the development of diesel engines a slow but sure decline set in. Baldwin declared bankruptcy in 1935. World War Two brought a temporary respite, but after the war the steam locomotive was obsolete and orders rapidly diminished. The Westinghouse Corporation bought Baldwin in 1948 but was unable to turn the company around. In 1950 the Lima Hamilton Corporation and Baldwin merged but in 1956 the last of some 70,541 locomotives was produced.

Source

History of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, 1831-1902, (1902); A Short History of American Locomotive Builders in the Steam Era, John H. White, (1982).

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of Engine Registers and Engine Order Books. The Engine Registers list all locomotives built by the company from 1833 through 1956. They provide information on the purchasing railroad, date of trial, engine name, construction number, class, track gauge, number of wheels, size of cylinders, number of valves and fuel type. The Order Books, dating from 1854 1900, provide the same sort of information on specifications, as well as prices and delivery. The records in both sets of books are arranged chronologically and the information within each is arranged numerically by construction number.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Locomotive industry -- Pennsylvania
Locomotives -- Registers

Railroads
Transportation

Types of Materials:

Ledgers (account books)

Names:

Baldwin, Matthias W. (industrialist)

Places:

Pennsylvania

Container Listing

Series 1: Engine Registers, 1833-1956

Box 1, Volume 1 Numbers 1- 2659, 1833-1871

Box 1, Volume 1 [Engine Register Volume 1: ledger], 1833-1871
1 Item (Ink on paper.; 12.3" x 14.0".)
[Image\(s\)](#)
[Image\(s\)](#)
Creator: Baldwin Locomotive Works
Language: English.
Notes: AC0157-0000002 (AC scan no.)

Unrestricted research use on site, except that slides may be in cold storage and require warm-up period. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.
Partial scan of page 1 dated January 1833.

Topic: Locomotive builders
 Locomotives -- Registers
Genre/Form: Ledgers (account books)

Box 1, Volume 2 Numbers 1- 5980, [marked "Duplicate"], 1833-1881

Box 2, Volume 6 Numbers 5981-11,947, 1882-1891

Box 3, Volume 10 Numbers 11,948 -24,274, 1891-1904

Box 3, Volume 10 [Engine Register Volume 10: ledger], June 6, 1891 to May 25, 1904
1 Item (Ink on paper.; 15.7" x 12.3".)
[Image\(s\)](#)
[Image\(s\)](#)
Creator: Baldwin Locomotive Works
Language: English.
Notes: AC0157-0000006 (AC scan no.)

Unrestricted research use on site, except that slides may be in cold storage and require warm-up period. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.
Partial scan of page 59 "Register of engines made by Burnham, Williams & Co., 1895.

Topic: Locomotive builders
 Locomotives -- Registers
Genre/Form: Ledgers (account books)

Box 4, Volume 11 Numbers 11,948 -15,320 [incomplete], 1891-1897

Box 5, Volume 14	Numbers 24,275-36,697, 1904-1911
Box 6, Volume 15	Numbers 36,698-49,177, 1911-1918
Box 7, Volume 16	Numbers 49,178 -61,600, 1918-1930
Box 8, Volume 17	Numbers 61,601-76, 150, 1931-1956

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Series 2: Order Books, 1854-1900

Box 9, Volume 3	Order Book, 1854-1869
Box 9, Volume 4	Order Book, 1870-1877
Box 9, Volume 5	Order Book, 1878-1883
Box 10, Volume 7	Order Book, 1884-1886
Box 10, Volume 8	Order Book, 1887-1889
Box 11, Volume 9	Order Book, 1890-1892
Box 11, Volume 9	<p>[Engine Order Book Volume 9: ledger], 1890-1891 1 Item (Ink on paper.; 12.3" x 14.0".) Image(s) Image(s) Creator: Baldwin Locomotive Works Language: English. Notes: AC0157-0000001 (AC scan no.) Unrestricted research use on site, except that slides may be in cold storage and require warm-up period. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves. Partial scan of page 184 dated January 1891. Topic: Locomotive builders Locomotives -- Registers Genre/Form: Ledgers (account books)</p>
Box 12, Volume 12	Order Book, 1893-1897
	<p>[Engine Order Book Volume 12: ledger], 1893-1897 1 Item (12.3" x 14.0".) Creator: Baldwin Locomotive Works Language: English. Notes: AC0157-0000007m (AC scan no.) Ink on paper. In series 2, box 12 (or 4), volume 12? Unrestricted research use on site, except that slides may be in cold storage and require warm-up period. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves. Partial scan of page 315, engines ordered in 1895. Topic: Locomotive builders Locomotives -- Registers Genre/Form: Ledgers (account books)</p>

Box 13, Volume 13

Order Book, 1898-1900

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