



Reading Company records 1520

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Manuscripts and Archives

PO Box 3630

Wilmington, Delaware 19807

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URL: <http://www.hagley.org/library>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Manuscripts and Archives
Creator:	Reading Company
Title:	Reading Company records
ID:	1520
Date [inclusive]:	1795-1979
Physical Description:	1,131 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Chartered in 1871, Reading Company was the holding company for the system of railroads, canals and coal mines assembled by the predecessor Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Company between 1833 and 1896. The collection consists of the corporate records of the Reading Company (1871-1976), the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Company (1833-1896), the Philadelphia & Reading Railway Company (1896-1923), and 159 predecessors and subsidiaries.

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Historical Note

Chartered in 1871 as the Excelsior Enterprise Company, Reading Company became the holding company for the system of railroads, canals and coal mines assembled by the predecessor Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Company between 1833 and 1896. As a result of anti-trust proceedings, the Reading Company divested itself of its mining subsidiary in 1923 and became an operating company for its rail properties. After bankruptcy in the early 1970s, viable portions of the rail network were conveyed to Conrail on April 1, 1976. The reorganized Reading Company retains real estate and other non-rail assets.

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Scope and Content

The collection consists of the corporate records of the Reading Company (1871-1976), the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Company (1833-1896), the Philadelphia & Reading Railway Company (1896-1923), and 159 predecessors and subsidiaries. Record types include minutes, account books, securities records, reports and agreements. Departmental records are available for the parent company, primarily from the various officers of the Operating Department, the Legal Department, the Secretary and Treasurer. Fragments of presidential correspondence are also available, especially for J.S. Harris and A.A. McLeod. Departmental records contain abundant detail on operating, technical and labor matters, with coverage relatively complete for the 1860-1914 period. Of special interest are papers relating to the Molly Maguires in the 1870s.

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Arrangement

Part I. Parent company and predecessors (1833-1976)

Part II. Subsidiary and associated companies (1795-1976)

Part III. Subject files (1861-1957)

Part IV. Miscellaneous (1825-1969)

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Existence and Location of Copies

A selection of material on the Molly Maguires was digitized and is available online in the [Digital Archives](#).

Access Restrictions

Records subject to 25-year time seal from the date of creation due to privacy/security reasons.

Litigators may not view the collection without approval.

Use Restrictions

Literary rights retained by Reading Company.

Provenance

On Deposit from the Reading Company.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Reading Company loan collection (RR1978:3), Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, Strasburg, Pennsylvania.

Separated Materials

Reading Company photographs (Accession 1975.430), Audiovisual Collections and Digital Initiatives Department, Hagley Museum and Library.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Bus lines
- Police, Private

- Railroad police
- Holding companies
- Railroads.
- Personnel records
- Anthracite coal industry
- Canals.
- Railroads -- Employees
- Railroads -- Equipment and supplies.
- Railroads -- Rolling stock
- Drawings
- Street-railroads
- Strikes and lockouts
- Advertisements
- Telegraph.
- Railroad stations
- Timetables
- Railroads -- Buildings and structures
- Coal mines and mining.
- New York and Long Branch Railroad
- Pennsylvania Railroad
- Baer, George F. (George Frederick), 1842-1914
- Association of Railway Executives (U.S.)
- Baird, Matthew, 1817-1877
- Beech Creek Railroad Company
- Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company
- Biddle, Edward R. (Edward Robert)
- Bertrand, Charles Edward, 1915-1978
- Adams Express Company
- Association of American Railroads
- American Railway Association
- Montour Iron and Steel Company
- McLeod, A. A. (Archibald Angus), 1848-1902
- Lorenz, William, 1826-1884
- Lewis, Edwin M.
- Lehigh Valley Railroad Company
- Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company
- Lehigh & Susquehanna Rail Road (Firm)
- Knights of Labor
- Knight, Edward C. (Edward Collings), 1813-1892
- Junction Railroad Company
- Jersey Shore, Pine Creek and Buffalo Railway Company
- Jersey Central Transportation Company
- J.P. Morgan & Co
- Harris, Joseph S. (Joseph Smith), 1836-1910
- Baldwin Locomotive Works
- Gowen, Franklin B. (Franklin Benjamin), 1836-1889
- Gowan & Marx

- Fall Brook Railway Company
- Furness, Frank, 1839-1912
- Empire Transportation Company
- Ewing, Charles H., 1866-1935
- Emlen, William F. (William Fishbourn), 1787-1866
- Dickson, Samuel, 1837-1915
- Reading Terminal (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Drexel, Morgan & Co
- Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company
- Dice, Agnew T. (Agnew Thomson), 1862-1932
- Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company
- Corbin, Austin, 1827-1896
- Central Railroad of New Jersey
- Chauncey, Elihu, 1779-1847
- Buffalo, Rochester, and Pittsburgh Railway Company
- Tide-Water Pipe Company, Limited
- Young Men's Christian Association. Reading Railway Department
- Temple Iron Company
- United Mine Workers of America
- Toland, Henry
- Wootten, John E. (John Eastburn), 1823-1898
- Sayre, Robert H. (Robert Heysham), 1824-1907
- Williamsport and North Branch Railroad Company
- Robinson, Wirt, 1806-1865
- Wyoming Valley Coal Company
- Tamaqua and Lansford Street Railway Company
- Workingmen's Benevolent Association of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
- West Pittston Coal Company
- Welsh, J. Lowber (John Lowber), 1842-1904
- Reading Iron Company
- Western Union Telegraph Company
- Robinson, Moncure, 1802-1891
- Western Maryland Railroad Company
- Reading Terminal Market (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Centennial Exhibition (1876 : Philadelphia, Pa.)
- United States Railroad Administration
- Pullman Company
- United States Express Company
- Powelton Iron and Coal Company
- Elmira, Cortland, and Northern Railroad Company
- Voorhees, Theodore, 1847-1916
- United States Railroad Labor Board
- Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company
- Philadelphia and Reading Relief Association
- Philadelphia, Reading & New England Railroad
- Pinkerton's National Detective Agency

- Osborne, John H. (John Humfrey), 1818-1894
- Pennsylvania Coal Company
- Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Co
- New York Central Railroad Company
- Nichols, Henry K. (Henry Kuhl), 1830-1904
- Nicolls, G. A. (Gustavus A.), 1817-1886
- Norfolk and Western Railway Company
- Montour Iron Company
- National Company
- New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Company