



The Library Company OF PHILADELPHIA

Contact: Lauren Propst
Library Company of Philadelphia
www.librarycompany.org
215-546-3181
lpropst@librarycompany.org

The Library Company of Philadelphia is “Working on the Railroads”

Philadelphia: September 5, 2012 – Drawing on the wealth of materials from the Library Company’s rich archives, as well as the holdings from several other area institutions and private collectors, guest curator George E. Thomas has pulled together for the first time the incredible drawings and materials from Frank Furness’ (1839-1912) experience that document the range of the projects he undertook while “Working on the Railroads.” This exhibition is part of a citywide festival celebrating the legacy and innovation of Philadelphia’s most famous architect.

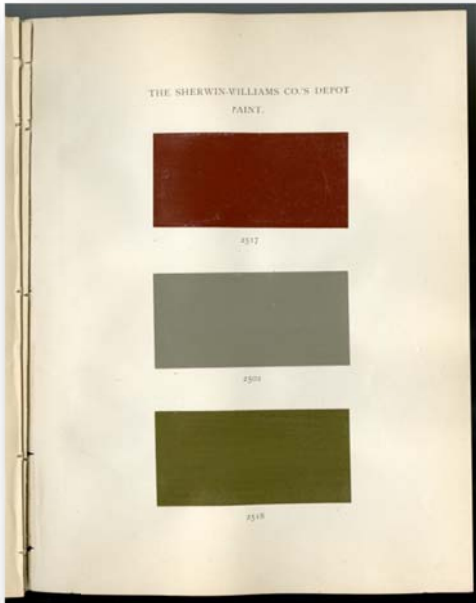
Thanks to generous support from the William Penn Foundation and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Thomas, along with key Library Company staff, explored nearly 200 commissions for three of America’s greatest railroads: the Philadelphia & Reading, the Baltimore & Ohio, and the Pennsylvania. In these projects Furness began with an understanding of purpose and created imaginative designs that captured the energy of the Industrial Age.

Furness produced some 1,000 projects and shaped students who would join him in transforming American architecture. These visionaries include Louis Sullivan, William Price, and George Howe, whose works would define the skylines of Philadelphia, Chicago, and Atlantic City for the next century. The methods Furness used have continued to influence the most innovative Philadelphia architects, from Louis Kahn in the 20th century to Robert Venturi at the dawn of the 21st.

“Working on the Railroads” is on view from **Monday, September 17 through Friday, April 19, 2013**. Join us for our exhibition opening and lecture on **Monday, September 24 at 6:00 p.m.** George Thomas, architectural and cultural historian, will speak on “Inventing Modern—The Railroad Architecture of Frank Furness.” **Please RSVP by visiting <http://www.librarycompany.org/events/index.htm> or by calling 215-546-3181.**

Background Information about the Library Company

The Library Company of Philadelphia is an independent research library concentrating on American history and culture from the 17th through 19th centuries. Free and open to the public, the Library Company houses an extensive non-circulating collection of rare books, manuscripts, broadsides, ephemera, and works of art. The mission of the Library Company is to preserve, interpret, make available, and augment the valuable materials within our care. We serve a diverse constituency throughout Philadelphia and the nation, offering comprehensive reader services, an internationally renowned fellowship program, an online public access catalog, and regular exhibitions and public programs. Located at 1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia the Library Company is open to the public free of charge from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Library Company can be found online at www.librarycompany.org.



Catalog of Paints and Colors for Railway Use Manufactured by the Sherwin-Williams Comp'y, ca. 1900. On loan from Ted Xaras.



B & O Philadelphia Station at 24th and Chestnut Streets, 1891. Cyanotype. The Library Company of Philadelphia.



Furness, Evans and Co. Proposed Addition to Broad Street Station, 1892. Watercolor on paper. Philadelphia History Museum at the Atwater Kent on long-term loan to the Athenaeum of Philadelphia through the Pew Charitable Trusts Museum Loan Program.



Wayne Junction Station, Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, ca. 1881. Photograph. On loan from Ted Xaras.



B & O's 24th and Chestnut Street Station's Lower Level, Waiting Room Looking East from Stairs, ca. 1920. Photograph. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Divisions, HABS PA, 51-PHILA, 405-15.