The period from the 1890s to the mid-1950s is generally considered the golden era of passenger rail travel in America. It was a time of celebrated locomotives and luxurious passenger service, a time when rail technology saw its greatest advances and railroads became the nations favored mode of transportation. These glory years come alive in American Passenger Trains and Locomotives Illustrated, 1889-1971. For this volume, author and illustrator Mark Wegman has researched original railroad drawings and in some cases even paint chips to render more than 160 profiles, front and top views, and interior layouts depicting the steam, diesel, and electric locomotives, along with passenger cars, of three dozen of the nations most celebrated trains of the golden age. Accompanying the authors drawings are histories of each train, period photographs, postcards, menus, luggage stickers, vintage print ads, and detailed captions. The book is a lavishly appointed journey back in time to the bygone heyday of passenger-train travel.

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My Personal Review:
There was in this country a true 'Golden Age' of passenger rail service that stretched from coast to coast, border to border. It was a time of elegance, sophistication, and cutting edge technology. Now all this has been wonderfully captured for railroad buffs in "American Passenger Trains And Locomotives Illustrated" by lifelong railroading fan Mark Wegman. Organized into three major sections (1890s-1920s; 1930s; and 1940s-1950s), a visually descriptive history is provided for the major rail lines showcasing their famous (and in some cases, legendary) trains. Combining superbly produced paintings, with historical photos, period advertisements, and other railroading ephemera, "American Passenger Trains And Locomotives Illustrated" is informed, informative, a treat to
simply browse through, and a very highly recommended addition to personal, academic, and community library American Railroading History reference collections and reading lists.

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