

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fine Food's Foundations

**Author Richard Luckin to lecture on “*Dining on Rails*” book
and Railroad Dining Car China from the 1880s to 2007**

*See railroad china from the Museum's collection
and get signed copy of “Dining on Rails.”*

Saturday, July 28, at 2 p.m.

SACRAMENTO –On Saturday, July 28, at 2 p.m. Richard Luckin will educate and entertain, taking us back in time to the earliest china patterns in the days when railroads first added dining cars. During his 55-minute lecture, he will detail the depth and diversity of railroad china patterns. Mr. Luckin is a noted author and award-winning documentary producer.

The public is invited to learn about the whole creative process of railroad china and the experience of dining on the rails. Mr Luckin will discuss how railroad china designs have reflected the traveling tastes of the time—from how the Pullman Company's china changed with the advent of streamlined passenger trains in the mid-1930s to Amtrak china from the past through the present.

A special feature will be private railcar china, used to entertain the wealthy, and luxury train china currently being used today on the GrandLuxe Express (formerly the American Orient Express).

Another highlight will be an overview of the china companies that produced china for the railroad, and the story of how Syracuse China produced the popular *California Poppy* pattern. Visitors will be able to see and hear about special china used on some of the trains, including Union Pacific's *Portland Rose* and *Columbine*, New York Central's *20th Century Limited* and *Mercury*, Pennsylvania Railroad's *Broadway Limited*, Santa Fe's *Super Chief*, and Southern Pacific's *Daylight* and *Golden State Limited*. The Museum will showcase samples of selected china pieces from its extensive collection.

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Author Richard Luckin: “Dining on Rails” and Railroad Dining Car China

Hear about the role of women as designers of china, like Baltimore & Ohio’s blue china. Learn about Elizabeth Colter, who worked for Fred Harvey—the corporation that provided hotel and food service to the Santa Fe Railway—and designed Santa Fe’s famous *Mimbreno* china pattern for the *Super Chief* of 1937.

Entry to Mr. Luckin’s talk on July 28 at 2 p.m. is included with regular Museum admission (currently \$8 adults, \$3 youths ages 6-17, ages 5 and under free). Attendance for his 2 p.m. presentation is limited to 135 on a first-come, first-served basis (if demand warrants, an additional presentation will be scheduled later in the day). For 24-hour info, visit the Museum’s website at www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org and click on “What’s New,” or call (916) 445-6645.

Copies of “Dining by Rail,” *An Encyclopedia of Railroad China*, are available from the Museum Store for \$74.95. This 400-page book is a classic and a “must-have” for any collector of dining car china. It is an outstanding reference book, with more than 50 pages of color photos, providing a comprehensive look at railroad china from the 1880s to the present. To purchase, visit the Museum Store (open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.), shop online at www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org or call 800-417-7245. Also available from the Museum Store are reproduction chinaware in the *California Poppy* and *Mimbreno* china patterns from the Santa Fe Railway.

Richard Luckin’s other books include “*Santa Fe & California Poppy China Patterns*” (2002), “*Mimbres to Mimbreno*,” (revised 2000), and “*ButterPat World*” (1995). Mr. Luckin’s documentaries include *Daylight: The Most Beautiful Train in the World*; *Silver Thread through the West: The California Zephyr, Super Chief: Speed – Style – Service* (hosted by Michael Gross); and *Rio Grande Ski Train: A Denver Tradition for Generations*. These programs have been widely aired by Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) on 140 TV stations throughout the U.S. and have won numerous national awards.

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the nonprofit CSRM Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. Widely regarded as North America’s finest and most-visited interpretive railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-square foot. Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill buildings in Old Sacramento. For 24-hour information, call (916) 445-6645 or visit www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org.

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