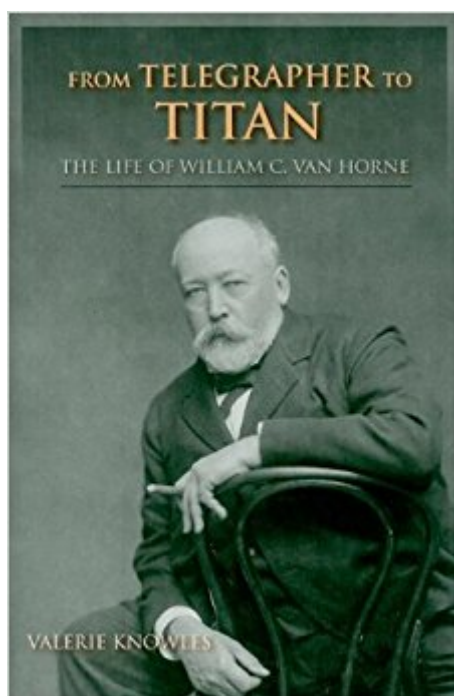


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From Telegrapher To Titan: The Life Of William C. Van Horne (Railroads Past And Present)



Synopsis

William C. Van Horne, a true titan of North American business, started his railroad career at the age of 12 working various jobs for the Michigan Central, and crowned it by becoming the president of the Canadian Pacific. He is credited with opening Cuba's interior by means of railway, greatly expanding Canada's interests by launching the sea transport division of the Canadian Pacific with regular luxury liner service between Vancouver and Hong Kong and completing Canada's first transcontinental railway. Van Horne was knighted by Queen Victoria for his contributions to Canadian Unity and, more recently, was named Laureate of the Century by the Canadian Business Hall of Fame. A man of many talents, Van Horne was also Canada's premier art collector and one of its leading financiers. In *From Telegrapher to Titan*, Valerie Knowles delivers a gripping account of this larger-than-life figure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Knowles has... provided railroad enthusiasts with a thoroughgoing analysis, and her work is likely to appeal to many business and transportation historians as well." [Business History Review](#)"In this volume, Valerie Knowles delivers a gripping account of this larger-than-life figure." [NMRA Magazine](#)"Given the subject's significance... I think Indiana University Press has an opportunity... to fill an inexcusable void in both railroad and Canadian history." [Herbert H. Harwood, Jr., The New York, Westchester & Boston Railway: J. P. Morgan's Magnificent Mistake, \(IUP, 2008\)](#)"While much has been written about the CPR's construction and early years of

operation, there has been comparatively little recorded about the man who was such a key figure in its early history. This exhaustive volume by Valerie Knowles fills that void nicely." *Michigan Railfan*, Vol. 72#3, May-June 2011

"In *From Telegrapher to Titan*, Valerie Knowles takes us back to an era of frenzied progress, a time of frontier mentality and old money, and shows us a titan amongst men, who rose from being a messenger boy to the Chairman of the Canadian Pacific Railway while becoming one of the foremost art patrons of his time as well as a devoted father and husband. Van Horne's legacy is felt today; his signature forever etched upon the country in tracks, coast to coast." *Rail Canadien*, September-October 2004, reviewing a previous edition or volume "For the most part, Van Horne was a remarkable person and for Canada a real hero that helped pull Canada together and settle the west. Valerie Knowles has done an excellent job in describing the man and telling his story. The book is easy to read and, as in all good history books, includes a broad range of references. It is certainly well worth the read and is a must for anyone who wants to learn more about Van Horne." *Bruce Ballantyne*, *Branchline*, June 2005, reviewing a previous edition or volume

The author has written an excellent biography on William Van Horne. The author presents William Van Horne as someone who had vision, drive and determination, traits that seem to be typical of the most successful business people then as well as today.

I enjoyed reading this book, it kept my attention, and never got dull or dry. Very well researched. I appreciated the sources she used especially Van Horne's personal letters to his friends, family and business associates. I feel, however, that the book really should have included more photographs. I would have liked to have seen his artwork, photos of his massive collection, and more photos of his family. Other than that, it was an excellent job.

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