

The History of LCCA Convention Cars - Part IX

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Editor's Note: Each issue will cover several of the club's convention cars in order of issuance by the LCCA.



6323 Virginia Chemicals Single Dome Tanker

The 16th LCCA Annual Convention was held in Norfolk, Virginia in 1986, and the selection was a Virginia Chemicals Tank Car. The car's body shell is a type II, molded in grey plastic and painted black. The lettering is white for the most part except for the red and black lettering on the decals, with a small portion being white. The convention souvenir notation reads "L.C.C.A. 16th Annual Convention

Norfolk, Virginia July 25-26, 1986." The tank body has the Virginia Chemical identifier "VCSX101" in white lettering on the left side. The dome and end caps are molded in black plastic and painted black with the end caps being type II. The end caps contain the identifier "VCSX101" and the lettering "AB AIR BRAKES." This was the first time Lionel ever painted lettering on end caps, as this feature was used the following year in 1987 on the 19600 Milwaukee Road Tanker. Standard Lionel parts are used for

the ladders, platform and handrails. The frame is molded in black plastic and for the first time, the car number and built date, 1-86, are on the frame in white lettering. Another first is the decal on all four hazard boards on the frame. The car has the die-cast O-scale trucks, which was a first for the LCCA. Members were polled a year before at the New Orleans Convention, and most wanted the die-cast trucks on all future LCCA Cars. There were 2,500 cars produced. This car is hard to find and carries a slight premium.



17870 East Camden & Highland Standard "O" Boxcar

Again, the LCCA did a great job with the commemorative issue for the 17th LCCA Annual Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas for 1987. The 17870 East Camden & Highland Standard "O" Boxcar is an "O" scale body style from the Pola dies that Lionel purchased back in 1973. The car was nicknamed the "EACH" car, "EA" for east, "C" for Camden and "H" for Highland. This is a very classy looking car and is impressive in size, remembering that

all boxcars in a train are not all the same size.

The body is molded in a light orange plastic, painted a little darker orange. The roof and catwalk are painted silver with the catwalk molded in grey plastic. The large stripe along the sides is painted a beige shade called desert sand. The doors are molded and painted the same as the body, with black plastic door guides. The lettering is all black, and the convention souvenir notation reads "L.C.C.A. 17th Annual Convention Little Rock, Arkansas July 31-Aug. 2, 1987." The

built date is 1-87. Located in the wide stripe is a silhouette of the State of Arkansas, denoting Little Rock and the Highland Industrial Park. The trucks are die-cast "O" scale. Lionel had a problem painting the roof, which required a special paint mask. If you check out any of the other Standard "O" boxcars or reefers, you'll find that they are not painted with this detail. There were 2,500 units produced, and it is already hard to find. It is a very attractive looking piece of rail equipment and commands a slight premium.