



Foreword

The book in your hands is unique. To my knowledge there has never been a model railroad publication conceived and brought to reality by a group of hobbyists themselves. But that is the case here: Five model railroaders who met over the Internet, became friends there, and decided that N Scale narrow gauge modeling needed a comprehensive, up-to-date Handbook, and that we would produce it.

We come from all walks of life, yet are bound together by our shared hobby. There is Rick Blanchard, with his own graphic arts agency; Bruce Hunt, Director of Engineering with a world-wide computer software firm; Tom Knapp, a senior engineer with a global construction company; Tim Mulina, publisher of numerous railroad photo and reference works; and myself, a retired U.S. Army officer with a history of involvement in N-Scale going back forty years.

In four days at the 2002 National Narrow Gauge Convention in Warwick, Rhode Island, our little group laid its plans for this book. The ideas flew so heavily that we found ourselves working sometimes until 2 AM. Almost instantly, it became obvious that among us we had all the skills required to make the Nn3 Handbook a reality. Rick would do the layout and printing; Bruce, the computer conversions and coding; Tom would develop the necessary Nn3 standards; Tim, solicit the advertising to meet our costs; and I would be responsible as Edi-

tor. In addition to these duties, each of us would also write several articles for the Handbook.

We then approached several of the experienced “Regulars” on the Internet Nn3 List to act as “Topic Team Leaders”, each taking charge of one chapter of the Handbook based on his particular expertise, in the subjects not already taken on by the original “founders.” Virtually every one of them accepted the challenge of locating authors and managing the chapter’s progress. For the entire Handbook, the Topic Team Leaders are: Rick Blanchard - Nn3 History; Ted Brandon - Motive Power; Tim Mulina - Rolling Stock, Track; Gregg Cudworth - Layouts & Modules; Cameron Turner - Operations; Jim Hoover - Electronics; Mark Fielder (UK) - International Modeling; and Tom Knapp - Nn3 Standards.

I cannot say enough in praise of my four fellow founders, or about the additional associates and authors we were able to recruit from the Nn3 Internet List. You will meet them in this Handbook; they are not only fine modelers, but also accomplished writers in their fields. Their work was so well presented that editing it became a pleasure.

I’m confident that you will enjoy this book, but I also hope I can count on hearing from you with comments and new ideas. After all, the Nn3 Handbook was written specifically with you in mind.

Ted Brandon, Editor