H. Roger Grant
Kathryn & Calhoun Lemon Professor of History, Clemson University

Thurs. – March 14, 2013
3:00 – 5:00 pm
Northwestern University
Transportation Center
Chambers Hall – 600 Foster, Evanston

“The Value in Writing Railroad History”

H. Roger Grant, the Kathryn and Calhoun Lemon Professor of History at Clemson University, is one the most well-known railroad historians in North America. His books include histories of the Chicago & North Western, Chicago Great Western, Erie Lackawanna, and Wabash; all of which served Chicago. His works also include The Country Railroad Station in America and his much acclaimed book, Visionary Railroader: Jervis Langdon, Jr. and the Transportation Revolution. Jervis, who was related to Mark Twain, headed the Baltimore & Ohio, Chicago Rock Island and Pacific and Penn Central, more railroads that served Chicago. In total, Roger has been involved with over 30 books. Roger is now working on the history of Henry Posner's Railroad Development Company. RDC owns the Iowa Interstate, the remarkable restoration of rail service on the former Rock Island line between Blue Island, Illinois, and Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Railroads are a part of the fabric of North America. Roger will discuss the value of writing railroad history and share a few antidotes of his experiences in researching these histories. A few comments about editors may creep into his presentation. Roger is known for his wit as well as his depth of knowledge. We should have a very interesting afternoon and you might be encouraged to document your own involvement in the railroad industry.