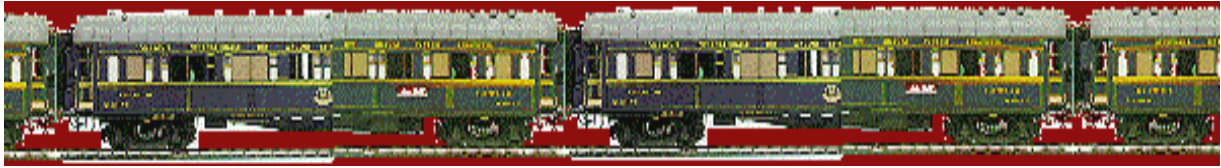


Compagnie Internationale de Wagons-Lits



Orient-Express blocked in a snow storm, 1929

In 1872, a 27-year old Belgian, Georges Nagelmackers, created the "Compagnie Internationale de Wagons-Lits". To beat Pullman, who was trying to capture the European market, Nagelmackers had a brilliant idea that would revolutionize European transportation: his trains would not only be the most comfortable and the most luxurious, but they would cross the borders of all of Europe. In 1884, the company became "Compagnie



Sean Connery in "Murder on the Orient Express"

Internationale des Wagons-Lits et des Grands Express Européens". The company's golden logo with two lions holding the intertwined "WL" became world famous. The golden age of Wagons-Lits followed. Every year, a new train would open a new destination across Europe, Asia or the Middle East, each bearing a name that would become a legend : Orient-Express, Train Bleu, Golden Arrow, Transsiberien, etc. One century later, the myth is still alive.

After WW II, Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits expanded into new markets and soon became a major player in the hotel business, travel agencies, and restaurants. In 1967, the name changed and the company became "Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits et du Tourisme," reflecting the evolution into new activities. Today, based in Paris, Compagnie des Wagons-Lits Diffusion is entirely dedicated to renewing the tradition of train luxury and dream vacations.

Some of the Compagnie's more famous trains:

- 1883 : Orient Express
- 1887 : Sud Express
- 1890 : Bombay Express
- 1890 : Peninsular and Oriental Express
- 1890 : Malle des Indes
- 1890 : Rome Express
- 1894 : Ostende Vienne Express
- 1896 : Vienne Nice Express
- 1896 : Le Caire Louxor Express
- 1898 : Transsibérien
- 1900 : Riviera Express
- 1900 : Transatlantique Express
- 1904 : Oberland Lemman Express
- 1908 : Rome Florence Cannes Express
- 1909 : Andalousie Express
- 1919 : Paris Prague Express
- 1919 : Simplon Orient Express
- 1922 : Train Bleu
- 1923 : Transmandchourien Express
- 1926 : Flèche d'or (Golden Arrow)
- 1927 : L'Etoile du Nord
- 1927 : Londres Vichy Pullman Express
- 1929 : Oiseau Bleu
- 1929 : Côte d'Azur rapide
- 1929 : Star of Egypt
- 1929 : Taurus Express
- 1929 : Sunshine Pullman Express
- 1931 : Golden Mountain Express

