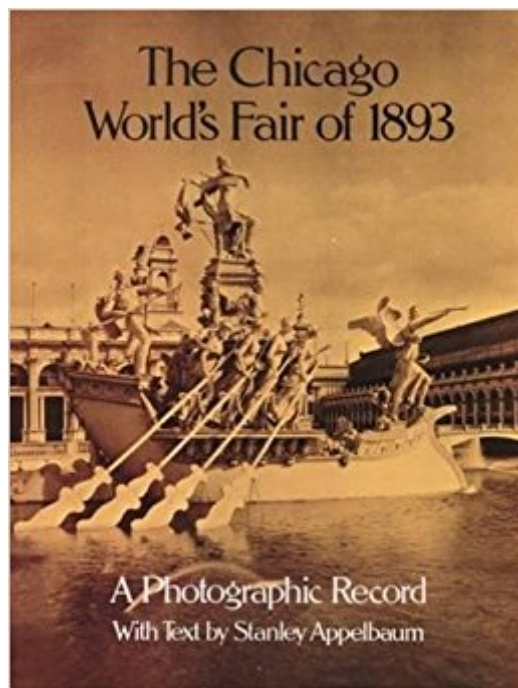




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The Chicago World's Fair Of 1893: A Photographic Record (Dover Architectural)



Synopsis

Originally conceived to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America, the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 was one of the largest (633 acres) and most influential aggregations of human talent, energy, and industry ever assembled. More than 27 million visitors entered the grounds (now Jackson Park) to marvel at the exhibits and displays housed in some 200 buildings, including those of 79 foreign governments and 38 states. Although the Fair had its share of "firsts" (original Ferris wheel, first midway, Edison's kinetoscope, etc.), its chief marvel was its architecture. It is that aspect which is emphasized in this striking photographic record. Beginning with an overview of the fair's planning and conceptual stages, Stanley Appelbaum's well-researched text then proceeds to a fascinating discussion of the personalities, regional rivalries, and intense controversy surrounding the Beaux-Arts architecture (the "White City" style) of the fair, including its enormous impact on subsequent American architecture. The contributions of such outstanding architects and firms as R. M. Hunt; McKim, Mead and White; Frederick Law Olmsted; and Peabody and Stearns are described. The book then becomes a building-by-building walking tour of the fair — imaginatively reconstructed with the help of 128 sharply reproduced rare contemporary photographs, printed on fine coated stock, and a concise, fact-filled text. The placid basins, ponds, and Lagoon that graced the fairgrounds lend a serene aura to these priceless views of the great buildings — and sights of the fair: the Beaux-Arts glories of the Administration and Agriculture Buildings; Daniel Chester French's statue of the Republic; the Columbian Fountain by Frederick MacMonnies; the Golden Door of Louis Sullivan's Transportation Building; the Peristyle; Mary Cassatt's mural in the Woman's Building; the pure classicism of the Palace of Fine Arts (now the Museum of Science and Industry); numerous state and foreign pavilions, and of course, the Midway — the first separate amusement area at a World's Fair, and the reputed location of Little Egypt's celebrated danse du ventre. In the concluding section, the author touches on other memorable aspects of the fair and its times: the Panic of 1893; the Pullman Strike; famous visitors (Archduke Ferdinand, the Spanish Infanta, etc.); cultural and social congresses, and finally, the disastrous fires that ultimately destroyed many of the buildings. For social and cultural historians, Chicagoans, and anyone interested in the special magic of a world's fair, this book is a loving and nostalgic look back — to a time bathed in the golden light of the fin-de-siècle years, when a colossal spectacle of human achievement in art, science, and industry captured the world's attention for one magic and unforgettable moment.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Stanley Appelbaum served for decades as Dover's Editor in Chief until his retirement in 1996. He continues to work as a selector, compiler, editor, and translator of literature in a remarkable range of languages that includes Spanish, Italian, French, German, and Russian.

I purchased this photographic record as an accompaniment to the "Devil in the White City" as others have done. I own an original copy of the "Photographs of the World's Fair" published and sold by subscription only by the "Werner Company" of Chicago. The copyright is 1894. The photographs in the Dover publication are far superior as to clarity as one would expect. The difference is the amount of photos taken of the various participants from around the world in my copy. There are 175 pages of photographs, many with multiple photos. As a child in the 1940's, I grew up in Hyde Park/Jackson Park area and visited the "Palace of Fine Arts", AKA, "Museum of Science and Industry" many times and not until I read "The Devil in the White City" and the Dover photographic record did I realize how important the fair was to the city and to the world. These two books are well worth the purchase price.

This is an okay pictorial collection of White City photographs. None were new to me, though. My chief complaint is that all of the most striking photographs are blown up to span two pages-- which means they're cut right down the middle. I would have been happier with photographs oriented vertically to maximize the space on one page while preserving the image.

This is a perfect companion to The Devil in the White City! Being able to see photographs as the buildings and grounds are described is fabulous. What an amazing feat!

Having just finished "Devil in the White City", I was fascinated by the subject. This picture book gave credence and magnitude to what the imagination had perceived by reading that wonderful book.

Having read "Devil in the White City", this photographic record provided clear, concise photos and extensive information regarding the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. Highly recommended for Chicago history buffs.

Hard to believe they put this Fair together so quickly--lots of huge bldgs.-- plus there were many problems along the way. And while the Fair was going on, there was a serial killer in the city of Chicago killing young women. Name of the book is, "The Devil in the White City".

Having just read "The Devil in The White City" I really wanted to see pictures of the World's Fair. This book delivered and was much easier than trying to dig through Google for the pictures I wanted. Highly recommended if all you want is a little back story and lots of pictures.

if you're reading or have read "devil in the white city", you have got to get this book as well. i didn't realize how spectacular the world's fair really looked! the writing in this book isn't very exciting, but the pics are great.

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