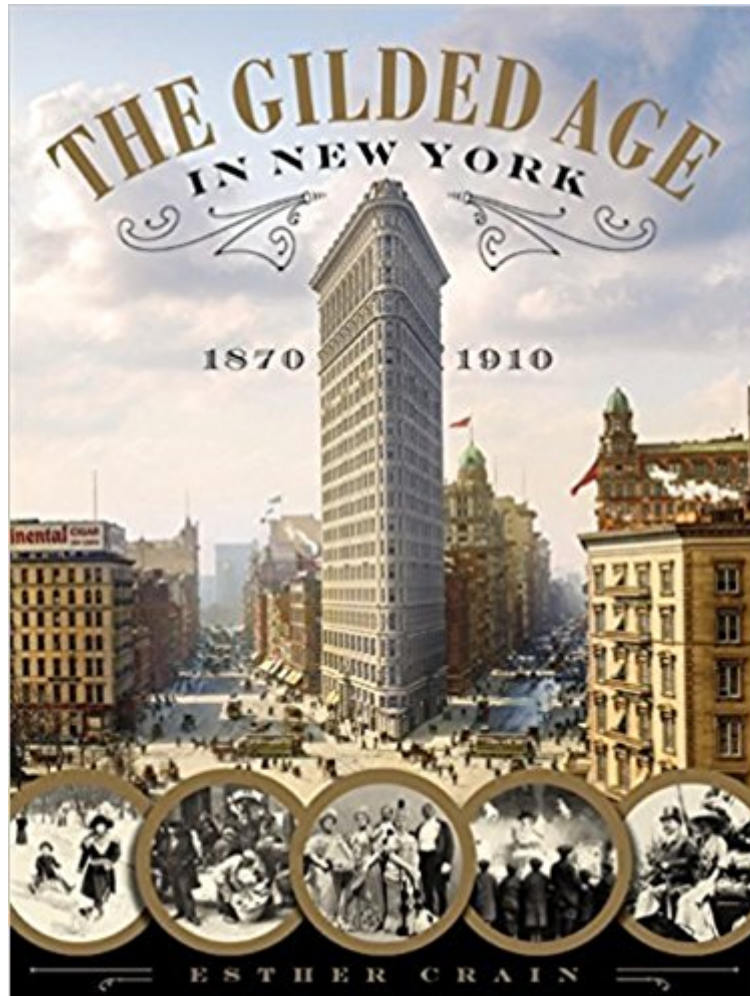




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# The Gilded Age In New York, 1870-1910



## Synopsis

The drama, expansion, mansions and wealth of New York City's transformative Gilded Age era, from 1870 to 1910, captured in a magnificently illustrated hardcover. In forty short years, New York City suddenly became a city of skyscrapers, subways, streetlights, and Central Park, as well as sprawling bridges that connected the once-distant boroughs. In Manhattan, more than a million poor immigrants crammed into tenements, while the half of the millionaires in the entire country lined Fifth Avenue with their opulent mansions. The Gilded Age in New York captures what it was like to live in Gotham then, to be a daily witness to the city's rapid evolution. Newspapers, autobiographies, and personal diaries offer fascinating glimpses into daily life among the rich, the poor, and the surprisingly large middle class. The use of photography and illustrated periodicals provides astonishing images that document the bigness of New York: the construction of the Statue of Liberty; the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge; the shimmering lights of Luna Park in Coney Island; the mansions of Millionaire's Row. Sidebars detail smaller, fleeting moments: Alice Vanderbilt posing proudly in her "Electric Light" ball gown at a society-changing masquerade ball; immigrants stepping off the boat at Ellis Island; a young Theodore Roosevelt witnessing Abraham Lincoln's funeral. The Gilded Age in New York is a rare illustrated look at this amazing time in both the city and the country as a whole. Author Esther Crain, the go-to authority on the era, weaves first-hand accounts and fascinating details into a vivid tapestry of American society at the turn of the century. Praise for New-York Historical Society New York City in 3D In The Gilded Age, also by Esther Crain: "Vividly captures the transformation from cityscape of horse carriages and gas lamps 'bursting with beauty, power and possibilities' as it staggered into a skyscraping Imperial City." -Sam Roberts, The New York Times "Get a glimpse of Edith Wharton's world." - Entertainment Weekly Must List "What better way to revisit this rich period . . . ?" - Library Journal

## Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Black Dog & Leventhal (September 27, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316353663

ISBN-13: 978-0316353663

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 1.2 x 12.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #102,865 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Lifestyle & Events > Lifestyle](#) #59 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > History](#) #1234 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local](#)

## Customer Reviews

"A beguiling, lavishly illustrated book that. . . epitomizes what Ms. Crain calls the city's incredible energy and sense of its own greatness and destiny." — Sam Roberts, *The New York Times*  
"Crain unspools the story of four decades in crisp prose studded with pictures." — Entertainment Weekly

Esther Crain, a native New Yorker, wrote *New-York Historical Society's New York City in 3D in the Gilded Age*. In 2008, she launched *Ephemeral New York*, a website that chronicles the city's past, which has been profiled in numerous publications, including the *New York Times*, *New York Daily News*, and *New York Post*.

While some historical events were known, more were not, and the accompanying pictures were wonderful! Highly recommended.

Beautiful and informative. A must if you live in or love New York.

Gave as gift and it was a hit!

In great condition

Beautiful book!

Wow....I can't say enough good things about this book. I love good, meaty coffee table books, and this certainly fits the bill. The illustrations are simply dazzling. Many of the historic photos are colorized in a way I've never seen before. The cover of the book is a good example of what to expect inside....a huge picture with lots of detail painstakingly colorized that brings a real vibrancy to the work. My husband and I kind of get hypnotized staring at some of those colorized images of Mulberry street and Central Park. The actual book itself was much larger than I was expecting, and

the quality of the illustrations were sharp and clear. Even the fonts in the side-bars added a wonderful period touch. And the text: Very nice! This is a whirlwind tour of NYC, so no topic has a ton of depth, but there are interesting sidebars with vignettes that provide humanizing details. I hope I don't sound like an advertisement....but for \$27 you get a lot for your money. I wish there were more stunning coffee table books like this for other cities. Boston, anyone? Washington DC?

This is a fantastic book! I am blown away by the amount of information, pictures and how all of it is displayed. I love looking at old photographs because of a natural curiosity about how people lived 100+ years ago. The time period is so close to ours, yet so far away. This book can be used as a coffee table book, but that would not be respectful enough for it considering what really is inside. I can sit and slowly turn the pages absorbing the reality of what life was like in New York City starting from 1870. Many of the photographs and illustrations are very good and it's incredible to peer so clearly back into time. It's as if I could walk into the pictures and be there! The harshness of poverty, the rise of new wealth, city life, factory workers, the horrific fire at the shirt company.....it's all there. Some of the photos are graphic and the text is very well written and descriptive giving a vast amount of interesting information. Again, I don't think this is coffee-table material because it goes very deeply into life and details of the years 1870 - 1910. This is a great book on the history of New York and anyone who was born there or has an interest in New York should spend the \$25.00 or so and get this book.

This would be a beautiful book if the manufacturing was better. The first time I opened it right out of the box, the spine cracked in the front of the book. Let me just say right up front that books of this caliber with hefty price tags should be manufactured with a little bit of care and quality. I can't recommend this as a gift because on closer inspection of the book, it's really not well-made and it will definitely be falling apart further. I thought about buying a second copy of this to give as a Christmas gift, but I've now scrapped that idea. Anyway, moving on. The content is really amazing and the imagery and photography are really lovely. The images really tell the story of New York during a very prolific time in the city's history. It also provides insight into a way of life during a period rife with social ills and enormous growth in both population (immigration) and industry. There's a decent amount of contrast between poverty on the one hand and extreme wealth on the other hand. The city was divided in terms of social classes, a lot of racism (the immigrants), dirty politics and corruption, the Civil War, the death of Lincoln and the rising of so many iconic buildings in New York like the Flatiron Building, which graces the book jacket. Hmmm, kind of

sounds like modern times. . . This book even gives some space to the Triangle Shirt Waist Factory fire – although, technically, that happened in 1911. But the circumstances leading up to the fire began long before the fire actually happened and so many lives were lost. But as women's fashion was changing rapidly, factories like this were becoming the norm as was the "department store." This book is like a timeline of events punctuated with the visual history behind major events and the ongoing cultural shifts that were taking place. I know most of the information in this from the New York Documentary by Ric Burns but this is a nice companion to that. I was born and raised in this beautiful city with all of its complexities and contradictions and I still live here. Sometimes I think there is no other place on earth. I just wish the publisher had invested more in the manufacturing process instead of skimping on quality for profits.

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