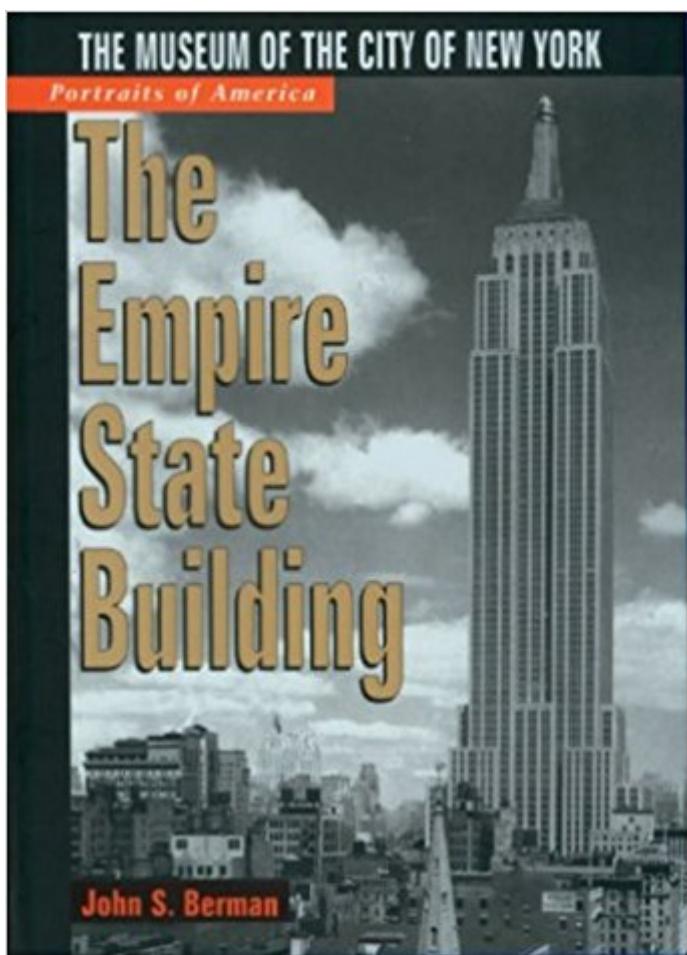


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The Portraits Of America: Empire State Building: The Museum Of The City Of New York



Synopsis

It is the world's most famous skyscraper, a gleaming Art Deco tower of steel, concrete and marble that is the enduring symbol of New York. Conceived by Governor Alfred E. Smith, the project commenced on January 22, 1930, less than two months after the Black Tuesday stock market crash, as America entered the beginnings of the Great Depression. Along with the revealing text, a wealth of archival photographs taken before, during and after construction illustrate the mammoth undertaking. Every image pays tribute to the steelworkers, riveters, stone masons and the thousands of other unsung heroes whose fearlessness and skill enabled the tower to rise in little more than a year's time, and gave birth to a legendary icon of American vision and ingenuity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A worthwhile (and inexpensive) introduction to one of the world's great buildings. There is some text by John Berman but it is essentially a pictorial book with just over a hundred photos that fortunately have quite detailed captions. The majority of these have been seen before but I've never seen the two on page seventy-nine showing the GoodYear dirigible Columbia attempting to pick up mailbags from the mooring mast. Perhaps the less said about that idea the better! There are thirty-six photos showing the construction, mostly taken by famous reportage photographer Lewis Hine and a better showing of his photos can be seen in 'The Empire State Building' by Freddy Langer (ISBN 3791324918) The other main photo coverage is of the B-25 bomber that crashed in the building on

July 28 1945. The rest of the photos show some interiors, visitors to the observation deck and a selection of the ESB during night and day, including the inevitable one of a lightning strike. Perhaps the most intriguing item is on page twenty-six, it shows a page from a typewritten record of the construction by Starrett Brothers and Eken. There are seventy-seven of these pages and photos which were rediscovered in the mid-nineties and reproduced in 'Building The Empire State' by Carol Willis (ISBN 0393730301) a fascinating celebration of this stunning skyscraper.

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