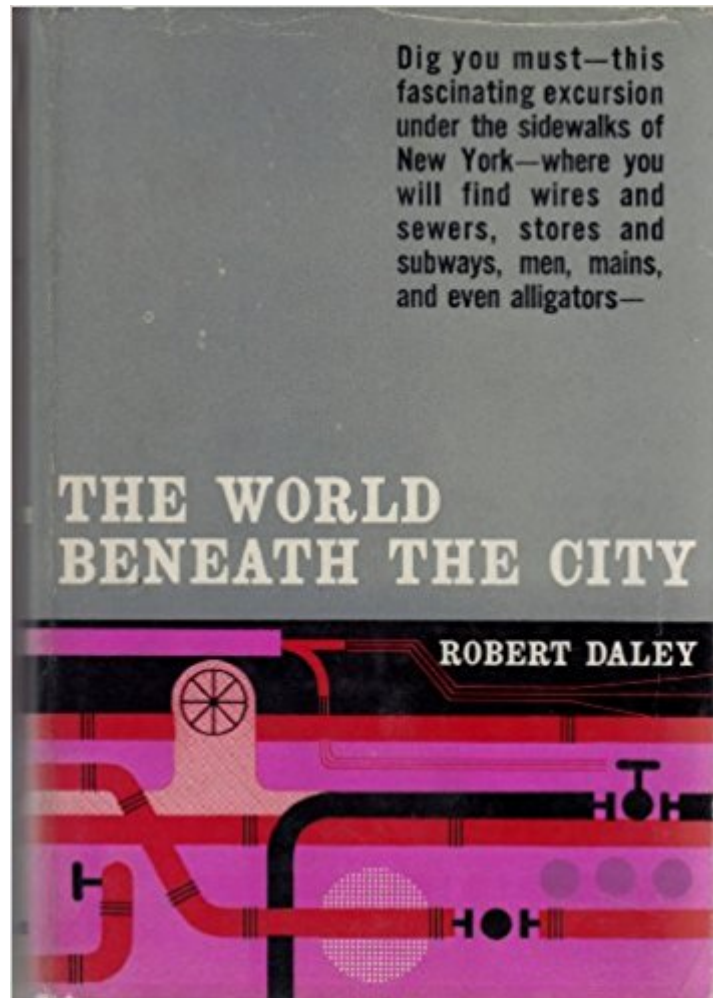




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The World Beneath The City



Synopsis

Dust jacket design by S.K.A. His first book.

Book Information

Hardcover: 223 pages

Publisher: J. B. Lippincott; 1st edition (1959)

Language: English

ASIN: B000OUPV5U

Shipping Weight: 15 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,159,444 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Travel > United States > New York > Long Island

Customer Reviews

Dust jacket design by S.K.A. His first book.

I am a NY history junkie and wanted to know more about the building of the city (especially sewers, subways and the like). The book offers some fairly straightforward history but the focus is more on the personalities involved. The author seems to have done his research and tells the stories in an easy, entertaining way. it was a good read as far as it went. The book was written in the late 1950s, so don't expect more recent information and some of the allusions are now dated. Also, what I was most interested in, sewers, got relatively little attention but what was discussed was well done.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book! I actually read most of it during a road trip back from my first visit to NYC. It's not the most up-to-date thing, since it was published in the 60s, but it has a lot of great stories about the goings on beneath the streets of NYC. Robert Daley can turn a phrase and really makes the book very enjoyable to read.

Well written, explained the history of what came to be under NYC for each system with just the right balance of details.

lots of interesting stories about old New York and all the characters that helped build the city that it is today

A disappointment. I was looking for a book about the building of the NYC subways, but this certainly wasn't it. Very uneven in its writing and poorly focused. One chapter details the efforts to secretly construct a fan driven subway beneath the streets, another - longer - chapter tells us more than anyone would want to know about "Smelly Kelly", a subway inspector noted for his ability to locate sewer and gas line leaks (and the occasional infestation of decaying rats), with his remarkable nose. The author knows there's a fascinating story to tell about how the earth beneath NYC came to be filled with gas, water, sewer, steam, electric and subway lines; but he doesn't do a very good job of exploring his topic or sharing with the reader just how it came to pass.

This is not the type of book I would typically select, but my brother recommended it, and it was actually very interesting. This book was written in 1959, and it covers the history of what goes on beneath New York City, from its founding days to the present (well, 1959). There is information about water and sanitation, the subway (first subway was built in secret to avoid being shut down by Tammany Hall), to the people and creatures that have made the underground their home. You'll read about some interesting characters who worked underground and above, one of my favorites was "Smelly" Kelly who could identify countless smells and pinpoint their origin. I know nothing about New York City, so I may have enjoyed it more if I had any idea where all of the streets and buildings mentioned were.

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