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New York In The Thirties (New York City)



Synopsis

Nearly 100 classic images by noted photographer: Rockefeller Center on the rise, Bowery restaurants, dramatic views of the City's bridges, Washington Square, old movie houses, rows of old tenements laced with laundry, Wall Street, Flatiron Building, waterfront, and many other landmarks.

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Customer Reviews

If you can't afford the recent huge hardback *Changing New York* but still love elegant black and white photos that offer a peephole into the New York city of the Depression, than you should not hesitate to get this wonderful volume. It's well bound too.

This book and similar ones for other decades are a wonderful trip through history by the use of photography and words that supplement what we read, hear about or have experienced. As a native New Yorker, looking through this book (that was originally a WPA project (Works Progress Administration)), it brings back memories of places that either still existed when I was young or are no longer present. In any event, it is worth it to see these photos for anyone who has any sense of or interest in history. Looking at this decade, the 1930's (mid to late), one can see how rapidly New York City and its surroundings grew over a few short decades. There is one photograph of a downtown sea plane landing area for wealthier commuters to the financial district that is interesting. The few little buildings across the street from this East River landing spot not but a few

decades later would be 111 Wall Street that was a Citi Bank, now CitiCorp banking building. It is also near the Seaport Museum. In the lobby area of the building there was (still is?) a small area dedicated to objects dating back to Colonial New York City, even a tri-corner hat, shoes, etc.)

This is an interesting book that documents the history of Manhattan through black and white pictures. Most pictures printed in this book are between 1935 and 1938. It is by no means an exhaustive work but it should be of interest for casual readers interested in the history of New York City. The financial district, New York harbor, East River, the Lower East Side and Fifth Avenue is prominently illustrated. Most notable parts of the city missing in this book are the Time Square and Central Park. However there are several photographs that are worth looking at, which includes; a 1938 aerial picture looking-down on Broadway from Wall Street to Battery Park; a 1938 aerial photograph of the Wall Street; the 1937 picture of Brooklyn Bridge with pier 21; a 1936 picture of Metropolitan Elevated Railway Company's Lines at Second and the Third Avenue; a 1937 picture of Hester Street chicken market; the 1936 picture of Washington Square looking North (this is my favorite photograph in this book); a 1935 photograph of 32 Street and Third Avenue showing a street newspaper vendor; there are more than one hundred magazines on display in this photograph and the covers of many of magazine shows movie stars of the day that include; Jean Harlow, Greta Garbo, and Claudette Colbert.

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Wonderful overview gives good idea about what 1930s was like--I think lots of set designers would look at this to see how things looked!

This is a wonderful book of black and white photos of New York City in the 1930's, by the brilliant photographer Berenice Abbott. Abbott worked on her own on a photographic record of the city through the first half of the Thirties, and finally found funding and support when she was hired by the Federal Arts Project as supervisor of the "Changing New York" project. Abbott's focus was in large part sociological, and many of the pictures show various (and varied!) city residents in a time of enormous stress. But she also had a remarkable ability to photograph buildings, in detail and overall. Much of what she shows is gone -- I have lived in and near New York for almost 70 years,

and some of what she shows is definitely before my time. But a lot of the bones of the city remain. Few people captured them so brilliantly as Berenice Abbott.

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