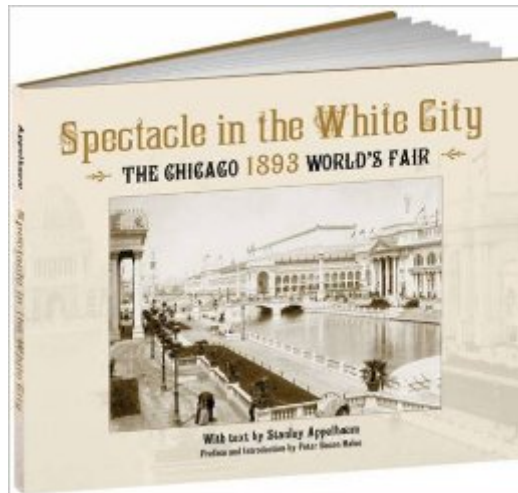


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# Spectacle In The White City: The Chicago 1893 World's Fair (Calla Editions)



## Synopsis

Over 27 million people visited the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. Countless more experienced the fair through the wondrous images of C. D. Arnold, the era's foremost architectural photographer. Through his luminous pictures, Arnold became the event's leading historian, publicist, and visual philosopher. This gallery of Arnold's photographs, painstakingly retouched to achieve a new radiance, presents a magnificent tribute to the "White City" of shining Beaux-Arts buildings. In addition to its visual tour of the Exposition's extensive buildings and grounds, this lavish book also celebrates a city that treasures its architecture. The classical Greek and Roman design expressed by the Chicago World's Fair defined the course of American monumental building for decades to come, and the text accompanying these historic photographs provides fascinating interpretations of the Exposition's influence on American building styles and tastes. From conception to closing day and beyond, *Spectacle in the White City* offers glimpses of past splendor that will be treasured by Chicagoans, history buffs, and lovers of fine art and photography.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the perfect companion piece to *Devil In The White City*. Thank goodness there was photography in 1893.

After reading "Devil in the White City" I wanted to know what the Chicago world exposition really looked like as millions of people saw Chicago! This is a beautiful book of photographs taken as the "white city" was being built and as visitors arrived. The sizes of buildings are amazing! You don't have to read "Devil..." to appreciate what was done for this event!

If I could go back in time it would be to the White City. The photos and descriptions in this book stir the imagination. As a former resident of Chicago I am familiar with the area where it all happened and this book fills in the details of the buildings that once were there.

I try to collect all things about the 1893 Columbian Exposition (Chicago World's Fair) and so far have amassed a pretty good amount of material. I have been fortunate going to auctions and periodically finding old, authentic books written about the fair, which were current in 1893 or 1894, giving a good idea of what the area was like, the effort that went into the buildings and landscape, etc. I received this particular book yesterday and have not yet read it, although I did flip quickly through the pages - it looks fabulous. I am always looking for pictorial accounts from the fair, during the construction, during the time the people flocked (it was one of the largest fairs attended with 27 million attendees) and any other interesting history of the fair itself. This book, no doubt, will be an important added volume to my collection, and no doubt will feature many great photos and intriguing history of the fair. As an added comment, if anyone is interested in what was going on during the fair, in addition to the fair itself, I highly recommend Erik Larson's "The Devil In The White City" as a companion-like book that gives the audience a peek at behind the scenes history that is usually not mentioned in other World's Fair books!

Like most books on the Chicago world's fair it mostly about the buildings. Information and stories about the exhibitors and exhibits are sparse and few. Mostly it talks about the financing, construction, and architecture. That seems to be typical of all of the books I have found on the Worlds Fair (AKA Columbian Exposition of 1893). In that regard it's a very good book. There are several good books of that type. Unfortunately no one seems to write about the exhibits except in the most general way and almost nothing about the exhibitors except for some of the big exhibitors like Westinghouse and the remarkable lighting by Tesla. They are important and intriguing. But you might get the impression that there were only big sprawling exhibits by big business and wealthy people. There were hundreds of smaller exhibits and hundreds of people involved with those. I have pictures of my great grandmother's exhibit of cactus in the Horticulture Building. She was one of a

group of women exhibitors from Texas. She traveled alone in the Texas and Mexican desert and mountains collecting cactus with a mule as her only companion. Think about the hundreds of people involved with exhibits that we don't see and know nothing about. They were extraordinary people. I hope we have not lost the history of the people who participated in one of the great events of our time.

This is an excellent book to complement "The Devil in the White City". The images of the Worlds Fair pavilions are absolutely jaw dropping.

I bought this book for my son for Christmas and he loves it!

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