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Chicago: Growth Of A Metropolis



Synopsis

This is the story of Chicago and how it grew. In a little over a century it rose from a mere frontier outpost to become one of the great cities of the world. No single book can possibly encompass the immense scope of this development or convey the endless diversity of the life of Chicago's people. But with the help of the camera it is possible to capture many dimensions of this extraordinary story. This volume, however, which comprises over 1,000 pictures and 50 maps, tries to do more than show physical development—it attempts to suggest how the city expanded and why it looks the way it does. Because it asks different questions, this book differs markedly from other "pictorial histories" of American cities. Instead of emphasizing society and customs, this volume deals with the physical conditions of life. In place of the conventional interest in "founding fathers" and leading families, it is more concerned with street scenes and ordinary people. Without neglecting downtown, it also reaches into the residential areas and neighborhood shopping centers. Moreover, this volume is concerned with suburbs and "satellite" towns as well as the historic city. "Chicago: Growth of a Metropolis is an incredible book. Like its subject it is excessive, and nothing succeeds like excess. It is handsomely designed, with a thousand photographs that document the physical growth and the spatial patterns of the city. . . . A dimensionalism comes through that no other city has. Carl Sandburg sang it in his poetry, and the book does more to grasp it . . . than any other book I have seen."—Hugh Newell Jacobson, New Republic

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Customer Reviews

This book of seemingly endless photos and related narratives is phenomenal. It exceeded

expectations with it's plethora of documented history.

Very interesting book on the second city even if more pictures would have been appreciated.

For Chicago history buffs. This book is so good, the only reason I bought it is because the 'friend' I gave my own copy to would not give it back. The Encyclopedia of Chicago has more than 1000 pages but can't come close to Growth of a Metropolis in style.

Growth of a Metropolis awes me. The work provides a key resource allowing me to visualize and comprehend the complex complications people grappled with in a generally flailing manner as Chicago's growth sped exponentially through decade after decade of the industrial revolution.

Excellent book about the city and architectural gems in Chicago. I sent it to my new nephew, a lawyer who moved there last year, and his wife, a Chicago native. They are enjoying it very much.

My son picked this book out as part of his Christmas Gift. He loves Chicago and I'm sure loved this book.

This book is a very thorough overview of Chicago's rich history. It also has a very large amount of pictures which make it good as a display book for your coffee table. Anyone who has lived in Chicago can read this and understand the significance of Chicago's past and its influence on the city's evolution.

This came fast and in the good condition that they said it would be in.

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