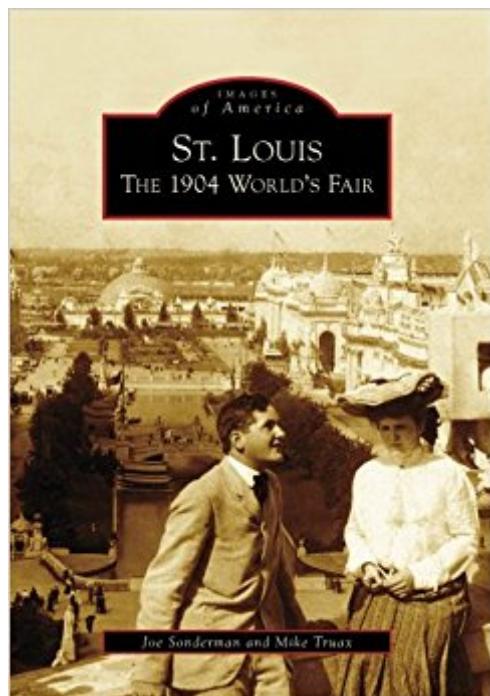


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# St. Louis: The 1904 World's Fair (Images Of America: Missouri)



## **Synopsis**

For seven months in 1904, St. Louis was the greatest city on earth. Millions flocked to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition to behold the inventions of the early 20th century. Many saw electric lights, automobiles, aircraft, and moving pictures for the first time. At a time when few traveled more than a couple miles from home, visitors encountered the people and cultures of faraway lands. It was an educational experience, a *œ*university of mankind. The Pike offered amusement rides, wild animal displays, and fanciful trips through the Hereafter and Creation exhibits. Fairgoers visited the Alps, the North Pole, Russia, and Paris and witnessed famous battles. Everyone wanted to ride the great Observation Wheel. There were hootchy-kootchy dancers and wonderful new foods, such as the ice-cream cone. But it was all temporary, a dream city made to last only a few months. With the exception of today's St. Louis Art Museum, the grand palaces are gone. *St. Louis: The 1904 World's Fair* tells the story of the greatest Victorian-era world's fair since the lights of the fair faded over a century ago, while also examining the fair's legacies and legends.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Joe Sonderman is a lifelong St. Louisan who has written several books on St. Louis history, including Route 66 in St. Louis. Sonderman has worked as an on-air personality and traffic reporter for over 20 years. He is an avid collector of Route 66 and St. Louis memorabilia and maintains an online archive of Route 66 images. Mike Truax is the president of the 1904 World's Fair Society in St. Louis. His interest in the fair developed soon after he moved to the St. Louis area; a small

souvenir ruby fl ash toothpick holder was passed down to him from his great-great-aunt who had attended the exposition.

Unfortunately, the many fascinating pictures and stories have no reference context to help make sense of the whole 1904 World's Fair. My grandma told me stories when I was young about her father taking her and her sisters on the train from Indiana to St Louis for the World's Fair and I always wanted to learn more. Also, I myself lived in St Louis and worked on the campus of Washington University near Forest Park during the early 1980s. I heard stories then about the Fair but wished to learn more. On page 9 of the book there's an aerial perspective drawing of the Fair site but no actual map, no street names, nothing showing a geographical relationship to the rest of the city of St Louis or the relationship of the many buildings to each other. The many buildings and exhibits did not exist separate from the rest of the Fair. There was also a World Olympics going on. Without any map(s), the book is a jumble of many photos, and generally a waste of time for anyone wanting to envision the Fair as a whole and its relationship to present day St Louis. A comprehensive list of buildings and exhibits, perhaps as an appendix, would also be helpful.

As a St. Louisan the fair has an almost mythical place in our history. This book helps provide a vision of that time as well as the marks on the current St. Louis. The magic starts with the cover where a couple is atop a building above art hill overlooking the Palaces of Machinery and Transportation. Some of the images from the Pike, particularly at the entrance are great also (and thoughts of "Hoochey-kootchy" dancers are in my head). The text highlights the magic, with notes about Will Rodgers working there, Teddy Roosevelt opening it, and Geronimo wandering the grounds at 75. In St. Louis the effects of the Fair are still there 100 years later, from the burying of River Des Peres, to the Art Museum (and what St. Louisian hasn't sledged down art hill (first done in January 1905). There is also the famous 1904 bird cage (Which predated the zoo) and the statue of King Louis IX that was first at the fair entrance.

My grandson needed information about the 1904 World's fair for a project that he and a classmate were assigned. Of course, we were able to get information from other sources, but I thought a book would be helpful. This book was excellent. They were excited about all of the information that it contained. The illustrations were great. It turned them on to learn more than what the assignment was. It was exciting to see them looking through it and exclaiming over facts that were presented. An excellent choice.

Wow, just what I wanted! How exciting to see and hear about the history of this fair! I grew up not too far from Forest Park and went there so often, I think I knew every inch of it and enjoyed seeing some of the remaining parts of the 1904 World's Fair.

I really liked the content of the book. The big problem is the book fell apart the first time it was looked at. The whole inside of the book came apart. Now I have good content but a book that is in pieces.

Gave this as a gift to family that was moving to St. Louis for work. Great pictures and history of the 1904 World's Fair there in St. Louis. Today it is a beautiful park, but most of the buildings are long gone. This book helps to recreate the grandeur that was once there.

Great book

Unique images... most I had not seen before. We needed them for a history project about St. Louis. Worked great.

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