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Paris: Les Boulevards



Synopsis

Pulled from the shelf of a rare-book store by collector Neale M. Albert, *Paris: Les Boulevards* is a true gem that was forgotten for well over a century but will now enchant readers once again in this charming facsimile edition. Paris's romantic architecture and vibrant street culture make it one of the most enjoyable cities in the world to stroll and people watch in. This charming little illustrated volume by Charles Franck captures just that through delicately rendered Victorian-era illustrations of panoramic cityscapes of the most gorgeous Parisian boulevards. Complete with horse buggies in the streets, women in society hats, and men in coattails, *Paris: Les Boulevards* highlights a nostalgic era in both fashion and architecture. To further add to the charm, this volume honors its original unique binding with eleven gatefolds: each page folds out to six panels displaying the whole of the famous promenades at once. With pages including boulevard des Italiens, avenue de l'Opéra, and boulevard Montmartre, Parisians and tourists alike will savor Franck's beautiful and meticulous re-creations of the city's most important streets and their buildings. Added to the original book are thoughtful texts on each panel and an introduction by author and curator, Pamela Golbin. Each panoramic image is brought into historical context by Golbin with short anecdotes and musings on famous addresses and landmarks that may or may not still exist. The original book can only be found in one other library in the world, so little is known about the original publication date or the author, adding further captivation to this volume. Paris remains one of the most romantic and dreamy cities in the world, and for this *Paris: Les Boulevards* will be perfect for those of all ages smitten with the city's charms.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A frequent debate in the American city concerns how high to build. Washington DC says no higher than the Capitol Building; and in Paris, heights were limited to that of a five or six story walkup, topped by the famous Garret which today can make a charming apartment with a great view. This book details the great urban renewal in the Belle Epoque, considered by many to be one of France's greatest eras. It was an era when the architecture integrated the French classes by floor height: Merchants with storefronts and apartments on the first and second floor, and apartments falling in rent cost as one trudged to the higher floors. Many did not have elevators, so everyone trudged--a definition of equality it seems. So how does this landscape look when plotted on a drawing presented to the Emperor of France and the public of the era of equality (by income)? This book informs one of the look of uniformity in architecture so one can look before they leap.

so heres the deal. this is an odd (not bad) book. I feel like you should see it before you buy it. it is a series of fold outs..... I thought it would be more interesting, but there is a 'sameness' about the illustrations.... but the quality is good and if you have a first hand knowledge of paris, you might find it impressive. I keep thinking the pull outs might be great mounted on foam core and hung, but please look at the size of this book, it was a bit smaller than what I thought. I thought I would spend an hour looking at this book and I spent 15 minutes.

beautifully done, a piece of history, have seen nothing like it

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