



San Francisco's Jewel City: The Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915

by Laura A. Ackley

Winner: Gold Medal, California Book Awards

Winner: Oscar Lewis Award, San Francisco Historical Association

Hardcover, 8.5 x 11, 352 pages, with over 200 full-color photographs and illustrations. ISBN: 978-1-59714-292-2

“A tour de force of scholarship, illustration, and graphic design...a definitive narrative of this transformative event.”

—Kevin Starr, University of Southern California, author of *Coast of Dreams*

2015 marks the centennial year of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, when host city San Francisco emerged from the ashes of earthquake and fire as a center of beauty and progress. On the Presidio's waterfront and in what is now the Marina District, courtyards, formal gardens, and eleven Beaux-Arts palaces made up a miniature city resplendent in tones of golden-orange, copper green, cerulean, and “Pompeiiian red.” Each palace hosted a thrilling array of exhibits and events that showed off the young century's achievements and possibilities. Over it all, the forty-three-story Tower of Jewels cast the reflected light of one hundred thousand pieces of colored glass.

This lavishly illustrated volume is as much a triumph as the fair itself. *San Francisco's Jewel City* takes readers on an in-depth tour of the PPIE, revealing the dramas of constructing the fair and the displays of culture and industry that awaited within the exposition walls: electrical home appliances, rides in a homemade airplane, a world tour of twenty-one international pavilions, luminous radium crystals, and, of course, a model of the world-changing Panama Canal. Along the way, we meet famous (and infamous) visitors, such as Theodore Roosevelt, Helen Keller, Thomas Edison, and Buffalo Bill Cody. Historian Laura A. Ackley's compelling text is unparalleled in its breadth of scope and richness of detail, providing social and political context for the fair and offering insight into its legacy today.

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