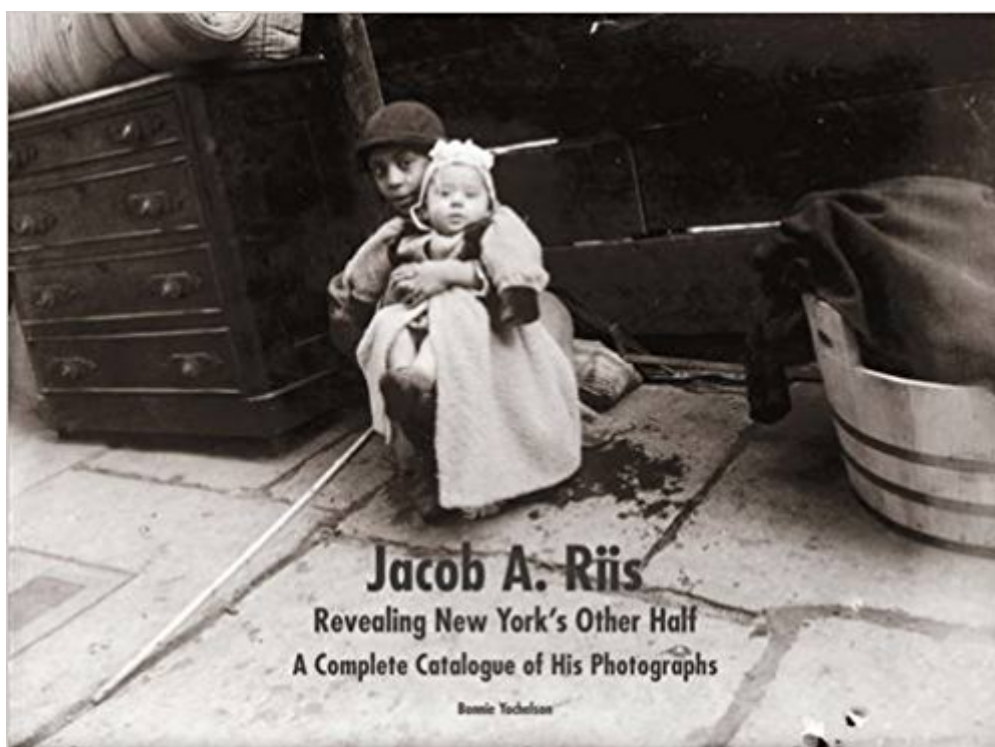


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Jacob A. Riis: Revealing New York's Other Half: A Complete Catalogue Of His Photographs



Synopsis

The definitive study of the images made by a pioneer journalist and photographer who passionately advocated for America's urban poor Danish-born Jacob A. Riis (1849–1914) found success in America as a reporter for the New York Tribune, first documenting crime and later turning his eye to housing reform. As tenement living conditions became unbearable in the wake of massive immigration, Riis and his camera captured some of the earliest, most powerful images of American urban poverty. This important publication is the first comprehensive study and complete catalogue of Riis's world-famous images, and places him at the forefront of early-20th-century social reform photography. It is the culmination of more than two decades of research on Riis, assembling materials from five repositories (the Riis Collection at the Museum of the City of New York, the Library of Congress, the New-York Historical Society, the New York Public Library, and the Museum of South West Jutland, Denmark) as well as previously unpublished photographs and notes. In this handsome volume, Bonnie Yochelson proposes a novel thesis that Riis was a radical publicist who utilized photographs to enhance his arguments, but had no great skill or ambition as a photographer. She also provides important context for understanding how Riis's work would be viewed in turn-of-the-century New York, whether presented in lantern slide lectures or newspapers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Jacob Riis's late-19th-century admonition that the battle against the slum began only when conscience joined forces with fear and self-interest still resonates with modern readers in a gripping anthology of his original photographs." — Sam Roberts, The New York Times, Bookshelf section

The definitive study of the images made by a pioneer journalist and photographer who passionately advocated for America's urban poor.

Interesting to read...if that's what one wants...but, since it was the cover photo that got me to buy it...the photos are small, and are not in high relief...not easily discerned...which was a disappointment...a very big disappointment.

Great presentation of the hard times in NYC

Read at the Museum of the City of New York. The museum currently has an exhibit on Riis and his work in the city. As it notes: Jacob Riis (1849-1914) was a pioneering newspaper reporter and social reformer in New York at the turn of the 20th century. His then-novel idea of using photographs of the city's slums to illustrate the plight of impoverished residents established Riis as forerunner of modern photojournalism. "Jacob A. Riis: Revealing New York's Other Half" features photographs by Riis and his contemporaries, as well as his handwritten journals and personal correspondence. This book purports to contain copies of all of his photographs. Generally the size is relatively small, and some of the reproductions are not very clear. In fact, in the exhibition itself, the same can be said of many of the photographs. The retrospective for the first time unites his photographs and his archive, which belongs to the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library. This book reproduces much of that material, and read simply as a history of a remarkable man and a remarkable period in the life of New York City, I found this a very rewarding two hours. Robert C. Ross March 2016

....this is the one! I've long been a fan of Riis's photography and I own a copy of "How the Other Half Lives", but the selection of photos in this book is really superb and the write-up is quite interesting & informative. The Museum of the City of New York is currently having an exhibit about Riis - through March 20 - and I *highly* recommend it. Not only are there many photos, but there's also lots of interesting information about Riis's life.

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