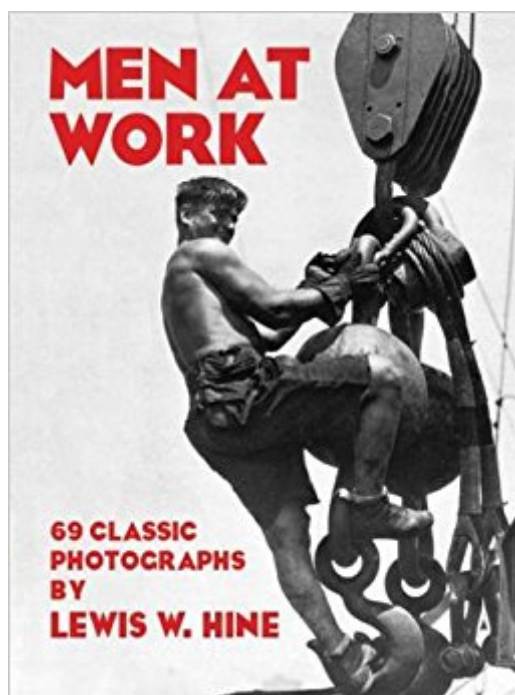


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# Men At Work: Photographic Studies Of Modern Men And Machines



## Synopsis

I will take you into the heart of modern industry where machines and skyscrapers are being made, where the character of the men is being put into the motors, the airplanes, the dynamos upon which the life and happiness of millions of us depend. Lewis H. Hine (1874-1940), one of America's best photographers, wrote this in his introduction to *Men at Work*, a book, he said, about "men of courage, skill, daring, and imagination." And in 69 attention-riveting photographs, including those of the construction of the Empire State Building, he makes us believe once again in the heroism of ordinary people. Originally published in 1932, and now exceedingly rare, *Men at Work* takes us into coal mines, heavy industry, and tire and airplane factories. We see railroad workers in the shop, on the tracks and as train crews. Foundation men, connectors, bellmen, hoisters, derrick men, plumbers-up, riveters, buckers-up, catchers, burners, heaters, welders, bolt boys, sky boys "the various trades of construction workers" build from bedrock that great monument and symbol of twentieth-century life, the Empire State Building. For this edition 18 additional and extraordinary Hine photographs of this construction have been added. Hine, widely known for his pictures of immigrants arriving at Ellis Island and his studies of child labor, combines enormous technical ability with sensitivity and deep feeling. The people in this book do their job with pride, dignity, and skill. They are in control of the giant machines they use, at home in space, not dwarfed by their constructions.

## Book Information

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History

## Customer Reviews

Superb collection of Hine's later work. Not what's usually thought of when we think of Hine. A short book, not a lot of writing-it's about the photos, which are wonderful. I bought a "used" (like new) first edition (has better quality photo reproduction than more recent reprints). Great tonal range and good size to enjoy these important, rarely seen photos. A worthwhile addition to anyone's photo library.

Being a very visual person, I bought "Men At Work"-- photographs by Lewis W. Hine-- to help me in my research for a novel. I was not disappointed! Not only were the photographs a remarkably authentic look at what went on at the Empire State Building site as it was going up in 1930-31, the captions gave me a clearer idea of how the various 'gangs' worked; i.e., the rivet gang, the derrick gang, etc. etc. For anyone who is interested in looking at how men worked in the building industry, with some additional pictures on railroad workers and miners, this is the book for you.

While looking for the "New York: Lunch atop a Skyscraper" photo/poster, I saw this book. Great photos of the working men that made the USA great. The 2 items together make for a wonderful gift for the construction working man that has everything...or you want to fix up his man cave!

Unbelievable photographs not only of the working men but one must consider the safety risks endured by the photographer.

the book is overpriced and the photographs were not terribly interesting. pictures should have shown more factory work and more interesting professions.

Lewis Hine had an affinity with the workingman. Jonathan Doherty, in the introduction to this book, says "Hine looked at workingmen with his camera and found a strength in them and a pride in their work that was common to all". He had a point because the photos show men controlling their machines and not the other way round, with these photos you can see craftsmen at work. The sixty-nine excellent photos in the book (originally published in 1932) show forty-six taken during the construction of the Empire State Building and they are clearly not posed. Hine was given the assignment to cover the building work and so the photos have the raw energy of heavy work. The remaining twenty-three photos are much more formal studies of activity, lathe operators, engine drivers, coalminers, turbine engine grinders, welders and others are all creatively shown going

about their work. I think these beautiful photos really show the respect Hine had for the working craftsmen. Good (and inexpensive) as the book is I wish these photos could have been presented in a more formal setting, centred on each page with quality paper and printing to really do them justice.

Men At Work by Lewis Hine is a beautiful collection of 69 photographic studies of men and machines originally published in 1932. This book is a great example of men controlling machines in order to benefit their lives, rather than the machines controlling their lives. Hine was able to find normal subjects and turn them into to amazing, interesting images. Through these photographs he catches the positive side of life which is very enjoyable to look at. There are also 18 extra photographs of the construction of the Empire State Building. Each page has a detailed description of the photographs to let the reader know exactly what he was shooting. The Empire State Building photos are quite amazing especially when you think about Hine himself that high off the ground taking these photos. In addition to the Empire State Building shots, are photographs of railroad workers and coal miners which no one had ever really recognized before. Overall this is a great book at an excellent price.

It will be presumptuous to place my opinion next to all the worthy accolades this work has received. It stands all by itself in the B&W pantheon, and even people not interested in art or photography can't afford to miss this true classic.

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