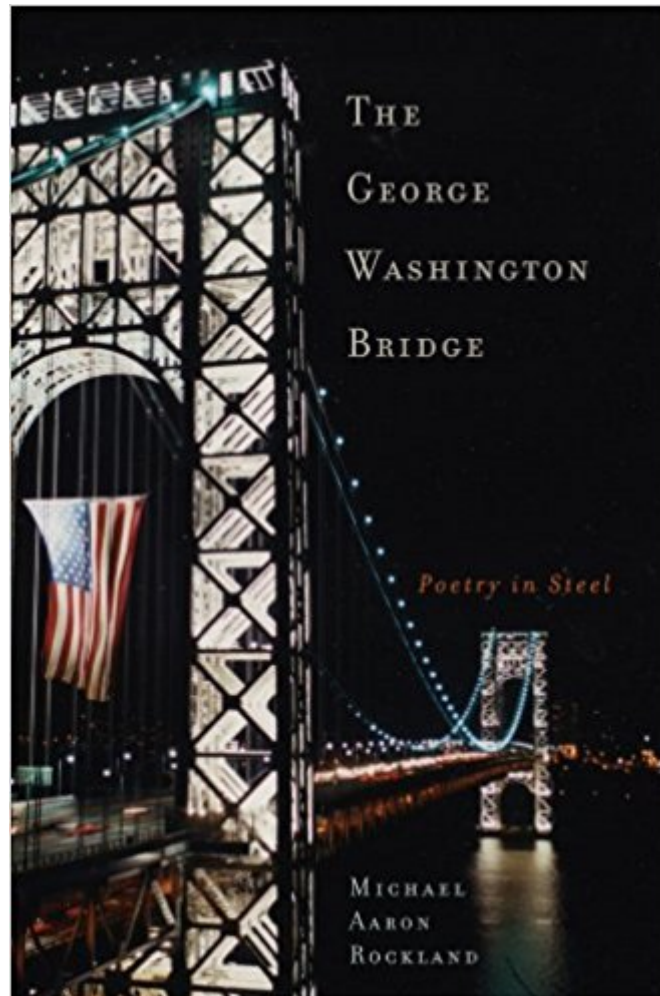




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The George Washington Bridge: Poetry In Steel



Synopsis

Since opening in 1931, the George Washington Bridge, linking New York and New Jersey, has become the busiest bridge in the world, with 108 million vehicles crossing it in 2007. Many people also consider it the most beautiful bridge in the world, yet remarkably little has been written about this majestic structure. Intimate and engaging, Michael Rockland's rich narrative presents perspectives on the GWB, as it is often called, that span history, architecture, engineering, transportation, design, the arts, politics, and even post-9/11 mentality. Stunning archival photos, from the late 1920s when the bridge was built through the present, are a powerful complement to the bridge's history. Rockland covers the competition between the GWB and the Brooklyn Bridge that parallels the rivalry between New Jersey and New York City. Readers will learn about the Swiss immigrant Othmar Ammann, an unsung hero who designed and built the GWB, and how a lack of funding during the Depression dictated the iconic, uncovered steel beams of its towers, which we admire today. There are chapters discussing accidents on the bridge, such as an airplane crash landing in the westbound lanes and the sad story of suicides off its span; the appearance of the bridge in media and the arts; and Rockland's personal adventures on the bridge, including scaling its massive towers on a cable. Movies, television shows, songs, novels, countless images, and even PlayStation 2 games have aided the GWB in becoming a part of the global popular culture. This tribute will captivate residents living in the shadow of the GWB, the millions who walk, jog, bike, skate, or drive across it, as well as tourists and those who will visit it some day. First major book on the George Washington Bridge Full of amazing facts about the GWB that will surprise even bridge historians Includes over 30 spectacular illustrations, ranging from archival photographs of the building of the bridge to those that show it draped in an enormous flag after 9/11 Includes personal accounts of the author's adventures on the bridge

Book Information

Hardcover: 200 pages

Publisher: Rivergate Books; 1st Edition edition (August 27, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813543754

ISBN-13: 978-0813543758

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,478,934 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #105 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Bridges #1321 in Books > Travel > United States > Northeast > Mid Atlantic #30976 in Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local

Customer Reviews

"The George Washington Bridge: Poetry in Steel is a well-rounded tribute to a national landmark. The author weaves together history, popular culture, behind-the-scene tours, and personal insight in his living portrait of a modern marvel."--Darl Rastorfer, author of Six Bridges: The Legacy of Othmar H. Ammann
"Like the magnificent bridge it honors, this book is graceful, intelligently composed, elegant, durable, and solid as steel." ----Phillip Lopate, author of Waterfront: A Walk Around Manhattan
The George Washington Bridge: Poetry in Steel is a well-rounded tribute to a national landmark. The author weaves together history, popular culture, behind-the-scene tours, and personal insight in his living portrait of a modern marvel. --Darl Rastorfer, author of Six Bridges: The Legacy of Othmar H. Ammann

"Like the magnificent bridge it honors, this book is graceful, intelligently composed, elegant, durable, and solid as steel."

As an ex-New Yorker I always wanted to learn more about the GWB. I found this book disappointing because it was more a sharing of the personal experiences of the author rather than details of the bridge. I was expecting something more like McCullough's The Great Bridge (about the iconic Brooklyn Bridge). As a trained architect/engineer I wish more bridge planning, background and construction details were provided, instead there was considerable space devoted to security issues post 9/11 and the Port Authority. It was a quick, pleasant read but not what I was hoping for.

It's a welcome addition to anyone interested in the bridge's history, or the history of New York City in general. Wonderfully written, for either the professional structural engineer, or just the lay person who appreciates the beauty of the George Washington Bridge and its significance to the area it serves.

I guess I was spoiled by McCulloch's book on the Brooklyn Bridge and expected a longer more detailed book. Nonetheless an overall good read. Fast and easy, and a couple of very interesting

tidbits. Specifically did you know there are tunnels under 178th and 179th street where bridge traffic used to go? You can even see the east side exits on Google Maps! A little heavy on his personal experiences with the bridge, which is fine, but I would have liked more information, more pictures perhaps, and really more content. I would recommend it for bridge-o-philes still.

Well researched, great old photos best single reference on this great landmark

Michael Rockland's book "The George Washington Bridge: Poetry In Steel" is both brilliant and funny--a rare combination. The book is as much about Rockland's love affair with, and experiences on, the bridge as about the bridge itself. After so many books on the less consequential Brooklyn Bridge, it's about time the George, the world's busiest bridge still after 75 years, got its due. The highlight of the book is Rockland's adventures on the bridge, including climbing to the top of one of the towers. I've read many of Rockland's books. This one, beautifully illustrated, is his best. A must read.

I love everything about this book. From its light weight, beautiful insert photos, and accurate yet engaging historical prose, I couldn't put it down. For anyone who lives in the tri-state area, or just loves New York, this is a wonderful read. I bought three copies for friends who love history books.

This book is not just your average history lesson book! The author of this book takes you on a ride with him through his personal journey in uncovering the story behind the GWB! I couldn't put this book down!

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