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Amusing The Million: Coney Island At The Turn Of The Century (American Century)



Synopsis

Coney Island: the name still resonates with a sense of racy Brooklyn excitement, the echo of beach-front popular entertainment before World War I. *Amusing the Million* examines the historical context in which Coney Island made its reputation as an amusement park and shows how America's changing social and economic conditions formed the basis of a new mass culture. Exploring it afresh in this way, John Kasson shows Coney Island no longer as the object of nostalgia but as a harbinger of modernity--and the many photographs, lithographs, engravings, and other reproductions with which he amplifies his text support this lively thesis.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“This is what a history of popular culture should be: a delightful account of a fascinating subject and a serious contribution to our understanding of major transition in American culture.”
—John G. Cawelti, University of Chicago
“Because he treats our frivolities seriously, John Kasson has produced an important book which helps us all understand ourselves. His inquiry into the nature and significance of Coney Island as part of the American experience provides a brilliant device for understanding major transformations in American culture at the turn of the century...A delight to read, look at, and ponder...itself a great amusement for the mind.”
—Warren Susman, Rutgers University
“Not only delightful reading but a perceptive look at a familiar American institution..Social-cultural history ought to be done this way more often.”
—Russel B. Nye, Michigan State University

Amusing the Million examines the historical context in which Coney Island made its reputation as an amusement park and shows how America's changing social and economic conditions formed the basis of a new mass culture.

Really enjoyed this! It was a fun and informative read. I am from New York and it was interesting getting to know more about Coney Island.

An interesting look at Coney Island and its implications on the culture of the early 1900s. A bit slow at times in the middle of the text but gave some great insights.

Needed book for an American Studies class. Very easy read about the Coney Island experience and the need for amusement parks. Highly recommended!

Pretty informative and interesting. I had to read it for class but I was not disappointed. It is an easy read with pictures and really brings back the nostalgia for Coney.

Bought for history class. VERY boring in the beginning, but after that it was ok for the rest

Used for a college course, book came in perfect condition, and was actually quite an interesting read. I had no idea there was so much history behind Coney Island, and how it tied in to American history as a whole

Great product fast shipping

I was required to read this book for American Studies, but actually ended up enjoying it. It was interesting learning why and how Coney Island was so popular. They give clear reasons with evidence to back it up.

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