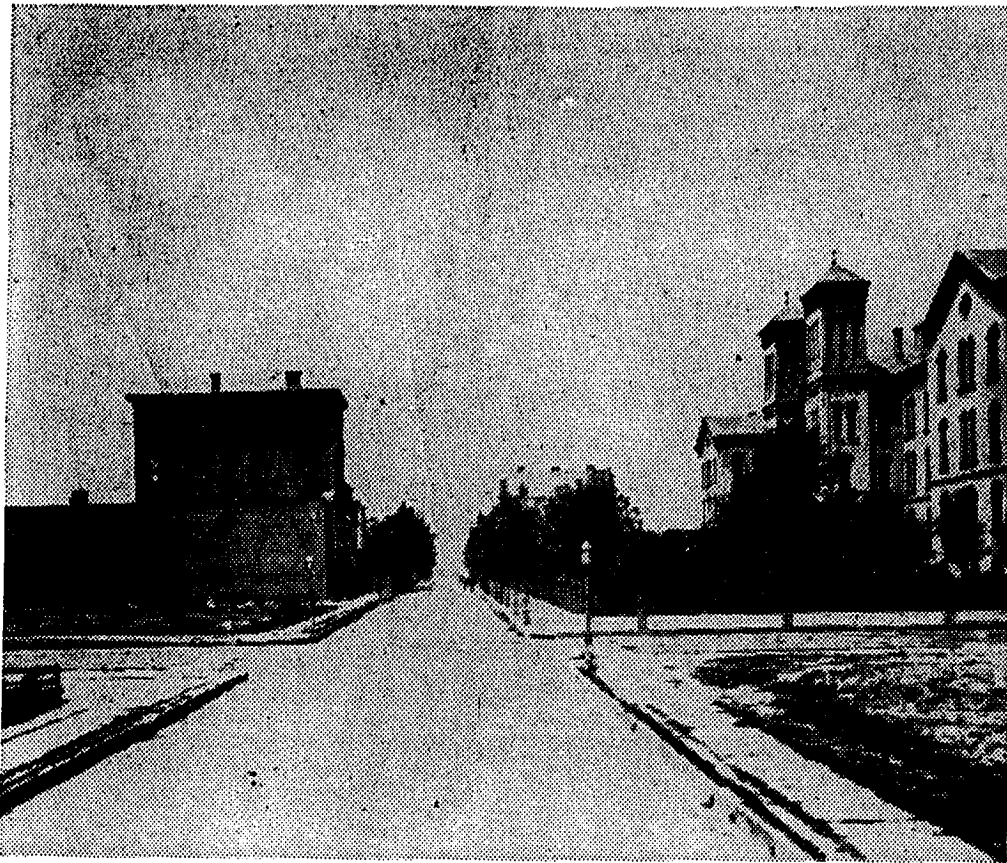


Manhattan of Old, When 54th Street Was Suburban and Buggies Held ...

By ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE

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pg. 37

Manhattan of Old, When 54th Street Was Suburban and Buggies Held Sway, Recalled in Books



Fifth Avenue and 54th Street in 1860, with the old St. Luke's Hospital at the right, is one of the scenes pictured in I. N. Phelps Stokes' "Iconography of Manhattan Island."

'Iconography of Manhattan' Being Reissued Soon

By ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE

Scholars who hold their breath at the mention of the I. N. Phelps Stokes "Iconography of Manhattan Island" can exhale again.

The six-volume, 5,000-page, extravagantly illustrated documentation of the island from 1498 to 1909, revered by specialists as the definitive compilation of data on its history, geography, people, architecture and institutions, is about to be reissued in a facsimile edition by the Arno Press of New York.

Produced volume by volume between 1915 and 1928, it has been out of print and in demand virtually since publication.

The cost of the reproduced six-volume set is \$795. The publication date is April 11, the centenary of the birth of the author, Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes, wealthy New Yorker, architect, collector, gentleman savant, society figure and public servant. The first printing will be 500 sets, according to Arnold Zohn, president of Arno.

Twenty years of Mr. Stokes's life were devoted to the six volumes at a personal cost of about \$250,000. The more than 600 prints, drawings and graphic documents that he acquired for the study are now the I. N. Phelps Stokes collection of the New York Public Library.

Individual volumes sold from \$45 to \$75 as issued, and by 1930, shortly after the work's completion, the set brought \$600. Today's price varies from about \$600 to \$1,500 depending on condition, when, and if, a set comes on the market.

The reissued edition is said to be an exact copy of the original, including all 576 black and white and color prints, photographs, maps and charts.

Bible for Historians

"Stokes," or "The Iconography," as it is known to the experts, is the bible of the city's historians and historic architecture buffs. Considered one of the most authoritative reference works published in this country, it has served both as research source and status symbol for its owners.

Every student of the city has struggled with the frustrations of its labyrinthian cross-indexing and delighted in its plates and foldouts, ranging from early

6-Volume Facsimile Edition of Definitive History to Cost \$795 a Set

ships and calligraphic charters to idyllic views of old New York.

The reissue of "The Iconography" is a prime example of a current trend in luxury publishing of rare, specialized, expensive, out-of-print books and periodicals, called facsimile editions.

Facsimile publishing is a process that uses accurate photography and offset printing to produce faithful copies of original works. Their special appeal is to a large market in libraries and universities, where they are valued as research materials.

Wright Work on List

The products of facsimile publishing range from a single intellectually prestigious volume, such as the 1910 German publication of the early work of Frank Lloyd Wright, reissued by Horizon Press in 1963 complete with loose plates and gold ink and selling for \$100, to copies of the full 32 issues of Vanity Fair that appeared from 1913 to 1936, and which now, reissued, may be purchased for \$1,000.

Other examples are the Tudor Publishing Company's reprint of the Diderot Encyclopedia, which sells for \$675, and the Cooper Square Publishing Company's facsimile of an earlier, 1914 facsimile of the Gutenberg Bible, at \$395.

The Arno Press, publisher of the facsimile edition, produced the Vanity Fair reprint for University Microfilms, an educational division of the Xerox Corporation. Founded in 1962 to

serve the reprint market, Arno specializes in multivolume, facsimile extravaganzas either as publisher or producer.

Arno also printed 32 volumes, from 1925 to 1934, of Novy Mir, the Russian literary periodical, for University Microfilms. The firm has produced 15 out-of-print books for the Museum of Modern Art, of which \$180,000 worth have already been sold to school libraries.

Other Reprints

Other scheduled Arno reprints are Yank, the Army weekly; the complete annotated catalogues of the celebrated book dealer, A. S. W. Rosenbach; and, with the AMS Press, Inc., the Niles Weekly Register in its entirety, a news weekly of 1811 to 1849 documenting territorial expansion.

The result of all this is a republishing boom in expensive esoterica, with "The Iconography" currently at the top of the list.

Mr. Stokes, who died in 1944, was a practicing architect and partner in the firm of Howells & Stokes, which built St. Paul's Chapel at Columbia University and the Baltimore Stock Exchange.

He was president of the City Art Commission and a state consultant on tenement house reform. A member of an old New York family that had made an early fortune in Manhattan real estate, he was educated at St. Paul's and Harvard, the Columbia School of Architecture and the Paris Ecole des Beaux Arts.

His real memorial is not any of the buildings he designed, but the "The Iconography." That, and a shimmering Sargent portrait at the Metropolitan Museum, with Mrs. Stokes as a Gibson girl beauty in tennis costume accompanied by a tall, slender, handsome, brown-bearded man in a white linen suit.



Above: An 1819 aquatint of Broadway at City Hall is another one of the 576 illustrations in the famous six-volume work, which is soon going to be reissued.

Below: Wall Street, looking toward the old Trinity Church (at center), about 1820

