



## Perspectives on the Collections of the New York Historical Society: The Henry Luce III Center for the Study of American Culture

By Nancy Eklund Later

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In its nearly two hundred years of existence, New York's first collecting institution has never had a guide to introduce the museum-going public to the encyclopedic range of its renowned buildings of art, decorative objects, and artifacts. Now, in conjunction with the opening of the Henry Luce III Center for the Center for the Study of American Culture and in the spirit of accessibility that returns these collections to public view, The New-York Historical Society has compiled a book that not only highlights the different facets of its museum collection, but also illuminates the people who made, used, inspired, and donated the objects left to us for our interpretation today. Organized according to object type as housed in the Luce Center, each of the featured items tells a unique story. With a lively design and over one hundred color images, this book samples the full spectrum of the Historical Society's art and artifacts, along with related manuscripts, prints, and photographs in the society's Library. Together the entries suggest the immense interpretive resource that these materials represent for those curious to learn more about the American past.

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#### About the Author

Kenneth T. Jackson, Professor of History at Columbia University, is the author of *The Ku Klux Klan in the City, 1915-1930*; *Cities in American History*; and a number of other books.

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