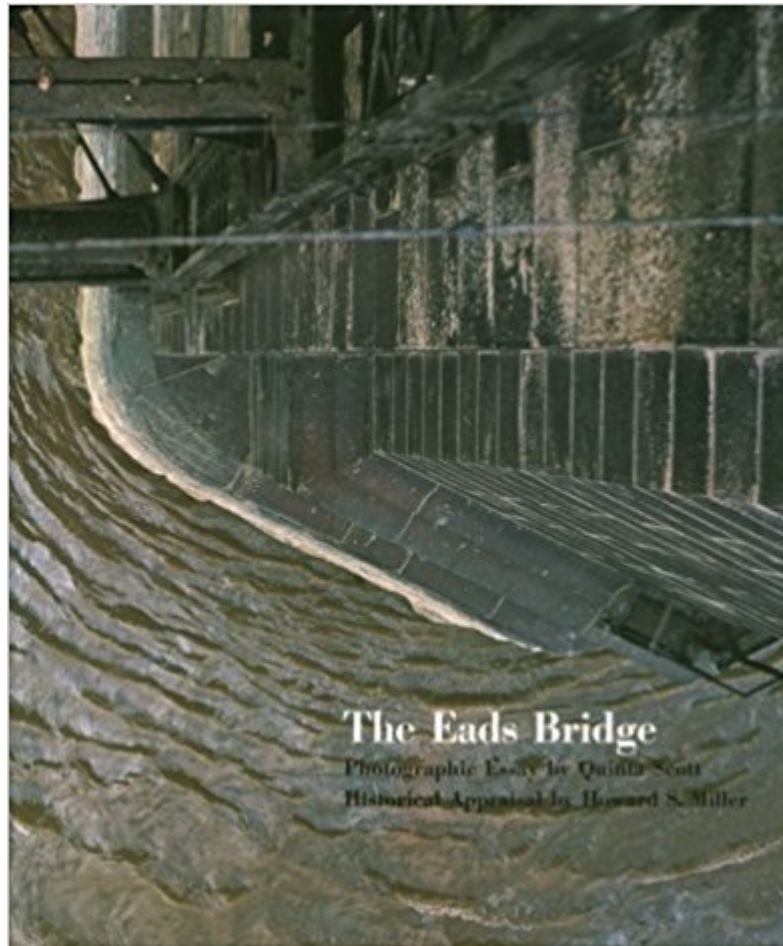




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The Eads Bridge



Synopsis

As Karen M. Goering once wrote, "During its near hundred-year reign as St. Louis' chief symbol - and more recently as the city's most visible connection with its rich past - the Eads Bridge has inspired an outpouring of creative work from artists, illustrators and photographers." Originally published in 1979, *The Eads Bridge*, by Quinta Scott and Howard S. Miller, is a powerful example of the bridge's hold on St. Louis's civic and artistic imagination. Scott's photographic essay explores the Eads Bridge as art and architecture in a series of beautiful renderings of its confident lines, spidery supports, gracefully bulky details, and unexpected interior spaces. The historical appraisal of the bridge by historian Howard S. Miller is as much the story of the personalities of the Mississippi River and James Eads as of the bridge itself. Miller's essay presents the bridge as an avenue to Gilded Age corruption, railroad monopolies, and robber barons and into the mind of Eads himself, a complex and forceful personality in his own right. Eads's tenacity - and his "sustaining faith that glorified natural phenomena as it celebrated man's ability to comprehend and control them" - propelled the bridge he designed into virgin lands of metallurgy and engineering. Technically specific yet clearly explained, Miller's description of the construction process is fascinating reading that presents a refreshingly in-depth perspective on the landmark St. Louisans know so well.

Book Information

Hardcover: 152 pages

Publisher: Missouri History Museum Press; 2 Sub edition (May 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1883982294

ISBN-13: 978-1883982294

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.7 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,603,153 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Architectural > Bridges](#) #2594 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Photojournalism & Essays > Photo Essays](#) #3408 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > History](#)

Customer Reviews

Howard S. Miller is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Senior Curator, Special Projects, at the National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis. He is the author

of numerous books, including *St. Louis in the Gilded Age* and *Dollars for Research: Science and Its Patrons in Nineteenth-Century America* - Quinta Scott is a freelance photographer and author. She served as the photo editor for numerous publications, including *Images of St. Louis* (University of Missouri Press) and *St. Louis: Home on the River*, and she is the photographer and author of *Route 66*.

I recently read a biography of James Eads which piqued my interest in the story of his famous bridge. If you have any curiosity about history, engineering, architecture, or any of the three you should enjoy this book. As a self-taught engineer, Eads was able to accomplish a feat which is hard to comprehend -- especially for a period in time without computers or automated systems like CADD for design drawings. I was probably more impressed with Eads than I was with the bridge but that's just a testament to the obstacles he overcame. For what I was looking for in this book, I was completely satisfied.

Worth every cent of the price. Great book on the history of building the bridge.

Mostly artsy pictures, I wanted more text.

Written well, i enjoy reading about a person who gives to his fellow citizens something of great value. Eads built a great bridge.i also read about his other bridge.

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