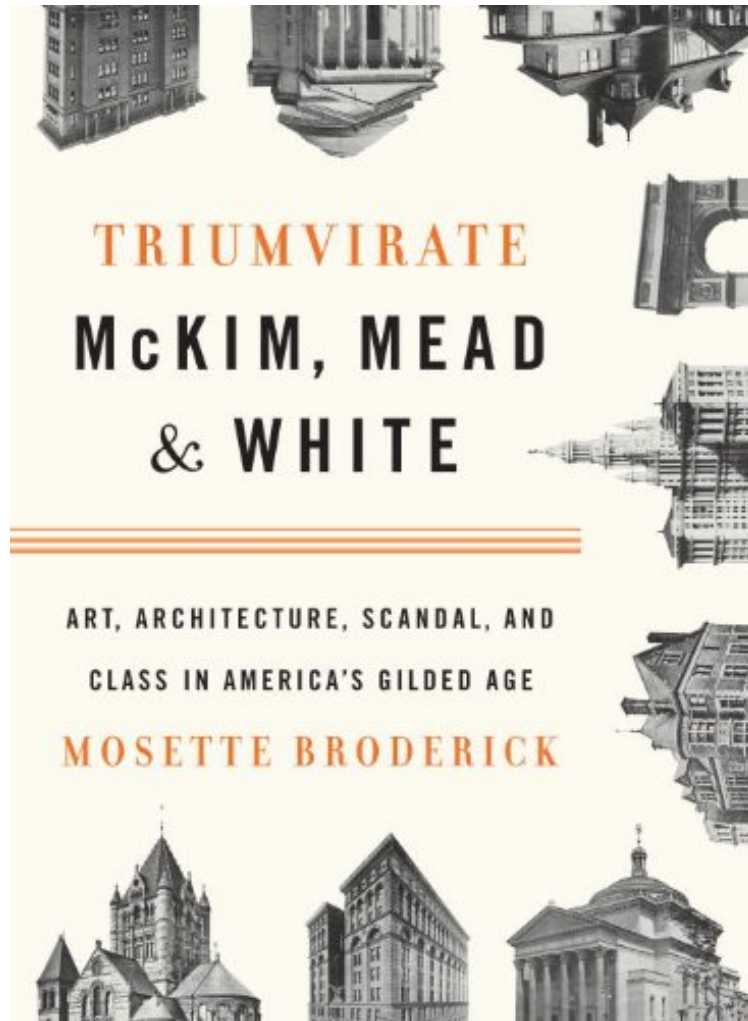


[E-BOOK] *Triumvirate: McKim, Mead White: Art, Architecture, Scandal, and Class in America's Gilded Age*

# **Triumvirate: McKim, Mead White: Art, Architecture, Scandal, and Class in America's Gilded Age**

*Mosette Broderick*

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**Mosette Broderick : Triumvirate: McKim, Mead White: Art, Architecture, Scandal, and Class in America's Gilded Age** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Triumvirate: McKim, Mead White: Art, Architecture, Scandal, and Class in America's Gilded Age*:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. No Brilliant Glow Here By James Hellyer The book "Triumvirate" is a sterling example of a writer who has done massive homework and research on a subject; yet, manages to totally miss what a dazzling story all of their research has revealed. Ms. Broderick has done her due diligence in providing us with dates, names and places; but, somehow her rendition only amounts to a flat, one dimensional view into the incredibly prolific world of McKim Mead and White. It is a lifeless presentation that lacks any sense of the magic that infused the

times of Gilded Age, or the role McKim Mead and White played in it. There are several aspects of this story that either failed to fire up Miss Broderick's sense of wonder for the subject; or, perhaps she simply does not have the insight to understand the incredible story availed of her fastidious research. It is clear from her inert descriptions of various McKim Mead and White designs that she lacks much passion or understanding for architecture. The paucity of and poor selection of photographs of the firm's work is further evidence of her limited grasp on the subject. She also lacks much genuine appreciation for the staggering amount of superlative creations that were issued from the McKim Mead and White office. If anything, the author is continuously marginalizing each architect's contribution to their various signature projects by always inferring the heavy lifting was either the mirage of a direct copy or done by some lone plodding draftsman in their office. Miss Broderick also appeared tone deaf to the nature of male to male relationships during the late Victorian to Edwardian eras. Without a shred of evidence she seemed too eager to insinuate otherwise innocent camaraderie as direct evidence of gay behavior. One wonders if Ms. Broderick should have re-set her decoder ring from her late twentieth century mindset thereby allowing her to better understand the wonder of McKim Mead and White and their contributions to Architecture and the larger than life world they energized. It takes a long time and precious eye sight to read "Triumvirate's" three hundred and fifteen pages for not much reward. I would suggest reading "Stanford White's New York" by David Lowe; or, "Stanny: The Gilded Life of Stanford White" by Paul R. Baker as time better spent if one wishes to get a true sense of the brilliant glow that McKim Mead and White brought to the Gilded Age. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. In-depth history of M M W By Lohengrin Excellent history of the M, M W partnership 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. America's definitive architectural firm By c langridge An interesting book about the great American architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White. I would have like more pictures of their buildings, but that would be another book. This one tells the stories of the principals in detail, and they are interesting.

A rich, fascinating saga of the most influential, far-reaching architectural firm of their time and of the dazzling triumvirate—Charles McKim, William Mead, and Stanford White—who came together, bound by the notion that architecture could help shape a nation in transition. They helped to refine America's idea of beauty, elevated its architectural practice, and set the standard on the world's stage. Their world and times were those of Edith Wharton and Henry James, though both writers and their society shunned the architects as being much too much about new money. They brought together the titans of their age with a vibrant and new American artistic community and helped to forge the arts of America's Gilded Age, informed by the heritage of European culture. McKim, Mead White built houses for America's greatest financiers and magnates: the Astors, Joseph Pulitzer, the Vanderbilts, Henry Villard, and J. P. Morgan, among others . . . They designed and built churches—Trinity Church in Boston, Judson Memorial Baptist Church in New York, and the Lovely Lane Methodist Church in Baltimore . . . They built libraries—the Boston Public Library—and the social clubs for gentlemen, among them, the Freundschaft, the Algonquin of Boston, the Players club of New York, the Century Association, the University and Metropolitan clubs. . . They built railroad terminals—the original Pennsylvania Station in New York City—and the first Roman arch in America for Washington Square (it put the world on notice that New York was now a major city on a par with Rome, Paris, and Berlin). They designed and built Columbia University, with Low Memorial Library at the centerpiece of its four-block campus, and New York University, and they built, as well, the old Madison Square Garden whose landmark tower marked its presence on the city's skyline . . .

Mosette Broderick's *Triumvirate* is a book about America in its industrial transition; about money and power, about the education of an unsophisticated young country, and about the coming of artists as an accepted class in American society. Broderick, a renowned architectural and social historian, brilliantly weaves together the strands of biography, architecture, and history to tell the story of the houses and buildings Charles McKim, William Mead, and Stanford White designed. She writes of the firm's clients, many of whom were establishing their names and places in upper-class society as they built and grabbed railroads, headed law firms and brokerage houses, owned newspapers, developed iron empires, and carved out a new direction for America's modern age. From the Hardcover edition.