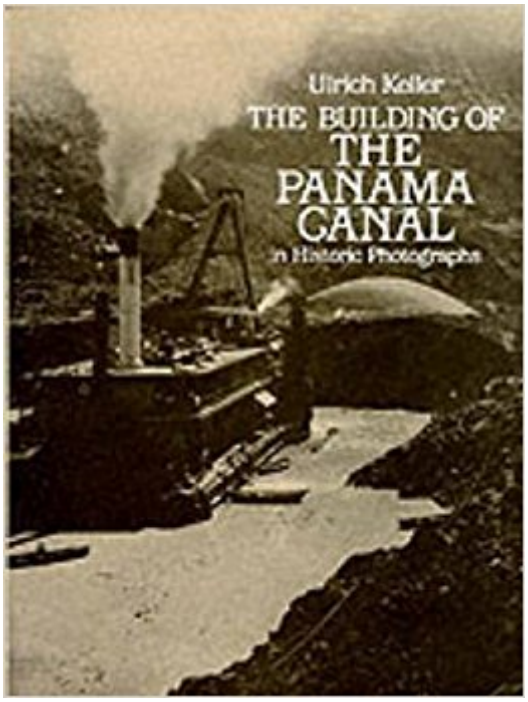
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The Building Of The Panama Canal In Historic Photographs



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Synopsis

In 1889 the Compagnie Universelle du Canal InterocÃƒÂ©anique declared bankruptcy. The French firm’s optimistic and ill-planned attempt to construct a canal across the Isthmus of Panama had resulted in the death of 22,000 workersÃ Â (most from yellow fever, typhoid fever, and malaria);Ã Â the complete loss of one and a half billion francs for the company’s 800,000 shareholders; and the bitter failure of Chief Engineer Ferdinand de LessepsÃ Â Ã¢â ¬â • the man responsible for the Suez Canal.On August 15, 1914, the S.S. Ancon took nine hours and forty minutes to traverse the lock-and-lake waterway linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. What occurred in the quarter century between 1889 and 1914 is a larger-than-life true story of adventure, revolution, ordeal, and accomplishment: the building of the Panama Canal Ã¢â ¬â • perhaps the greatest engineering marvel of the early twentieth century.In 164 magnificent historic photographs and a well-researched text, noted photohistorian Ulrich Keller tells the compelling story of this hitherto unparalleled technological achievement. Selected from an archive of over 10,000 images amassed by Ernest Hallen (Official Photographer of the Isthmian Canal Commission), these historic prints document the Canal’s construction and its way of life: 450 miles of railroad; housing for 60,000 based on a caste system; the exotic settings; tremendous hardships and health risks; leisure activities; the Canal Zone’s internal government, administration and policing; dredging operations, including spectacular movements of earth and water; unheard-of engineering feats and disastrous failures; and finally, victory!Photographers, historians, engineers, and tudents of industry and technology will immediately recognize this volume as an important primary source of industrial archaeology. Photography enthusiasts and lovers of true adventure will delight in the vibrant, you-are-there sensation imparted by the photos and Ulrich Keller’s exceptionally informed text and meticulous captions. The Building of the Panama Canal in Historic Photographs takes the reader back to a different era, and one of the proudest episodes in what the author calls "the ’heroic’ age of industry."

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Customer Reviews

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A friend suggested that I read this and I am so glad that I did. I am not a biologist (although I am a physicist) and I really enjoyed this book. I could related to much of the text... from being a woman in a male-dominated field to conveying qualitative research to quantitative researchers and having a feel for the organism (although I worked in physics and now social science research I can relate to this very well whether it is data related to crystal growth or analyzing social science data!).

Great historical photos with captions. I would've liked a little more information in the book, but it's good for getting an overall sense of the work and drama surrounding this immense project.

I was doing research on the building of the Panama Canal and reviewed this book. It is well done and interesting but I like some of the other books on the subject much more.

It wasn't exactly what I expected but I think that was my fault for not reading the description well. It was interesting, tho.

With a transit cruise coming in December of 2011, I wanted to read on the history and building of the Panama Canal. This book provides over 150 great black and white photos showing the building of the Canal and the human support efforts required for this massive task. I think this book is a great historical reference.

Nice quality photos

Good book but lacks the full history on the Canal. "Path Between the Seas", is most useful to anyone who really wants to know about the canal, the politics, illness, money etc.

The Building of the Panama Canal in Historic Photographs by Ulrich Keller is a most fascinating compilation of photographs recording man's greatest engineering achievement in construction during the 20th Century. The photographs are even more special to me because it shows scenes that my Barbadian grandfather and uncle would have seen during their laboring to construct the Panama Canal. That uncle died of malaria at the Canal and is buried, alongside the many others who sacrificed their lives, in the cemetery shown in one of the photographs. This book ranks in the top 3 that I have ever read during my over 70 years of reading.Herbert A. Hutchinson

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