



New York, Year by Year: A Chronology of the Great Metropolis

By Jeffrey A. Kroessler

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Winner, The New York Public Library, Best of Reference Award, 2002

If any city deserves a complete chronology, it is surely New York. **New York, Year by Year** is a cornucopia of the familiar and the forgotten, the historic and the ephemeral, the heroic and the banal. In this handy reference work, Jeffrey A. Kroessler takes us from Verrazano's arrival in 1524 into the new millennium, highlighting the strikes and strikeouts, tunnels and towers, personalities and parades which not only made history in New York, but also proved to be defining moments for the nation.

New York, Year by Year features events such as Mark Twain's first lecture at Cooper Union, and the letter he later wrote when the Brooklyn Public Library tried to restrict access to *Huckleberry Finn*. In contrast, we are reminded of the publication in the 1950s of *Eloise, A Book for Precocious Grown-Ups*, Kay Thompson's fanciful tale of a little girl's adventures in the Plaza Hotel, the appearance of the Beat Generation, and the flight (literally) of the Dodgers and Giants to California. **New York, Year by Year** chronicles the opening of Shea Stadium in April 1964 and the performance by the Beatles there that August. The Sixties also saw the opening of *The Fantastiks*, which is still running on Sullivan Street, and the closing of Steeplechase, the last of the great amusement parks at Coney Island. And this chronology makes sure we don't forget when Kitty Genovese was murdered in Kew Gardens and her cries for help were left unanswered because her neighbors "didn't want to get involved." Kroessler leads us on a tour of the city from its first settlers until the November 2001 election of a new mayor for the new millennium.

From the colonial era and the Revolution through the Gilded Age and the Roaring Twenties, Kroessler has compiled a record of cultural, economic, political, and social events. Some are of transient importance, others of lasting significance, but all illuminate the city's fascinating history.

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Editorial Review

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Here is a fascinating chronological history of New York City from 1524 to 2001, looking at the people, buildings, institutions, political events, music, and businesses that helped shape the city. The book is arranged by year and then by date within the year. The events from 1524 to 1899 take up the first 95 pages, while events from 1900 to 2001 dominate the last 200 pages. Descriptions range from one sentence to a paragraph in length and give only the basic facts. In picking events, the author does not claim to be definitive but instead tries to give a feel for the events and people that made the city. He also emphasizes cultural and social events over political ones.

The book is particularly strong on listing important buildings, for example, the Voorlezer's House, the oldest schoolhouse, built in 1695; the World Building, built in 1890; and the Bronx County Jail, built in 1937. Societies and institutions such as the New York Urban League (founded in 1911) and the New York Botanical Garden (founded in 1891) are also listed along with the first performances of operas, musicals, and plays. Though the book is fun to read, it is difficult to use for research. There is no bibliography and there are no citations for any of the entries, so the reader has nothing to refer to for more information. The index lists some people, societies, and specific places, but most of the headings are for more general subjects such as *Apartment buildings; Music and musicians, classical; Newspapers*. To find when *Die Meistersinger* was premiered in New York, one has to check all of the entries indexed under *Opera and opera singers*.

This book would be a good starting point for the casual reader and a valuable tool for students who need to find out what happened in a specific year and for answering quick reference questions about New York. Libraries needing detailed information about New York City will find *The Encyclopedia of New York City* (Yale Univ., 1995) to be a more in-depth and easier-to-use reference source than *New York Year by Year*. Using both books would give the researcher a good handle on New York history. *RBB*
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Review

"Here is a fascinating chronological history of New York City from 1524-2001, looking at the people, building, institutions, political events, music and businesses that helped shape the city."

-*Booklist*

"The entries are well written and cover a broad range of topics, including political, social, and cultural, and the reader often cannot help but utter, 'I didn't know that.'"

-*ARBA online*

"[Kroessler] does a fine job of chronicling the city's past, incorporating both little-known, flash-in-the-pan nuggest as well as far-reaching, recurring themes."

-*Queens Chronicle*

“A fresh, endlessly fascinating perspective on the history of New York. The scholarship is serious, but the chronology is as fun as it is informative. Covering all boroughs, entries enrich the experience of the city for all who will explore its pages. One can thumb it forever.”

-Thomas Bender, Director, International Center for Advanced Studies, New York University

“For those who care about New York City and its history—and who doesn't these days?—New York, Year by Year is a rare treat. . . . a richly detailed, scrupulously researched reference book that is accessible, informative, accurate, and a great deal of fun.”

-David Nasaw, author of *The Chief: The Life of William Randolph Hearst*

About the Author

Jeffrey A. Kroessler is a contributor to *The Encyclopedia of New York City*, and the author of *Lighting the Way: The Queens Borough Public Library, 1896-1996*. He received his Ph.D. from the CUNY Graduate Center and is currently the historian at the Archives and Special Collections in the Library of the College of Staten Island.

Users Review

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Linda Manuel:

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Jennifer Lorenzo:

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Roger Cooper:

This book untitled New York, Year by Year: A Chronology of the Great Metropolis to be one of several books which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book retail outlet or you can order it by using online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, as you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this e-book from your list.

Juanita Cooke:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? May be reading a book can be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the book untitled New York, Year by Year: A Chronology of the Great Metropolis can be great book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

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