

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
January 1989

FACT SHEET

FIFTIETH-ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION OF AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHS

PUBLICATION Long out of print, Walker Evans's landmark book American Photographs has been reissued by The Museum of Modern Art in a new, fiftieth-anniversary edition, which recreates the original edition as precisely as possible. The Museum published the first edition in 1938 and a second edition in 1962.

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CONTENT American Photographs reproduces eighty-five photographs made by Evans between 1929 and 1936. Carefully organized in two sequences--one devoted mainly to people, the other to architecture--the book presents a coherent and persuasive image of essential America. Radically original in the thirties, and widely influential since then, American Photographs has retained its power to surprise and provoke.

The fiftieth-anniversary edition contains new offset-duotone plates that emulate the precision and clarity of the original letterpress reproductions. Lincoln Kirstein's essay on Evans's work, written for the 1938 edition, and Monroe Wheeler's foreword to the 1962 edition are reprinted. A note on the publication history of the book, by Peter Galassi, curator, Department of Photography, concludes the new edition.

SPECIFICATIONS American Photographs. Fiftieth-anniversary edition. Essay by Lincoln Kirstein. 208 pages. 87 duotone plates. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Clothbound, \$40.00; paperbound, \$18.95; available in the Museum Store. Distributed by Bulfinch Press/Little, Brown and Company, Boston.

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