

***Two Books from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago –
300 Photographs from the Exhibition and Catalogue of Paintings
Displayed in the Palace of Fine Arts***

(1) Buel, J.W. *The Magic City: A Massive Portfolio of Original Photographic Views of the Great World's Fair and Its Treasures of Art, Including a Vivid Representation of the Famous Midway Plaisance, With a Graphic Description by America's Brilliant Historical and Descriptive Writer J. W. Buel, a Photographic and Historical Representation of the "Magic City" By-the-Lake, with Its Vast Treasures of the World's Art, Reproduced in Splendid Realism, as it was seen by millions of visitors, in a series of 300 Magnificent Photographic Views.* St. Louis & Philadelphia: Historical Publishing Company, 1894. 302 pages. Hardcover.

The World's Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago from May 1 to October 1893. One of the most elaborate world's fairs, it celebrated science and industry, internationalism, modernity, and the four-hundredth anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New World. The exposition included art, architecture, culture, and industry from every corner of the globe. This book includes three hundred purple-tinted engravings of photographs from the exposition, each with an informative caption by writer James William Buel (1849-1920), and a two-page introduction. Subjects include scientific exhibitions (ethnography, zoology, horticulture, anthropology, etc.), technological and industrial displays, trains and machinery, the famous Ferris Wheel (invented for this very occasion), animals, fine and decorative arts from America and western Europe, antiquities, elaborate artistic and cultural displays by various nations, groups of "exotic" foreigners, theatrical performances, reproductions of international landmarks, portraits of nations' representatives and visitors, displays for each U.S. state, panoramic and aerial views of the fair, Chicago Day (the anniversary of the 1871 great Chicago fire), the opening ceremonies, and the architectural masterworks designed and built specifically to house the World's Fair's exhibitions, and the mile-long park known as the Midway Plaisance. The World's Columbian Exposition was almost unimaginable in the depth of its size, ambition, and visitors. These photographs give at least some sense of its massive scale and attractions, some of which seem quite bizarre to modern eyes.

The book has board covers with red cloth and embossed designs. The title "*The Magic City*" appears on the front in gilt lettering, and "*Photographs*" in black on the spine. The book is in fair condition. The binding is weak, both ends of the spine are peeling severely, and the covers are discolored. There are rips and tears to a few pages, but none impact seriously impact the contents. The first free end-page was removed, and there is a small date sticker on the spine.

(2) Kurtz, Charles W., ed. *Official Illustrations from the Art Gallery of the World's Columbian Exposition.* Philadelphia: George Barrie, 1893. (1st edition). 383 pages. Hardcover.

The World's Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago from May 1 to October 1893. One of the most elaborate world's fairs, it celebrated American industry, modernity, and the four-hundredth anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New World. In addition to technological demonstrations,

ethnographic exhibits, architectural masterpieces, and the famous Ferris wheel, the exposition's Palace of Fine Arts displayed several hundred works by prominent American and western European artists. This book contains 336 black-and-white engravings of these works. The American contingent was particularly impressive, including works by notable figures as William Merritt Chase, Childe Hassam, and Louis Comfort Tiffany. The book was edited by Charles M. Kurtz (1853-1909), assistant chief of the exposition's art department.

The book has board covers with cream-colored cloth and gilt lettering. The front cover shows a small image of the Palace of Fine Arts, while the back shows the exposition's official seal. There does not seem to ever have been a dust jacket for this volume. On the first front end page, a son inscribes the book to his mother. "*To my dear mother as a reminder of pleasant says spent in the Art Museum. Chicago, July 10-20, 1893 Oct. 26. 1893 Charlie*". The covers are dirty, discolored, and peeling in a few places. The corners and spine are bumped, and the binding is slightly weak. There is a small date label on the spine.

\$125.00 for the pair

