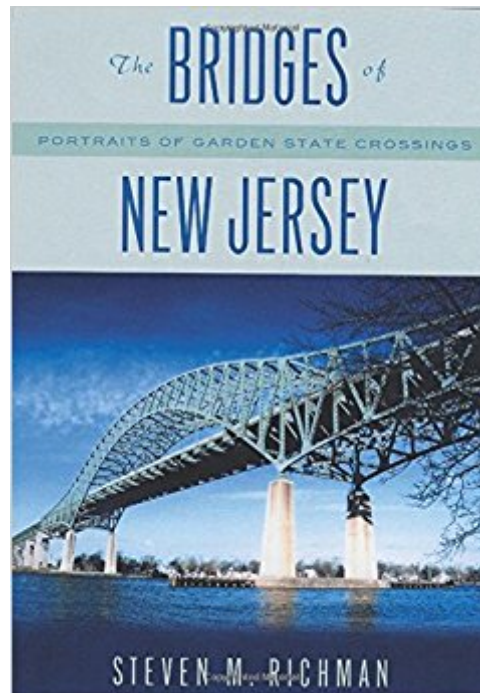




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The Bridges Of New Jersey: Portraits Of Garden State Crossings



Synopsis

New Jersey is sandwiched between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers, with the Raritan, Passaic, and Navesink cutting swaths across it. In spite of the state's relatively small size, over six thousand bridges span its varied landscape. They traverse rivers, streams, railroads, and roadways. Several dozen bridges cut across the Delaware River alone, carrying pedestrian, vehicular, and railroad traffic. Three connect the state to Staten Island. Some are steeped in history, dating back to the colonial era and the Revolutionary war. Others are recognized worldwide for their size or significance in the annals of engineering. In *The Bridges of New Jersey*, Steven M. Richman provides a rare photographic and poetic journey across sixty of the state's bridges, ranging from impressive suspension spans such as the Ben Franklin and George Washington Bridges, to the small wrought iron and stone bridges that are cherished by local citizens. The book provides a rich diversity of stories that place the bridges in the context of New Jersey history and culture. Richman also explores the contribution New Jersey bridges have made to engineering—some of the most prominent engineers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries either lived or established businesses in the Garden State or designed its bridges. Lavishly illustrated with over seventy photographs, this book is much more than a documentary survey. It is a visual portrait that beautifully captures the metaphoric significance and aesthetic pleasures of New Jersey's bridges, and indeed all bridges. Perhaps more than any other structure built by humans, bridges typify progress and they give us a sense of connectedness. *The Bridges of New Jersey* provides a compelling visual demonstration of these symbolic functions, as well as their practical purposes and engineering accomplishments. ã Æ

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Steven Richman's enthusiasm for New Jersey bridges is contagious. He helps us come to see the spans that he celebrates as structural gems and cultural treasures. (Henry Petroski author of *Engineers of Dreams: Great Bridge Builders and the Spanning of America*)

Steven M. Richman is a graduate of New York University Law School and Drew University and currently practices international and commercial law. He is an adjunct professor of international business law at the College of New Jersey and an accomplished photographer whose work is in various public and private collections. He lives in Plainsboro, New Jersey.

I was hoping for more pictures since it's subtitled "Portraits of the Garden State", but the pictures are in black and white and quite small. There is a lot of text and information about the bridges. Also, where is the Walt Whitman???

When I visited NJ for the first time with my wife a decade ago, (I'm an Aussie from Melbourne and my wife was originally from Jersey City) all my new NJ in-laws were not a little suprised at my instant facination for the skyline as we drove along the Pulaski Skyway. Being an ex mechanical engineer old enough to have owned a train set as a kid, it was as if I'd been shrunk and dropped into the worlds best train set. The evidence of 20 century US industrial muscle was everywhere to be seen. Lift bridges, elevated steel highways, girders girders everywhere. I have been back a few times and never tire of looking out of the car window at the passing scenes.....my in-laws think I'm a little crazy to find interest in any of what is often considered by them to be rusty derilect eyesores. It finally occured to me to look for a book on the subject and I'm so glad I did. This is a great book to dip into and appears to be thoroughly researched. Also I was pleasantly suprised to find it was a hardbook. Given my choices I'd rather have more photos, and perhaps a 'coffee table' version of such a book exists, but for the price it is excellent value. I really can't wait to take it with me on my next trip. I highly recommend the book to anyone interested in civil engineering and history, especially if you live in NJ or can visit.

Bought this for a dear friend. He is an engineer and works around bridges all of the time, and lives in

New Jersey. when he opened the package he was very excited...like a kid in a candy store!

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