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**PUBLICATION DATE: MARCH 1, 2007**

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# OUTDOOR MONUMENTS OF MANHATTAN

A Historical Guide

Dianne L. Durante

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“A perfect walking-tour accompaniment to help New Yorkers and visitors find, identify, and better appreciate statues famous and obscure...Ms. Durante winsomely places 54 monuments in historical and artistic perspective...

Let's hope Ms. Durante follows up in the other four boroughs.”

—*New York Times*

“A satisfying read...including enough lively anecdotes and obscure facts to entice all readers.”

—*Sculpture*

Stop, look, and discover—the streets and parks of Manhattan are filled with beautiful historic monuments that will entertain, stimulate, and inspire you. Among the 54 monuments included in ***OUTDOOR MONUMENTS OF MANHATTAN: A Historical Guide*** (March 1, 2007; \$18.95 / 978-0-8147-1987-9 paper; \$65.00 / 978-0-8147-1986-2 cloth) are major figures in American history: Washington, Lincoln, Lafayette, Horace Greeley, and Gertrude Stein; more obscure figures: Daniel Butterfield, J. Marion Sims, and King Jagiello; as well as icons of New York: *Atlas*, *Prometheus*, and the *Firemen's Memorial*. The monuments represent the work of some of America's best sculptors: Augustus Saint Gaudens' *Farragut* and *Sherman*, Daniel Chester French's *Four Continents*, and Anna Hyatt Huntington's *Jose Marti* and *Joan of Arc*.

For each sculpture—shown in black-and-white photographs and located on a map of Manhattan—Dianne L. Durante provides an “About the Subject” which gives biographical details and sets the historical context, with the emphasis on lesser-known but still thought-provoking episodes. Sherman doesn’t march through Georgia, he court-martials a journalist. Lincoln doesn’t issue the Emancipation Proclamation, he copes with a vociferous Confederate sympathizer from Ohio. Richard Morris Hunt doesn’t design a Beaux-Arts museum, he builds a skyscraper. Sidebars reveal other aspects of the figure or event commemorated, via quotes from the person represented, excerpts from nineteenth-century periodicals, and snippets from Aeschylus, Washington Irving and Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi to Mark Twain and Henryk Sienkiewicz.

Durante discusses each sculpture as both a historical memento and as a work of art. She asks fundamental questions such as: What makes one react to a work of art? What is the definition of art? What is its purpose, and how is that purpose accomplished? At the end of ***OUTDOOR MONUMENTS OF MANHATTAN***, Durante provides the essay “How to Read a Sculpture,” inspired by Ayn Rand’s work on aesthetics, and presents her method for study and evaluation of any sculpture, illustrated with detailed examples.

As a historical account, ***OUTDOOR MONUMENTS OF MANHATTAN*** is a fascinating look at the figures and events that changed New York, the United States and the world. As an aesthetic handbook, it provides a compact method for studying sculpture. For residents, tourists, historians, and students who want to spend more time viewing and appreciating sculpture and New York history, ***OUTDOOR MONUMENTS OF MANHATTAN*** is the start of a unique voyage of discovery.

**Dianne L. Durante** is a freelance writer, lecturer, and researcher living in Brooklyn, New York. She is author of *Forgotten Delights: The Producers, A Selection of Manhattan’s Outdoor Sculpture*.

Find out more about **Dianne Durante**  
and ***OUTDOOR MONUMENTS OF MANHATTAN***  
at [www.forgottendelights.com](http://www.forgottendelights.com)

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