

**STREET TYPES OF  
GREAT  
AMERICAN CITIES**

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Street types of great American cities by Sigmund Krausz

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**SIGMUND KRAUSZ**

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—OF—  
GREAT AMERICAN CITIES

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BY  
SIGMUND KRAUSZ

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WITH  
LITERARY SKETCHES BY WELL-KNOWN AUTHORS  
AND  
A PREFACE BY DR. EMIL G. HIRSCH

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1896  
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## INTRODUCTION.

In placing this collection of Character Studies before the public I hope that it will meet with the recognition and hearty appreciation of such as have daily and yearly noted these types in the crowded streets of our American cities.

To collect these studies in such shape and execution as to make the volume a desirable acquisition to every lover of art, it was not sufficient merely to take the kodak and start out to get a snapshot at a desired subject, but I was compelled for weeks and months to haunt the crowded thoroughfares, the fashionable avenues and the dingy alleys for such characters as seemed to suit my purpose; and when I had found them, persuasion, appeals to their vanity and very frequently pecuniary considerations had to be resorted to in order to induce them to visit a studio in the garb and equipments of their daily vocation.

The majority of my characters lacking the educational qualifications necessary to grasp my ideas, I had many failures, caused by their unnatural, awkward and stubborn behavior in front of the camera, before I had sufficient material to issue this collection.

I do not wish to speak about the many ludicrous and unpleasant experiences my self-imposed task has brought upon me; suffice it to say that after enduring frequent insults, escaping a fight with a courageous dude, being taken for a medical student in search of subjects for the dissecting-room, and barely avoiding arrest through a misunderstanding by a female Italian type, I am happy to present the "STREET TYPES OF AMERICAN CITIES" to the favorable notice of the public, who I am sure will find the same pleasure in looking them over as I had—despite the many drawbacks—in finding them, for it is an eternal truth:

*"In arte voluptas."*

SIGMUND KRAUSZ.

## PREFACE.

It is with great pleasure that I comply with the request of the artist to whose happy thought we owe this presentation of the "Street Types of Great American Cities," to introduce by a few explanatory words the creations of his muse to the general public. It has been said that the American cities have no individuality of their own; that the visitor who has tarried a few weeks in one of the larger centers of population can well save all further time and trouble in studying other cities, as every city is but a copy of every other, all being built on one and the same monotonous plan and all showing the same general features without essential variations. This generalization is more brilliant than true. On the surface, indeed, our large emporia may in so far differ from the European capitals as having all, without exception, arisen from similar historical conditions, and, being devoted to industrial or mercantile enterprises, they lack that differentiated flavor of varied historical associations, and do not display the impress of individual minds and wills which are more or less to be expected where the monarch and not the people, where military considerations and not the necessities of commercial activities, where the interests of the court and not the wants of the toilers are the prime considerations. But with all these historic factors, decisive and weighty no doubt, the patient observer, not content to abide by surface impressions, will speedily learn to his great gratification that within the general similarity due to these causes our American cities still own qualities which at once mark them off as distinct not only from the towns of Europe, but also one from the other.

Who will despise the day of small things? The men who meet us in this book are not of the order of those who control the destinies of a city by the vastness of the enterprises they direct, but all of them in their modest sphere contribute their mite to the



active rush which ebbs and flows along our busy thoroughfares. Many of the figures which in this collection extend to us their welcome greeting are old acquaintances of ours, nay, friends whose occasional absence from their wonted haunts and places incite concern for their well-being. None of them but brings us something, be it the hard-pressed letter-carrier or the sooty coal-man; be it the musician or the pedlar; they belong to us. Who would miss them? In their very countenances is mingled self-reliance with the desire to be of help to others, and on all is painted the determination to make the most of what opportunity offers. The artist has caught the inspiration of his subjects. This book can therefore not fail to commend itself as a most valuable souvenir. A deep thinker it was who said, within the shell was the animal, behind the book the man. His sentiment applies to cities as well. Behind the piles of iron and steel and granite and mortar are the men. These much more than the edifices which they erect are characteristic of a city. And these humble street types are without doubt to be numbered among the men and women who have made and are making our Great Cities; they are the promise of still greater achievements to be garnered in the near future.

EMIL G. HIRSCH.

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