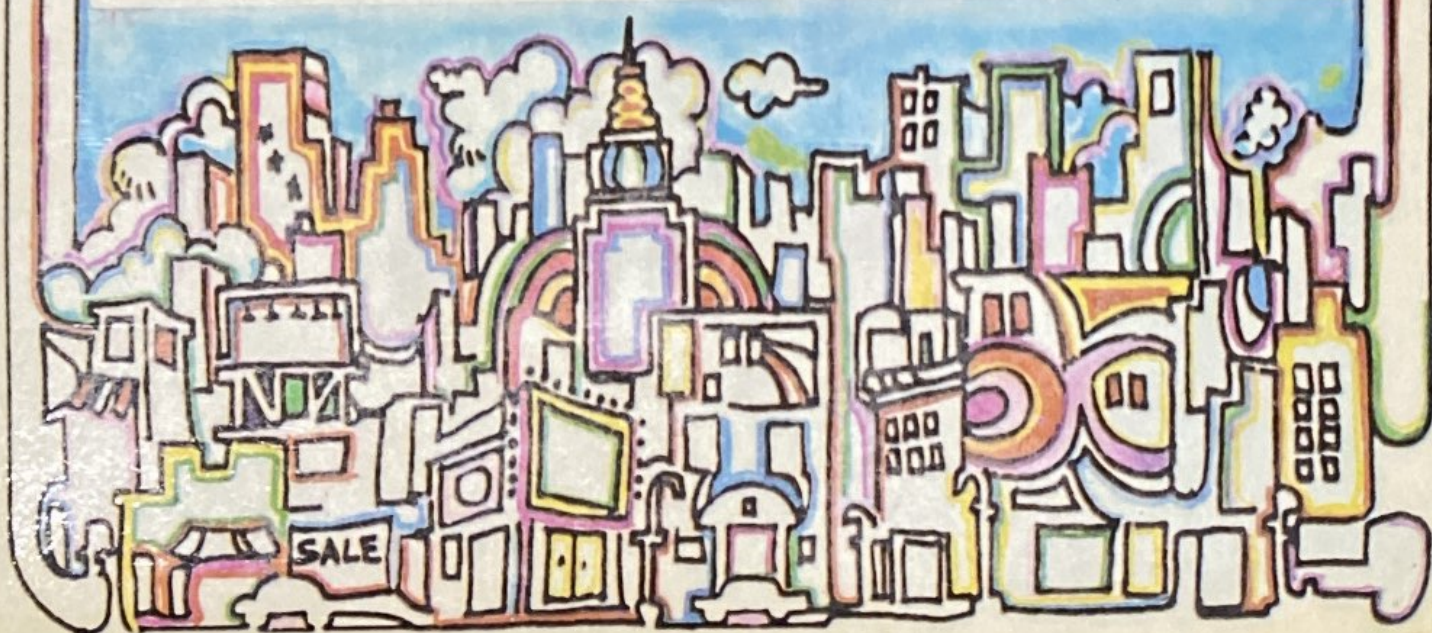


Helen Hayes
and
Anita Loos
present

**TWICE
OVER
LIGHTLY**

New York
Then and Now



Helen Hayes, in a moment of irritation combined with zest, said to her friend Anita Loos: "I used to think New York was the most enthralling place in the world. I'll bet it still is and if I were free next summer, I would prove it." And she did, launching herself and her skeptical companion on a series of explorations through all five boroughs of the fabled city.

Not for them the beaten track: They braved Bellevue Hospital at night, accompanied New York garbage to its final resting place, blew their minds at such institutes of higher learning as the Atlas Barber School, the International Bartenders School, and Miss de Vore's School of Charm for black girls. They visited His Eminence at the Archdiocese, His Honor at Gracie Mansion, and The World of Darkness at the Bronx Zoo. They went to parties, museums, libraries, to homes of outrageous eccentricity, to Puerto Rican markets, and to Thanksgiving Dinner at a Salvation Army Center. They saw the silent gold at the Federal Reserve Bank, the controlled motion at the New York Stock Exchange, and the uncontrolled emotion at Shea Stadium.

Memories of their theatrical pasts play no mean part in their spirited accounts. Charlie MacArthur, Beatrice Lillie, the Gish sisters, great restaurateurs, great entrepreneurs, great designers are part of their pageant. They meet and talk and make friends with all kinds of people and somehow distill the mad variety of the world's most stimulating city. Helen Hayes's Irish warmth, enthusiasm, and sentiment are batted against Anita Loos's more sardonic view of things. Pressures and problems are not left in the dark, but the spotlight falls on New York's splendors and oddities, and on the fascinating citizens who keep it going.

With 8 pages of photographs

Helen Hayes, as everyone knows, is the first lady of the American theatre, a brilliant actress, the devoted wife of her one and only husband, the late playwright and screenwriter Charles MacArthur, the mother of Mary and Jim, the grandmother of small MacArthurs whom she visits and who visit her. The glow of her many activities, loyalties, and interests pervades this book.

Anita Loos, as everyone knows, came to early, lasting, and international fame through her first book, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, which launched the immortal line: "Diamonds are a girl's best friend." She has written over two hundred scenarios for D. W. Griffith and M-G-M, published the first part of her autobiography, *A Girl Like I*, in 1966, and when asked about magazines in which her work has appeared, answered tersely: "Too many to remember."

Miss Hayes and Miss Loos say that their purpose in writing this book was "to get people to discover their own environments, to get out of their ruts, to be explorers."

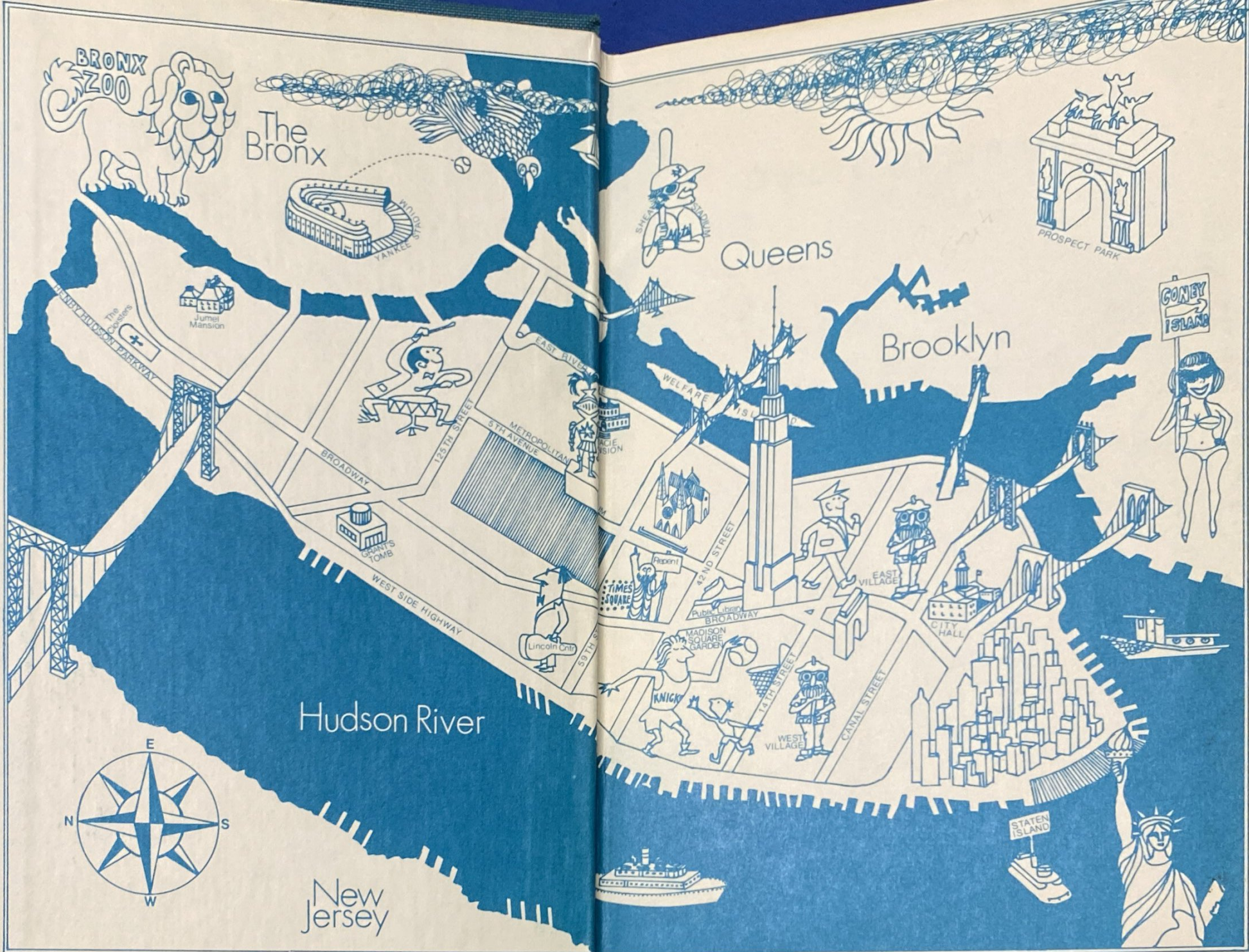
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L. Arnold Weissberger





TWICE OVER LIGHTLY

To the happy couple
Elaine and John Bay
affection
Helmut Hayes
1973

TWICE OVER LIGHTLY

NEW YORK THEN AND NOW

HELEN HAYES



ANITA LOOS



HARCOURT BRACE JOVANOVICH, INC., NEW YORK

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