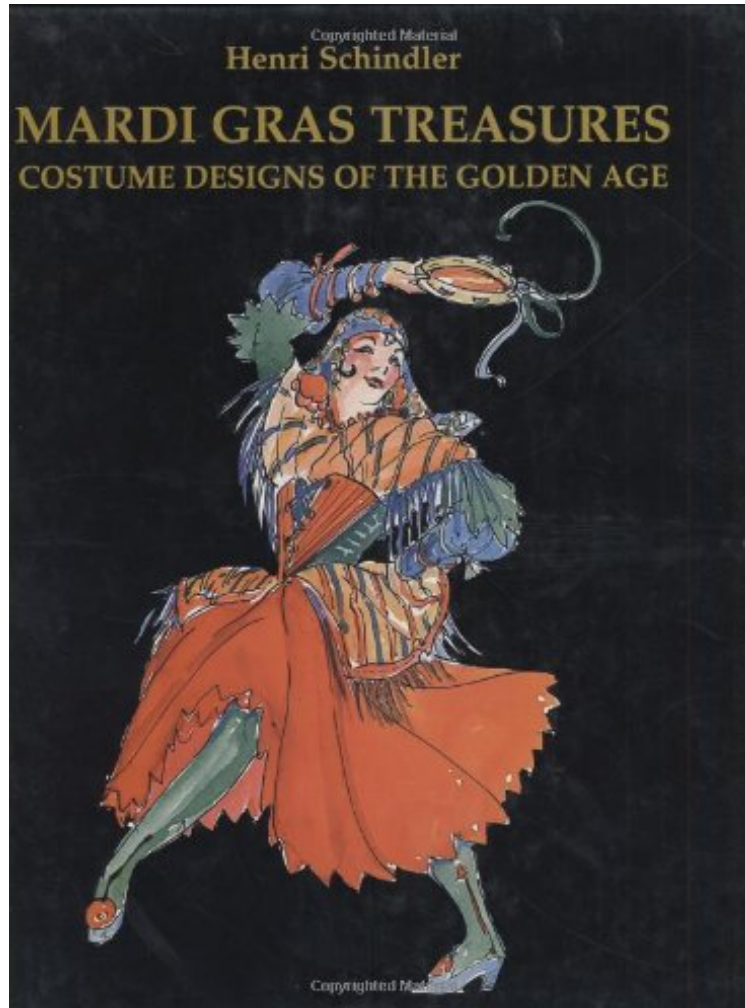


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Mardi Gras Treasures: Costume Designs of the Golden Age

Henri Schindler

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cultural and social history as well as art lovers and designers will share delight in Schindler's masterful recreation, through well-researched and entertaining text and beautiful color plates, of the "golden age" of the celebration--an oeuvre to which Schindler adds annually through his own designs for several of the old-line carnival organizations, thus keeping alive the artistic and cultural tradition of which he writes in this and his previous books. The reader comes to know, through the insights of a true "insider", the meaning and spirit of the "real" Carnival.

Golden Age costume design was a tremendous spectacle of whimsy, mythology, and satire. Costumes included an extraordinary array of creatures: demons, fairies, magicians, animals and vegetables real and imagined, and a host of others.

From the Inside FlapThe exuberant theatricality that has long distinguished New Orleans found its first expression in the costumes and masks of Mardi Gras. From the city's early celebrations as a Creole colony to the glimmering pageantry of the Golden Age, costumes remained essential to the New Orleans Carnival. The Golden Age began with the satirical masterworks of the early 1870s, blossomed in grandeur from the 1880s until World War I, and ended with the coming of the Great Depression of the 1930s. Mardi Gras was then a fantastic empire, crowded with scenic costume productions drawn from a cornucopia of subjects--mythology, history, literature, theology, nature, and whimsy. This book, the third in a series of Mardi Gras Treasures, presents the first comprehensive survey of the wondrous costumes designed for the casts of those papier-mch tableaux during the Golden Age. Henri Schindler, a Mardi Gras historian, is also the acclaimed designer of parades and balls for some of the city's most eminent Carnival societies. Following *Mardi Gras Treasures: Invitations of the Golden Age* and *Mardi Gras Treasures: Float Designs of the Golden Age*, Schindler continues his study of Carnival art by offering almost three hundred water-color costume plates, a dazzling panorama in which the amazing work of seven major designers is rediscovered. About the AuthorHenri Schindler, a New Orleans native, is the acclaimed designer of Mardi Gras parades and balls for some of the city's most eminent societies. He is highly regarded among Carnival historians for his knowledge of the festival's rich cultural legacy, and of its forgotten artists and builders.