

Margaret Bourke-White: The Prohibition Years

Abstract

Raised in Middlesex, New Jersey, Margaret Bourke-White (1904–1971) became a renowned photographer during Prohibition. This illustrated lecture begins with views of her childhood home, then traces her career from Cleveland, where her photographs of the steel industry came to the attention of publisher Henry Luce, to New York, where in 1930 Luce invited her to be staff photographer for his new *Fortune* magazine. In the early 1930s, Bourke-White's industrial photographs gained her an international reputation and led to her first book, *Eyes on Russia* (1931). The lecture concludes with an overview of Bourke-White's subsequent career, which lasted until the 1950s.

Bio

Gary D. Saretzky, archivist, educator, and photographer, worked as an archivist for more than fifty years at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Educational Testing Service, and the Monmouth County Archives, from which he retired in 2019. Saretzky also taught the history of photography at Mercer County Community College, 1977–2012, and served as coordinator of the Public History Internship Program for the Rutgers University History Department, 1994–2016. In 2006, he co-curated the exhibition, "Margaret Bourke-White: In Print," at Alexander Library, Rutgers University. He has published more than 100 articles and reviews on the history of photography, photographic conservation, and other topics, and lectures regularly throughout New Jersey. Saretzky maintains a website, <http://saretzky.com>, which also includes his photographs, lecture schedule, and history of photography resources.