

#412394 in Books 2001-10-31 2001-10-31Original language:EnglishPDF # 12 7.00 x 5.25 x .751, .65

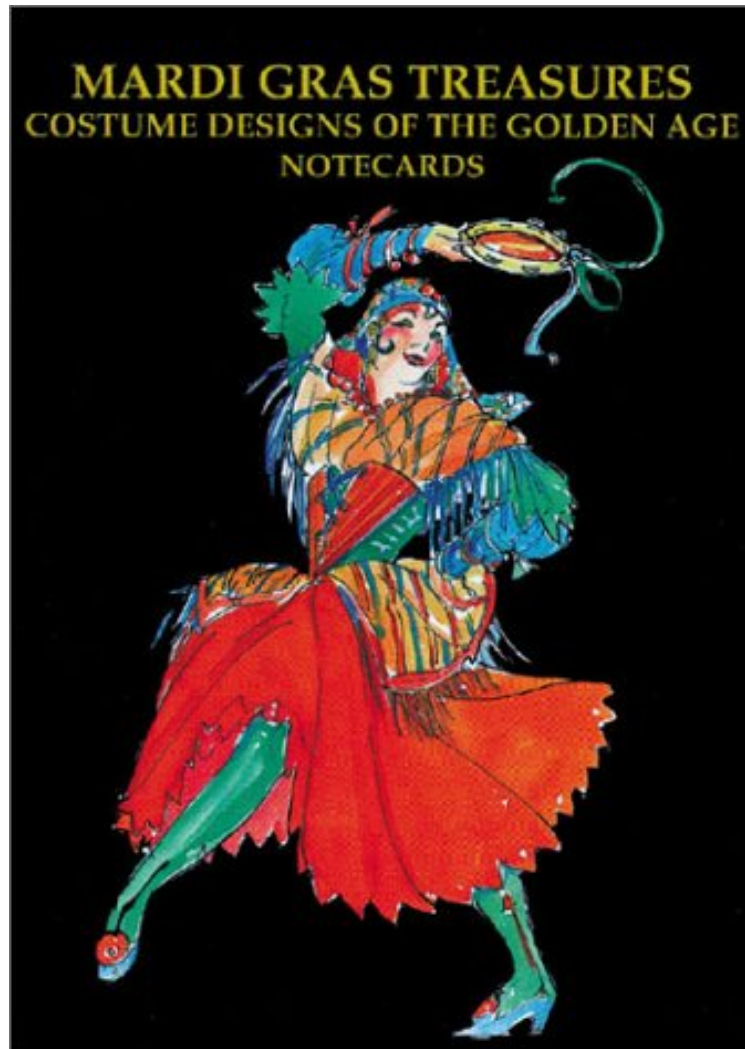
Binding: Cards10 pages | File size: 64.Mb

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view the real New Orleans carnival celebration, take a look through this window opened by its legendary artist/historian, Henri Schindler. Schindler is a local icon, the touchstone of this unique cultural expression. Students of 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.

The glimmering processions of the masked gods and bearded kings of New Orleans Carnival occupy a central position among the rites and glories of this great festival. The fantastic costumes of Carnival's Golden Age (1870-1930) illustrated themes drawn from mythology, epic literature, history, nature, and whimsy. Often presented at masked balls with a predominant theme, the costumes ranged from the royalty of fantasy lands to largely-drawn representations of all manner of animals, minerals, and vegetables. This collection contains dazzling examples of original costume designs as rendered in watercolor and lithographs--most of them reproduced here for the first time. These high-quality, color reproductions are suitable for framing.

From the Inside Flap The 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-mâché 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 Author Henri 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.