

Sacramento Book Review



Below is a clipping of your book review that appeared in the January 09 issue of the *Sacramento Book Review*. Thank you for sending us the book.

Gilded Mansions

By Wayne Craven

Norton, \$59.95, 352 pages

In the post-Civil War period, the nouveau riche in the New York area created such a display of ostentatiousness that that era still goes by the name “the Gilded Age.” As the new rich competed to show off to each other and the old, blue-blooded families, one of the major outlets was building larger and more ornate mansions. Needing to create that illusion of family history, they turned to old homes of Europe and built French chateaus and Italian palazzos in downtown New York and in their country homes in Newport and elsewhere. Inside those homes, they decorated in grand style, making household names of jewelers and designers such as Tiffany and Co. and the Herter Brothers. *Gilded Mansions* is a tour of these homes, with plenty of color and original black and white photographs. Extremely well produced and designed, *Mansions* is a tour not only through the homes of the period, but also of their history and that of their owners. The many gilded moldings and special touches puts truth to name of the age, and the forthcoming *Newport Villas* from Norton, may just be all that the armchair voyeur needs. (Also see *A Season of Splendor*, page 21)