

The Bedford: A Brief History Through Documents

The Bedford is a historic hotel in New York City that has been a fixture in the city's cultural and social scene for over a century. Located in the heart of the Theater District, the hotel has hosted countless celebrities, dignitaries, and other notable figures over the years. The Bedford's rich history is documented in a variety of sources, including menus, guest registers, and newspaper articles. These documents provide a glimpse into the hotel's past and the many people who have passed through its doors.

Early Years

The Bedford was founded in 1899 by John Jacob Astor IV, one of the wealthiest men in New York City. Astor built the hotel on the site of the former Astor House, which had been destroyed by fire in 1897. The Bedford was designed by the renowned architect Stanford White, who also designed many other famous buildings in New York City, including the Metropolitan Club and the Villard Houses. The Bedford was an instant success, and it quickly became a popular destination for the city's elite. The hotel's early guests included President Theodore Roosevelt, Mark Twain, and Oscar Wilde.



Voices of Decolonization: A Brief History with Documents (The Bedford Series in History and Culture)

by Todd Shepard

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The Jazz Age

The Bedford reached its peak of popularity during the Jazz Age, when it was a favorite hangout for the city's jazz musicians and socialites. The hotel's nightclub, the Blue Room, was a legendary venue that hosted performances by Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Billie Holiday. The Bedford was also a popular setting for parties and other social events, and it was frequently featured in newspapers and magazines.



The Blue Room nightclub at the Bedford Hotel

Decline and Rebirth

The Bedford's popularity declined somewhat after the Jazz Age, but it remained a popular destination for tourists and business travelers. However, the hotel fell into disrepair in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1999, the Bedford was purchased by a new owner, who renovated the hotel and restored it to its former glory. The Bedford is now once again a thriving hotel, and it is once again a popular destination for celebrities and other notable figures.



The Bedford Today

The Bedford is a historic hotel that has played a significant role in New York City's cultural and social scene for over a century. The hotel's rich history is documented in a variety of sources, including menus, guest registers, and newspaper articles. These documents provide a glimpse into the hotel's past and the many people who have passed through its doors. The Bedford is a reminder of New York City's rich history, and it continues to be a popular destination for visitors from all over the world.

Documents

- Menu from the Bedford Hotel, 1899
- Guest register from the Bedford Hotel, 1920-1930
- Newspaper article about the Bedford Hotel, 1927



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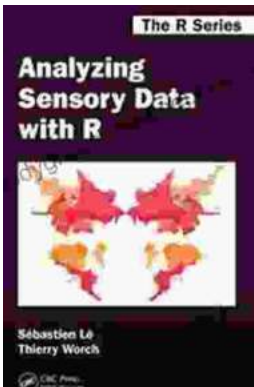
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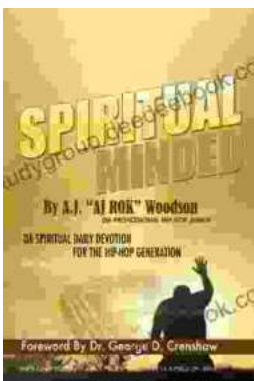
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