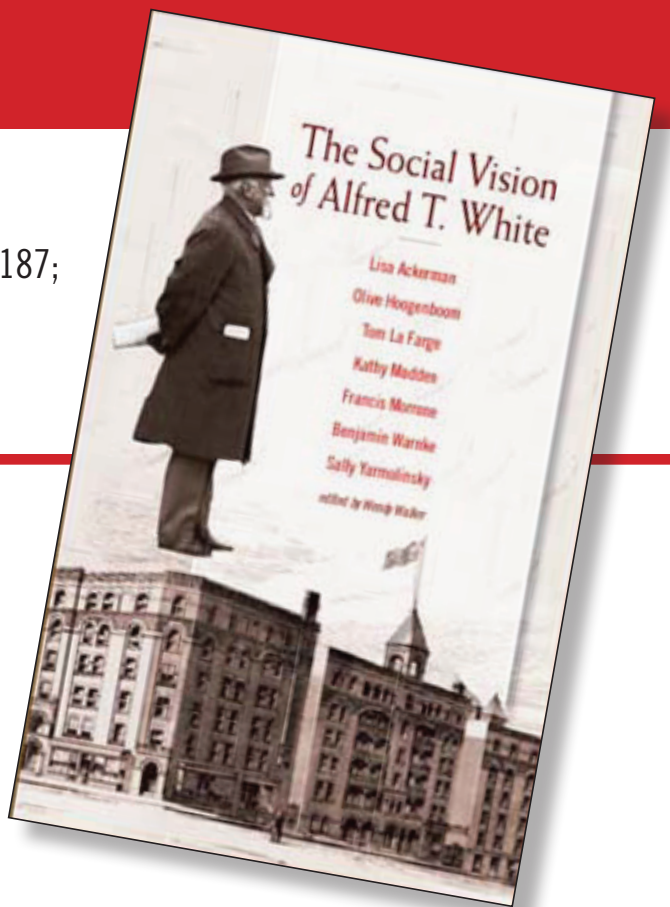


Contact: Proteus Gowanus: Tom LaFarge,
 Proteotypes@proteusgowanus.com; 917-400-2187;
 Brooklyn Historical Society: 718-222-4111

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**PUBLICATION AND
 LAUNCH PARTY**

*Thursday, April 23, 6-8 pm
 at the Brooklyn Historical Society,
 128 Pierrepont St. Brooklyn
 (718) 222-4111*



BROOKLYN - Proteotypes, the publishing arm of Proteus Gowanus, and the Brooklyn Historical Society are proud to announce the publication of the first full-length study of the work of **Alfred Tredway White** (1846-1921). Largely forgotten today, his name known only to specialists, Alfred White at his death was eulogized as “the great heart and master-mind of Brooklyn’s better self” for his many forward-looking innovations in low-income housing and in promoting the welfare of poor children, for his ability to enlist others to this work, and for his insistence that rapidly growing Brooklyn retain a sense of community values. At a time when the divide between rich and poor is increasing, this book highlights the important work of this turn-of-the-century social visionary.

Alfred T. White dedicated himself to designing and building comfortable, sanitary housing for an immigrant population of workers who were then living in squalor, and he established a model for the development of low-income housing. By promoting limited-dividend investment, “philanthropy and five per cent,” he persuaded New York’s well-to-do to join him in realizing his social vision. The housing he built fostered warm community spirit and, through its affordable beauty, a sense of the tenant’s dignity. The Riverside Houses of **Brooklyn Heights** and, in **Cobble Hill**, The Home and Tower Buildings and Workingmen’s Cottages of Warren Place Mews still stand today as a testimony to his vision. As a board member of City and Suburban Homes Company he helped to build thousands of units of affordable housing in **Manhattan** and **South Brooklyn**, and he played an important part in building **Forest Hills Gardens** in Queens.

The seven essays in *The Social Vision of Alfred T. White*, edited by **Wendy Walker**, each examine an aspect of White’s work or a conclusion to be drawn from it, concentrating on housing. **Tom La Farge** looks at the issues surrounding housing the poor in the mid-nineteenth century and examines the models that White borrowed from London. **Olive Hoogenboom**, historian of the First Unitarian Church of Brooklyn, shows White’s work in that church’s settlement schools as a key motivating factor in shaping his work for children and their families. A historic preservationist, **Lisa Ackerman**, discusses White’s architecture in the light of the development of Brooklyn’s waterfront communities. White’s community building is offered as a valuable example today by **Kathy Madden**, an urban planner. **Benjamin Warnke**, an affordable-housing developer, displays White’s use of “social capital” and shows how this idea continues to be essential. Architectural historian **Francis Morrone** describes White’s relations with the most prominent New York architects of his day, both those he learned from and those he employed. **Sally Yarmolinsky**, a settlement fundraiser, describes her experience of living in one of White’s Warren Place Cottages.

Proteotypes is the publishing arm of Proteus Gowanus, an interdisciplinary gallery and reading room in Brooklyn, NY. The Brooklyn Historical Society is a museum, library and educational center dedicated to encouraging the exploration and appreciation of Brooklyn’s rich heritage.