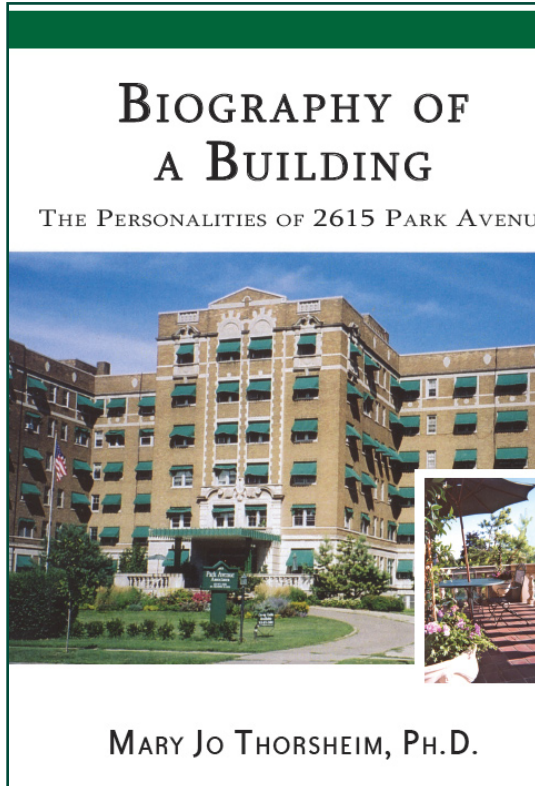


Biography of a Building: The Personalities of 2615 Park Avenue

By Mary Jo Thorsheim, Ph.D.



In 1929 two Swedish-American immigrants undertook the imposing task of constructing an elegant apartment-hotel in Minneapolis. A year later, the United States was in the depths of the Great Depression. Yet these men continued to pursue their vision and 2615 Park Avenue had been completed by the end of 1930. At the time Park Avenue was lined with the massive mansions of Minnesota's first families, and the residents at 2615 enjoyed the prestige of the Park Avenue location. Apartment hotels were already a popular residential arrangement, but few could compete with 2615 Park for style and service.

Over the course of time, many such apartment-hotels have been torn down or converted to other uses. But 2615 remains a thriving enterprise, now as a co-operative. Here is the story of its construction, its neighborhood, its famous residents, and its continuing legacy of gracious urban living.

"The story of a building and its occupants has seldom been told better than in this book. The author brings to life one of the most stately apartment buildings in Minneapolis in a series of entertaining and compelling portraits of the people who created and lovingly cared for it down through the years."

~ Alan K. Lathrop, Professor and Curator, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota

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