

SHOW ME AMERICA

**Lewis Hine**  
**Photographer of Americans at Work**

**Richard Worth**

# Lewis Hine

Photographer of  
Americans at Work







SHOW ME AMERICA

# Lewis Hine

Photographer of  
Americans at Work



Richard Worth

 **Routledge**  
Taylor & Francis Group  
LONDON AND NEW YORK

SERIES CONSULTANT

Jeffrey W. Allison  
Paul Mellon Collection  
Educator, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Cover Photos:

“Powerhouse Mechanic” (Lewis Wickes Hine);  
“Row of Tenement Houses, 260 to 268 Elizabeth St.” (Lewis Wickes Hine).

First published by 2009 M.E. Sharpe, Inc

Published 2016 by Routledge  
2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN  
711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017, USA

*Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business*  
Copyright © 2009 by Taylor & Francis. All rights reserved.

Series created by Kid Graphica, LLC  
Series designed by Gilda Hannah  
Map: Mapping Specialists Limited

No part of this book may be reprinted or reproduced or utilised in any form or by any electronic, mechanical, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publishers.

Notices

No responsibility is assumed by the publisher for any injury and/or damage to persons or property as a matter of products liability, negligence or otherwise, or from any use of operation of any methods, products, instructions or ideas contained in the material herein.

Practitioners and researchers must always rely on their own experience and knowledge in evaluating and using any information, methods, compounds, or experiments described herein. In using such information or methods they should be mindful of their own safety and the safety of others, including parties for whom they have a professional responsibility.

Product or corporate names may be trademarks or registered trademarks, and are used only for identification and explanation without intent to infringe.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Worth, Richard.

Lewis Hine: photographer of Americans at work / Richard Worth.

p. cm. — (Show me America)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-7656-8153-9 (hardcover: alk. paper)

1. Hine, Lewis Wickes, 1874–1940—Juvenile literature. 2. Photographers—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature. 3. Child labor—United States—History—Pictorial works—Juvenile literature. 4. Documentary photography—United States—History—Juvenile literature. 5. United States—Social conditions—Pictorial works—Juvenile literature. I. Title.

TR140.H52W67 2008

770.92—dc22

[B]

2008004426

ISBN 978-0-76568-153-9 (hbk)

# Contents



Declaration of Independence	7
Map	8
<b>CHAPTER ONE</b>	
The Great Social Peril	10
<b>CHAPTER TWO</b>	
Becoming a Photographer	16
<b>CHAPTER THREE</b>	
Hine at Ellis Island	22
<b>CHAPTER FOUR</b>	
The Tragedy of Child Labor	30
<b>CHAPTER FIVE</b>	
Hine and World War I	46
<b>CHAPTER SIX</b>	
Men at Work	56
<b>CHAPTER SEVEN</b>	
The Great Depression	66
Glossary	74
Time Line	75
Further Research	76
Bibliography	77
Index	78



# Declaration of Independence

By the Children of America in Mines and Factories and Workshops Assembled



*Lewis Wickes Hine's documentary photography helped promote the cause of the National Child Labor Committee, which published this declaration in 1913:*

WHEREAS, We, Children of America, are declared to have been born free and equal, and

WHEREAS, We are yet in bondage in this land of the free; are forced to toil the long day or the long night, with no control over the conditions of labor, as to health or safety or hours or wages, and with no right to the rewards of our service, therefore be it

RESOLVED, I — That childhood is endowed with certain inherent and inalienable rights, among which are freedom from toil for daily bread; the right to play and to dream; the right to the normal sleep of the night season; the right to an education, that we may have equality of opportunity for developing all that there is in us of mind and heart.

RESOLVED, II — That we declare ourselves to be helpless and dependent; that we are and of right ought to be dependent, and that we hereby present the appeal of our helplessness that we may be protected in the enjoyment of the rights of childhood.

RESOLVED, III — That we demand the restoration of our rights by the abolition of child labor in America.

Child Workers  
Across America  
Photographed by  
Lewis Hine

