



# Imagining Winnipeg: History through the Photographs of L.B. Foote

*Esyllt W. Jones*

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## **Imagining Winnipeg: History through the Photographs of L.B. Foote** Esyllt W. Jones

In an expanding and socially fractious early twentieth-century Winnipeg, Lewis Benjamin Foote (1873-1957) rose to become the city's pre-eminent commercial photographer. Documenting everything from royal visits to deep poverty, from the building of the landmark Fort Garry Hotel to the turmoil of the 1919 General Strike, Foote's photographs have come to be iconic representations of early Winnipeg life. They have been used to illustrate everything from academic histories to posters for rock concerts; they have influenced the work of visual artists, writers, and musicians; and they have represented Winnipeg to the nation. But in *Imagining Winnipeg*, historian Esyllt W. Jones takes us beyond the iconic to reveal the complex artist behind the lens and the conflicting ways in which his photographs have been used to give credence to diverse and sometimes irreconcilable views of Winnipeg's past. Incorporating 150 stunning photographs from the more than 2,000 images in the Archives of Manitoba Foote Collection, *Imagining Winnipeg* challenges our understanding of visual history and the city we thought we knew.

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