



# Lorado Taft: The Chicago Years

*Allen Stuart Weller*

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## **Lorado Taft: The Chicago Years** Allen Stuart Weller

Sculptor Lorado Taft helped build Chicago's worldwide reputation as the epicenter of the City Beautiful Movement. In this new biography, art historian Allen Stuart Weller picks up where his earlier book *Lorado in Paris* left off, drawing on the sculptor's papers to generate a fascinating account of the most productive and influential years of Taft's long career. Returning to Chicago from France, Taft established a bustling studio and began a twenty-one-year career as an instructor at the Art Institute, succeeded by three decades as head of the Midway Studios at the University of Chicago. This triumphant era included: ephemeral sculpture for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition; a prolific turn-of-the-century period marked by the gold-medal-winning *The Solitude of the Soul* ; the 1913 *Fountain of the Great Lakes* ; the 1929 *Alma Mater* at the University of Illinois; and large-scale projects such as his ambitious program for Chicago's Midway with the monumental *Fountain of Time* . In addition, the book charts Taft's mentoring of women artists, including the so-called *White Rabbits* at the World's Fair, many of whom went on to achieve artistic success. Lavishly illustrated with color images of Taft's most celebrated works, *Lorado Taft: The Chicago Years* completes the first major study of a great American artist.

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