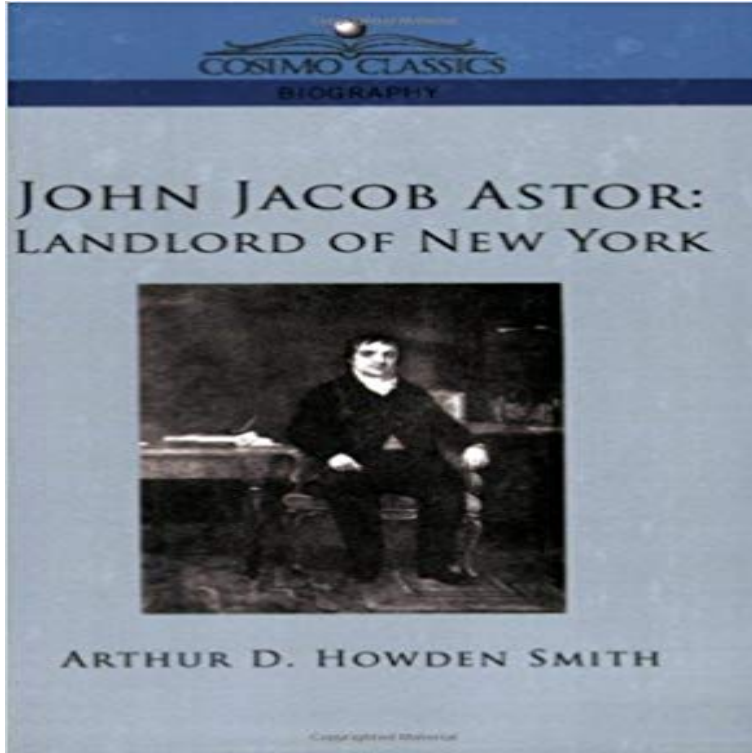


## John Jacob Astor: Landlord of New York



Some weeks later a dray drove up to the Astor store, then at 68 Pine Street, and delivered a number of very heavy little kegs which chinked faintly as they were rolled in through the door. What on earth are those, Jacob? Sarah demanded when she happened in during the afternoon. Der fruits of our East India pass, he answered, his deep-set eyes twinkling merrily. Money? He nodded. Ho-how much? Fifty-five tusan dollar. Jacob! she gasped. And well she might. It was as rich a coup as he ever achieved. -from *Fur and Tea*

New Yorkers cant escape the name Astor: it graces theaters, hotels, street names, and even an entire Queens neighborhood. This delightful biography of the landlord of New York explains how John Jacob Astor, who arrived in the city a poor immigrant in 1784, created such a fortune-in real estate, fur, and trade with China-not only for himself but for the city and nation around him that his influence could not be denied. Author Arthur D. Howden Smith was, in the early years of the 20th century, a tremendously popular author of pulp fiction on a par with E.E. Doc Smith and Edgar Rice Burroughs. And the same boisterous enthusiasm that made his adventure tales of pirates and Vikings so riproaring readable bursts forth from this classic biography as well. Also available from Cosimo Classics: *Howden Smiths Commodore Vanderbilt: An Epic of American Achievement*. ARTHUR DOUGLAS HOWDEN SMITH (1887-1945) was an enormously prolific and diverse writer, penning numerous short stories, biographies, and business studies, but he is best remembered for his many pulp novels, including *Porto Bello Gold* (a prequel to *Treasure Island*), *The Dead Go Oversea*, *The Doom Trail*, *Swains Saga*, and others.

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