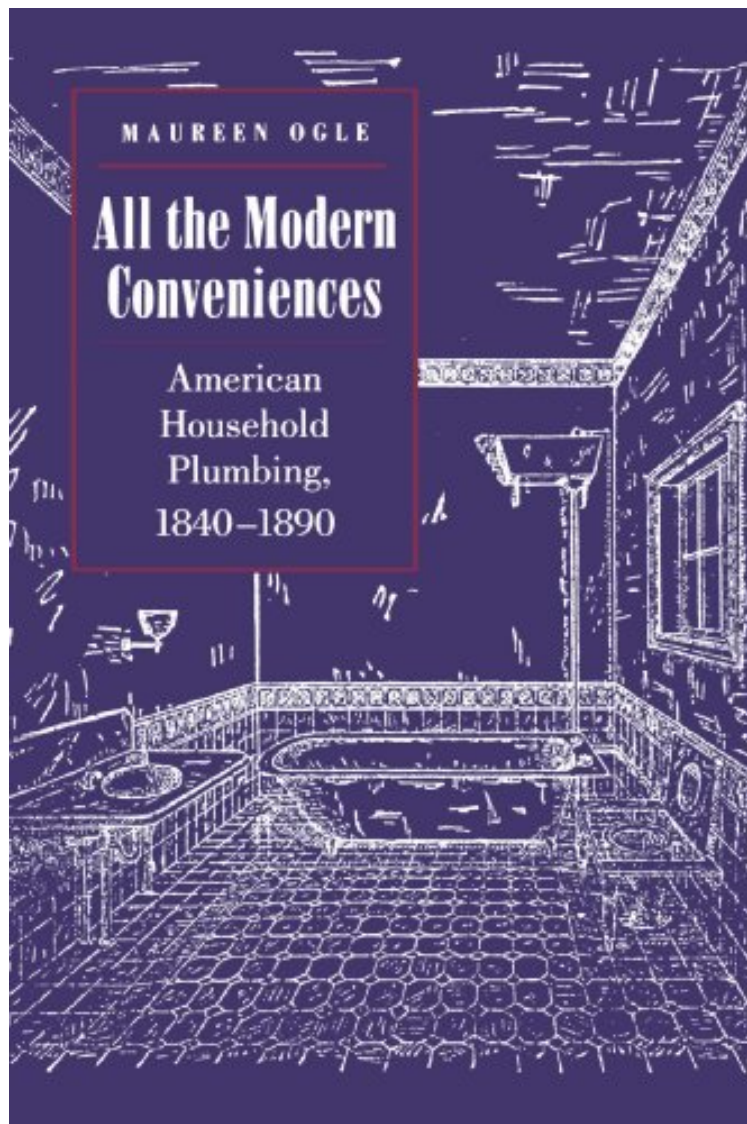


[Library ebook] All the Modern Conveniences: American Household Plumbing, 1840-1890 (Johns Hopkins Studies in the History of Technology)

All the Modern Conveniences: American Household Plumbing, 1840-1890 (Johns Hopkins Studies in the History of Technology)

Maureen Ogle

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Maureen Ogle : All the Modern Conveniences: American Household Plumbing, 1840-1890 (Johns Hopkins Studies in the History of Technology) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised All the Modern Conveniences: American Household Plumbing, 1840-1890 (Johns Hopkins Studies in the History of Technology):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A clear, concise, comprehensive (relatively), and comprehensible book about the evolution of American plumbing. By David Arbogast For those technical geeks who want a clear, concise, comprehensive (relatively), and comprehensible book about the evolution of American plumbing, this is it. For those who are interested in Victorian plumbing as decor, this is probably not the most interesting book you will find. For my own purposes, I found this book to be more than I hoped for. Thus, I heartily recommend it. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Very comprehensive and Informative. By Linda Setnik, author of Victorian Costume For Ladies and Victorian Fashions for Women and Children This is an excellent book on the subject of household plumbing. Well written, interesting, and based heavily on primary, 19th century documents. The author takes one from the 1840s through the 1890s and describes not only the available facilities, but the reasons and thought processes behind them. Well researched and very comprehensive and informative! 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Long-overdue book by an American author. By Roger V. Several British authors have written books similar to this one, and I've always wondered why no American books had been written, especially in view of Americans' legendary love of plumbing. Ms Ogle extensively explores the sociological aspects of the development of domestic plumbing pretty thoroughly, and also explodes the myth that indoor plumbing was developed only after large municipal water supply systems were developed. I would have liked a slightly more details on the technical angles of things, but overall, her work is good. It's a definite "must read" for people who are interested in such things.

As any American who has traveled abroad knows, the American home contains more, and more elaborate, plumbing than any other in the world. Indeed, Americans are renowned for their obsession with cleanliness. Although plumbing has occupied a central position in American life since the mid-nineteenth century, little scholarly attention has been paid to its history. Now, in *All the Modern Conveniences*, Maureen Ogle presents a fascinating study that explores the development of household plumbing in nineteenth-century America. Until 1840, indoor plumbing could be found only in mansions and first-class hotels. Then, in the decade before midcentury, Americans representing a wider range of economic circumstances began to install household plumbing with increasing eagerness. Ogle draws on a wide assortment of contemporary sources—sanitation reports, builders' manuals, fixture catalogues, patent applications, and popular scientific tracts—to show how the demand for plumbing was prompted more by an emerging middle-class culture of convenience, reform, and domestic life than by fears about poor hygiene and inadequate sanitation. She also examines advancements in water-supply and waste-management technology, the architectural considerations these amenities entailed, and the scientific approach to sanitation that began to emerge by century's end.

"An essential perspective on the modern world... The text offers an abundance of detailed information on the development of tubs, showers, toilets, and sinks... Goes well beyond any previous account in delineating how fresh and waste water systems had an impact on domestic life in the mid-nineteenth century." (*American Studies International*) "As part of this well-researched study, Maureen Ogle links cities, politicians, systems, sanitarians, and ideas to produce a compelling account of household plumbing—a taken-for-granted set of devices that allowed Americans to express their individualism and their commitment to 'science.'" (Mark H. Rose, Florida Atlantic University) About the Author Maureen Ogle is former assistant professor of history at the University of South Alabama.