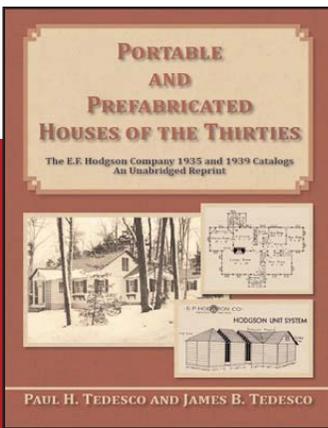


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Portable and Prefabricated Houses of the Thirties:

The E.F. Hodgson Company 1935 and 1939 Catalogs An Unabridged Reprint

by Paul H. Tedesco & James B. Tedesco

Softcover

ISBN 13:978-0-9792059-1-0

ISBN 10:0-9792059-1-3

\$19.95

**Available from:
Amazon.com**

**Press Contact:
Jim Tedesco**

**1485 Christina Lane
Lake Forest, IL 60045**

Phone: 781-760-2357

Fax: 419-735-0603

**Email:
jtedesco@gis.net**

A Mark of Success and Stability

E.F. Hodgson's mail-order houses of the 1930s were the essence of the American Dream - so much so, even the Rockefellers, DuPonts, Vanderbilts and Astors had one

Before Richard W. Sears and before Aaron Montgomery Ward, there was E. F. Hodgson, whose prefabricated homes were one of the most important economic forces in pre-World War II America.

In their book *Portable and Prefabricated Houses of the Thirties: The E.F. Hodgson Company 1935 and 1939 Catalogs, An Unabridged Reprint*, authors Paul H. and James B. Tedesco have unearthed a treasure trove of little-remembered Americana: Catalogs, advertisements, and blueprints of E. F. Hodgson's prefabricated homes.

From the small New England town of Dover, Massachusetts, Hodgson's high-quality homes snapped agrarian America to attention. Railway's inroads made an entirely new market available to companies like E.F. Hodgson, whose trademarked WIGWARM frame construction took Washington cedar and fir, three coats of forest green or medium brown paint, and simple key bolt assembly for one or two men to make a durable home in a day or two.

The American Dream was hardly confined to North American shores. Hodgson homes became a hallmark of international prestige with clients in Belgium, Italy, France, Newfoundland, and Jerusalem. Indeed, the homes were so flexible and cleverly designed that they were used for everything from military barracks to foreign embassies.

The Tedescos life-long affection for Dover history is beautifully displayed in their book, which features photographs from the era, original bills of sale, letters from dignitaries and the very wealthy, and an historical timeline from 1871-1948.

Though long lost to history, the catalogs, photographs and stories in *Portable and Prefabricated Houses of the Thirties* are an invaluable look at how small businesses played - and still play - an important role in the United States economy.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

Paul H. Tedesco is an author, educator, and local historian. Dr. Tedesco is professor emeritus at Northeastern University and adjunct professor at the University of Maryland University College-European Division. He is currently president of the Dover Historical Society. He has been president of the New England History Teachers' Association and the Bay State Historical League. He has written, lectured, and taught American and New England history and local history for over fifty years. An innovative historian, he holds the A.B. degree in history from Harvard College, A.M. and Ph.D. degrees in history from Boston University, and an advanced graduate degree from Northeastern University. He has also written *Dover: Images of America*.

James B. Tedesco grew up in Dover, Massachusetts and participated in his father's passion for young adults and youngsters to experience "Living History." He lived as a Pilgrim in Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Massachusetts; as a sailor aboard the Joseph Conrad at Mystic Seaport, Connecticut; and during a winter and a summer as a Shaker boy in Shaker Village, Sabbathday Lake, Maine, with the last remaining Shaker sisters. Jim's career has been focused on computer and software technologies in marketing and business development roles building indirect channels of distribution in firms such as Data General, Lotus Development, Inso Corp., Scansoft now Nuance Communications, Inc., Parametric Technology Corp., and CoreStreet Ltd.. A creative and inventive technologist, Jim graduated from Tabor Academy, Marion, Massachusetts, and holds the A.B. degree in Political Science and German from Colgate University and an MBA degree from Northeastern University.