

The Official Handbook of the Panama Canal 1915 was printed and published by the Government Printing Office in Washington in 1915. This Handbook was used at the Panama Canal Exhibit at the Panama Pacific International Exhibition in San Francisco. It contains all the information for the first year of operation of the Panama Canal. (80 pages). It includes 18 Photos and Tables, located at the end of the book. These photos and tables are also available for viewing and download at [www. digitaltextpublishing.com](http://www.digitaltextpublishing.com)The Publisher has copy-edited this book to improve the formatting, style and accuracy of the text to make it readable. This did not involve changing the substance of the text. Some books, due to age and other factors may contain imperfections. Since there are many books such as this one that are important and beneficial to literary interests, we have made it digitally available.

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**INTRODUCTORY:**.....Since the golden age of discovery inaugurated by Columbus the quest for an all-water way from Europe to the Far East, across Atlantic and Pacific, has been a world obsession.....The idea has possessed the minds of navigators, shippers, business men, admirals, and Governments. Dozens of projects for the forcing of the passage have been advanced; thousands of lives have been lost in the efforts.....On May 4,1904, the Government of the United States took possession of a strip of land 10 miles wide running across the Isthmus of Panama and called the Canal Zone. On August 15,1914, the Panama Canal was opened to commerce.....This began the era of operation. This is the time of realization of the actual condition to which we have been looking forward so long. To tell something of the canal in operation, how it is managed, the distances it saves, with the resulting economy in operation of vessels using the canal, and the ways the trade is moving, are some of the purposes of this handbook.

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