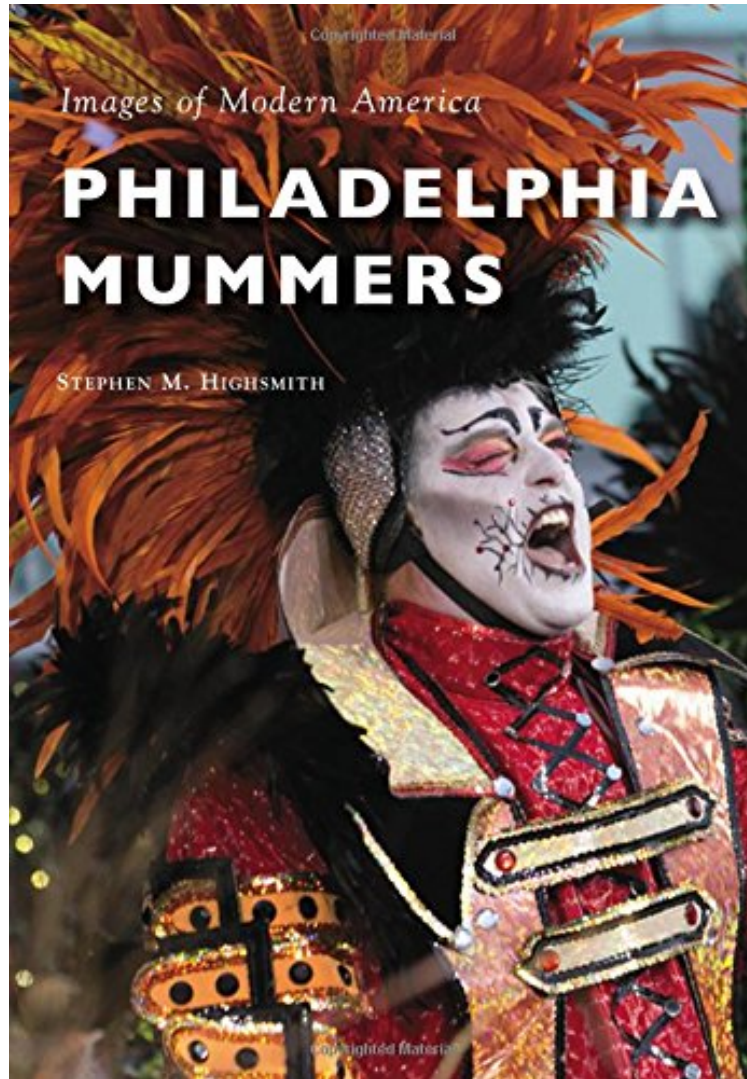


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## Philadelphia Mummers (Images of Modern America)

*Stephen M. Highsmith*

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The Philadelphia Mummers are costumed individuals and families who celebrate by "strutting" and performing on New Year's Day. For many, mummery is also a way of life. The first official parade occurred in 1901, but it is an evolving tradition, reflecting both the challenges and opportunities of changing times. Philadelphia Mummers tells the story of modern-day mummery and the expressions of art, freedom, and celebration of thousands of people who come together in the working-class spirit of America's oldest annual folk parade.

About the Author Stephen "Steve" M. Highsmith has broadcast the annual Mummers Parade for nearly a quarter century. He is an officer on the board of the Mummers Museum and a member of the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia Hall of Fame, having served as an anchor, reporter, and news director in television and radio over a 40-plus-year career. He is currently vice president of Institutional Advancement at Cabrini University.