



# The Algonquin Round Table New York: A Historical Guide

*Kevin C. Fitzpatrick*

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"That is the thing about New York," wrote Dorothy Parker in 1928. "It is always a little more than you had hoped for. Each day, there, is so definitely a new day." Now you can journey back there, in time, to a grand city teeming with hidden bars, luxurious movie palaces, and dazzling skyscrapers. In these places, Dorothy Parker and her cohorts in the Vicious Circle at the infamous Algonquin Round Table sharpened their wit, polished their writing, and captured the energy and elegance of the time. Robert Benchley, Parker's best friend, became the first managing editor of *Vanity Fair* before Irving Berlin spotted him onstage in a Vicious Circle revue and helped launch his acting career. Edna Ferber, an occasional member of the group, wrote the Pulitzer-winning bestseller *So Big* as well as *Show Boat* and *Cimarron*. Jane Grant pressed her first husband, Harold Ross, into starting *The New Yorker*. Neysa McMein, reputedly "rode elephants in circus parades and dashed from her studio to follow passing fire engines." Dorothy Parker wrote for *Vanity Fair* and *Vogue* before ascending the throne as queen of the Round Table, earning everlasting fame (but rather less fortune) for her award-winning short stories and unforgettable poems. Alexander Woollcott, the centerpiece of the group, worked as drama critic for the *Times* and the *World*, wrote profiles of his friends for *The New Yorker*, and lives on today as Sheridan Whiteside in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Explore their favorite salons and saloons, their homes and offices (most still standing), while learning about their colorful careers and private lives. Packed with archival photos, drawings, and other images--including never-before-published material--this illustrated historical guide includes current information on all locations. Use it to retrace the footsteps of the Algonquin Round Table, and you'll discover that the golden age of Gotham still surrounds us.

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