

(Read free ebook) Boring Postcards USA

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Martin Parr

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Martin Parr : Boring Postcards USA before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boring Postcards USA:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Very Boring Piece Of AmericanaBy Robert I. Hedges"Boring Postcards USA" is a great and amusing collection of incredibly boring postcards of kitschy Americana. While on balance I prefer the companion volume "Boring Postcards" slightly, this collection hits closer to home although some of the themes (highway interchanges chief among them) are a bit repetitive.This book houses numerous spectacular examples of postcards so horribly drab, it makes you wonder what could have possibly been the motivation to produce them, or more importantly, actually buy and send them. I am extremely fond of the "ugly motels" series, which serves as a reminder of how ghastly style was in the 1960's.Some of my favorite postcards are "Sunset Travel Trailer Park, Route 1, Fort Stockton, Texas," "The Spartan 3-way Imperial (#23K4C)" (the ugliest television you have ever seen,) "Ariens Sno-Thro--Rotary Mower, Reel Mower, Lawn Vacuum, Rotary Broom, and new Shredder Grinder and Shredder Bagger," "Big Yank Motel and Restaurant, US-131, Kalkaska, Mich.," "The beautiful and spacious dining room of the Wesleyan Retirement Home in Georgetown, Texas," "Oil Tank Farm, near Midland, Texas" (possibly the singularly most blighted landscape I have ever seen in my life), and my very favorite card in the book, "The Heart of any Resilient Plastering Job: Olsen REZ Clips," a postcard that is utterly mysterious in every way.I love these cards for being random and strange remnants of our past. I don't understand why they were made or who would buy them (though some of the are actually postmarked!) but find them charming in their own enigmatic way. I only wish they were able to be sent: who wouldn't love to get a postcard of "PIC Precision Engraved Dials. Disc or Drum Types--Single Stop or Vernier Index."?1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wow...BORING! Who Knew?By Professor PicklepantsI bought this book as a holiday gift exchange item, but it's been handled plenty already! It has sucked in my sister and brother-in-law, my husband, me, my 10 yr old son and my ex already.I collect antique postcards (pre-1900 to about 1930, plus new ones that catch my eye) and have seen a ton of really boring cards like this on line and at shows. I have a shoebox full of cards that are similar which I despair of getting rid of, short of

throwing them away. It's stunning how many boring, poor quality cards were produced during this time period. Putting a bunch in a book with a plain cover was genius. Most people have never seen such boring cards! The novelty, idiocy and irony is great fun for them. My son and I giggled our heads off at most of the cards, uttering the obligatory, "Look at that! That's SO BORING!" at many of them. One favorite is obviously taken from the middle of the freeway. It's simply an up close view of the overpass. Another freeway picture is labeled "picturesque." After learning this new word, my kid laughed his a\$\$ off. My other favorite is an aerial view of a mostly wooded area with a white box drawn over some of the trees. It says "Proposed Site of Future Taconite Plant." You know, not where the plant is NOW. Not where they are sure the plant WILL BE. Where it MAY be going! LOL Plus, what the heck is taconite?? Who cares?? Greatly recommended for the LULZ. A great oddball gift. It would make a great guest bathroom or (not gawd awful large) coffee table book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Any Insomniac's Best Friend By Mr Jazz De Cou Le Vésinet Faraway France May 4, 2013 Turning the pages of this book was one of the most memorable experiences of my lifetime. The book has changed my life. I no longer have to fear insomnia. Just the mental picture of any one of those postcards will put me to sleep. Fast. I can say with certainty that anyone who gives the book to someone will never be forgotten by that person. I can say with certainty that the book alone on a coffee table in front of a sofa will immediately generate lively interest and conversation two minutes after guests arrive. No home should be without one. I would describe the book as an insomniac's best friend: the ideal companion on an air flight. Say good-bye forever to sleeping pills. Pretty nice, huh? I give the book five stars and am frustrated that I can't give it ten or a hundred! Jazz De Cou

In *Boring Postcards* Magnum photographer and postcard enthusiast Martin Parr brought together 160 of the dullest postcards of 1950s, 60s and 70s Britain to make a book that was, contrary to the conceit of its title, both fascinating and extremely funny. It was one of those ideas that seemed so obvious that no one could believe it hadn't been done before, and it caught the public imagination in a big way. In Britain *Boring Postcards* was discussed everywhere from daytime TV shows to art and design magazines, from local newspapers and radio stations (outraged that their town should be labelled 'boring') to *Time* magazine. Now Parr has turned his attention to the USA for a new book of *Boring Postcards*. Just as before, for a postcard to qualify as sufficiently 'boring', either its composition, its content, or the characters featured must be arguably boring or the photograph must be absent of anything that might conventionally be described as interesting. As the study of postcards becomes a field of academic interest, this book offers more than amusement: as a folk art recording of the non-places and non-events of post-war America, it reveals poignant insights into its social, cultural and architectural values.

.com You know those old postcards that show the local meatpacking factory in all its cinder-block glory or the sickening color scheme of a cheap '70s motel room? Well, here they are. Beginning with panoramas of highways in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and other U.S. states, *Boring Postcards* segues to truck stops, restaurants, motor inns, malls, airports, military bases, factories, tools, and automobiles. Every image is certifiably boring, whether by dint of a photographer's ineptitude (dead-on views taken from too far away) or the sorry state of corporate architecture and interior design. And yet, as earnest advertisements for the American Way of Life, they all radiate a sunny faith in the uniqueness and desirability of whatever they portray. There's not a word of commentary in this book, but that part is up to you. Certain things begin to stand out as you flip through the pages. Like the always blue skies. (Positive thinking!) Or the potentially interesting details that are uniformly obliterated, thanks to those polite middle-distance views and the muddy qualities of cheap lithography. There's a weird tension between the blandly generic ("Fine Food" reads the only visible sign atop a low-slung white building) and the proudly local (according to the postcard caption, this is "The famous Blue Grill on U.S. 40, St. Elmo, Ill."). In its silently subversive way, *Boring Postcards* proposes that we look more closely at this hallowed form of marketing to see what it tells us about the values and standards of mainstream American culture. --Cathy Curtis 'Such American hot spots ... may have been boring then - or, stranger yet, they may not have been - but they're so cheesy now they're delicious.' (The Wall Street Journal) 'A wry collection of American gems.' (Metropolitan Home) 'Boring Postcards USA reads as a technicolor-toned paean to the optimism of postwar America.' (Interiors) 'A magnificent compendium ... has a hypnotic feel, and is a reminder that America isn't all the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and New York skyline.' (Simon Hoggart, Guardian) About the Author The work of Martin Parr bridges the divide between art and documentary photography. His studies of the idiosyncrasies of mass culture and consumerism around the world, his innovative imagery and his prolific output have placed him firmly at the forefront of contemporary art. A member of the international photo agency Magnum, Parr is an avid collector of books and a world authority on the photobook.