

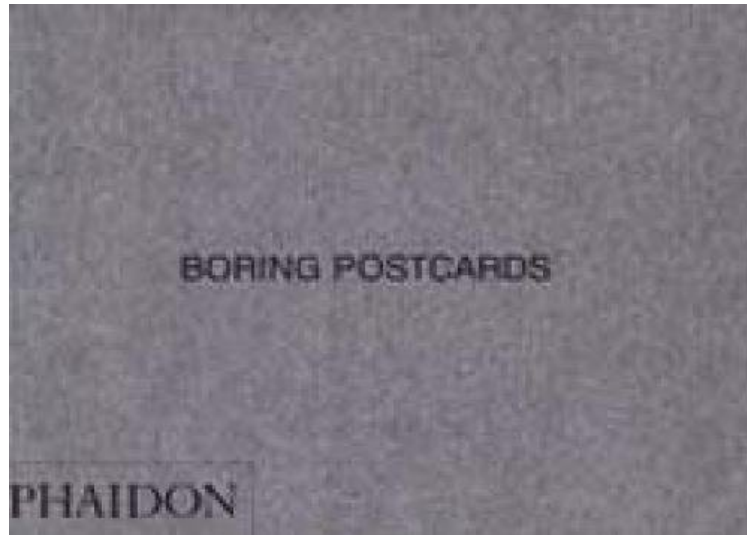
#1826434 in Books Phaidon Press 2004-03-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x .75 x 6.001, .94

#File Name: 0714843903176 pages | File size: 31.Mb



Martin Parr

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(Online library) Boring Postcards

Boring Postcards

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

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. British Postal Banality By Robert I. Hedges This collection of utterly horrendous postcards is a delightful window into our past and what people valued in days gone by. Certainly in retrospect it is hard to grasp what on earth the people who made these postcards, and more importantly the people who bought and sent them were thinking, but at the time they all made sense to somebody. Most of these cards are from 1960's and 1970's Britain; I recommend the companion volume "Boring Postcards USA" for a similar look at US postal proclivities in the same eras. Some of the themes of the book are over-represented (highway interchanges chief among them), but I found the postcards of motels, campgrounds, and public areas to be charming though horrifying. Among my favorite cards in this volume are such greats as "NUL. 30F. M.6. Motorway. Newcastle-under-Lyme.", "Interior of the Mersey Tunnel, Liverpool", "The Drive In Bottle Shop, Northampton", "The Butts Shopping Center, Reading", "Farnham Post Office", "Canteen, Stoke Mandeville Hospital" (a truly ghastly realm of colors), "National Giro Centre, Bootle" (an amazingly postcard that has actually been postmarked!), "A corner of the Moota Motel, Cocker mouth", "The Garreg Goch Caravan Park, Morfa Bychan" (the saddest trailer court I have ever seen), and perhaps my favorite of all, "Rain Clouds, from Southend Pier", a bad photo of some clouds in beautiful black and white. Truly, this is a great collection that simultaneously made me amused and sentimental. I only wish that I could detach and send these postcards, as I know several people who would be delighted to get a card of "Turbine Hall, CEBG Wylfa Nuclear Power Station, Anglesey." 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Boring, yes; yet strangely moving, too!! By EDI just love this collection of postcards - they are truly mind-numbing, and as I was leafing through the book, my over-riding thought was WHY??? Why on earth would anyone take a picture of the National Giro Centre, Bootle, Preston Bus Station, numerous Forte motorway restaurants and the Bull Ring centre? Perhaps these buildings and roads were something to be proud of when they were built - a brave new post-war Britain. I can see the point of a few of them, but some are just mind-numbingly boring and just plain odd. The oddest, in fact, is Basingstoke. Three pictures in one postcard, all showing the same view of construction work on a pedestrian

precinct. Ahhh - the pedestrian precinct!! How 60's is THAT!!!!!! A great book to have around and a great conversation starter. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. BACK IN TIME By javier contreras Great pictures through all the book. It really take you back in time. Thanks to Stuart Murdoch's 'The Celestial Caf' that I found this book and many others.

160 boring postcards of the British Isles, reproduced as they have been found, actual size, from the collection of the iconoclast of British photography, Martin Parr. This is a serious art book, a depiction of a tragic Britain with tragic taste, and a photographic entertainment which a large audience will enjoy.

.com As the title of this little book suggests, each of the postcards that fill its pages is, in a sense, quite boring. Stale, often dully composed images of corporate headquarters, roadways, bus-station parking lots, convalescent-home dayrooms, hospital cafeterias, and undistinguished motels. But look carefully, and the cards--culled from the collection of artist Martin Parr--are filled with fascinating little details. As a group, they offer readers the interesting opportunity to puzzle over the collective psyche of the people of the 1950s and '60s (the approximate vintage of the images) who were inclined to create, buy, and send these cards. What, one can't help but wonder, could be so scintillating about a room at the Fortes Excelsior Motor Lodge near Pontefract, Yorkshire? The singular force of the orange bedspreads, carpet, drapes, and walls punctuated by the inexplicably white leather upholstered panel attached to the wall unit behind each of the room's beds. The exterior of the Mirfield Modern School, shot at a distance and unimaginatively placed dead in the center of the gray sky and green playing field? The building's Bauhaus-like lines. The tarmac of Luton Airport in London? The pink jumbo jet being towed into the frame from the left. The uniformly shaped trailers parked at the Freshwater Caravan Camp? The handwritten X that presumably marks the sender's location. The Chalets at Llandanwg? Arguably, not much. The few hundred images here, unfettered by any explanatory text, offer a far from dull diversion for any readers interested in mid-century design or the mundane details of daily life. --Jordana Moskowitz "They are, in their boringness, strangely beautiful. They are funny, nostalgic, and utterly eccentric. Their banality fascinates. Actually, they're not boring at all." -Big Issue "Far from dull, Parr's book is a strangely compelling commentary on post-war British architecture, social life and identity." -Independent on Sunday "Exquisitely tedious visual gems." -World of Interiors "The funniest book [of the year] has been Boring Postcards by Martin Parr, which I keep on the kitchen table and chortle over during breakfast. This sends my cornflakes flying." -Charlotte Cory, Independent "Brilliant." -Evening Standard "Individually, the cards are a kitsch hoot; collectively, they re-create not only the appearance but the spirit and soul of a Britain that vanished for ever somewhere around the 1970s... Parr's 'boring postcards' give meaning to a wistful phrase much beloved of recent prime ministers. They show the last time Britain really was, for better or worse, a nation at ease with itself. Look back and mourn." -The Sunday Times "Martin Parr's daringly dull collection of 160 coma-inducing postcards from the edge of common sense. Yes, they're funny. But they also reveal a view of the UK in the period from the '50s to the '70s, when road-building and fast development looked like signs of a healthy future." -Time Out "Individually each of the postcards more than meet the requirements of the book's title - yes, these are ludicrously boring places - but as whole they make a compelling collection." -Dazed Confused "Compelling, humourous and highly entertaining..." -Dudley District Chronicle "Masterpiece of mundaneness..." -Cumberland Evening News Star "Excruciatingly bland..." -BBC Top Gear "Groovy, baby." -Time "A boring magical mystery tour round the British Isles... Already influential as a record of British social history, the collection of postcards has been bequeathed by Martin Parr to the Victoria and Albert Museum." -Kent Messenger "A fascinating insight into the weird and wonderful world of wish your were where - and you can guarantee it won't be here... Intriguing..." -City Life, Manchester "Top of the class... Its blend of pathos and bathos is hilarious. It fills the onlooker with Christmas spirit: that's to say, nostalgia, revulsion, hysteria and delight." -Evening Standard I have become obsessed with a book called Boring Postcards ... there is nothing boring about the hundred or so postcards taken from the collection of Martin Parr. The captions alone make fabulous reading..." -Building Design "Boring Postcards has itself become collectable. The first edition sold out within weeks and the reprint has now also sold out... Silly and poignant." -Tribune "For Proust, it was madeleines. For some of us, it might be these wonderful images from Martin Parr's Boring Postcards... A richly comic journey... A quirky set of glimpses into different worlds that prove, cumulatively, strangely touching." -Independent "Strangely compelling... A little slice of history." -OK! "Does exactly what it says on the tin." -Romsey Advertiser From the Publisher The 160 postcards presented in this volume have been reproduced as found, in their original size, with all the character of the original reproduction, amateur retouching, crinkly edges and bent corners. Treated as art objects with a classic white border surround, each is captioned with their original descriptor as printed on the front or reverse - for example: A40 Traffic; Market Precinct, Scunthorpe; A bend on Porlock Hill. All the postcards featured depict scenes in the British Isles; most stem from a period of optimism in Britain as new civic centres, motorways, airports and power stations were built and launched. To qualify as "boring", the photographs had to be arguably boring or absent of anything interesting. The postcards, finally, are not boring at all, but powerful, interesting and loaded statements about time and place and the aesthetic of Britain.