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Real Photo Postcards: Unbelievable Images from the Collection of Harvey Tulcensk

By Alden, Todd, Contributor.Wolff, Laetitia, Editor.

Princeton Architectural Press. 1 Paperback(s), 2005. soft. Book Condition: New. At the end of the 19th century, the inauguration of the penny postcard combined with Kodak's development of an affordable folding camera resulted in an explosion of popular photo postcards, as people mailed their own "snapshots" to friends and relatives. In the mid-1980s Harvey Tulcensky began seeking out these real photo cards, and has since amassed one of the world's leading collections of these supposedly ephemeral images. Under headings like natural phenomena (floods, storms, fires), Main Street America, rural life, parades, and "exaggeration" cardslike a photographically manipulated giant rabbitthe cards here reveal a surprisingly personal perspective of early 20th-century America."Sometimes the detritus of human history, that which was meant to be disposed of and forgotten, carries a greater and more lasting impact than those artifacts saved specifically for their purported historical value. In 1907 the U.S. Postal Service made an abrupt reversal of a law forbidding messages from being written on the backs of postcards. This change, coinciding with Kodak's introduction of an affordable, easy-to-use portable camera that printed out photographs onto heavy card stock, inspired a flurry of homespun postcards akin to the current digital photography craze. Because the...



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