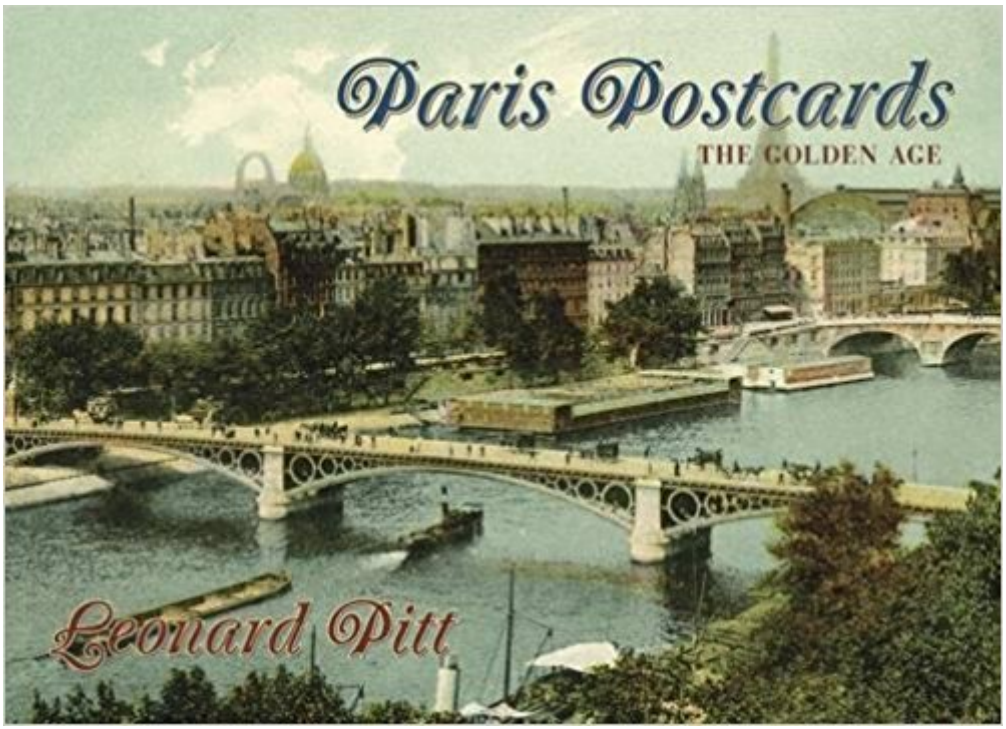
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Paris Postcards: The Golden Age



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Synopsis

In this stunning volume of historic postcards featuring the City of Light, Leonard Pitt takes us deep into the art and heart of the postcard and Paris itself. Showcasing the variety of images from his personal collection, the postcards create an enduring time capsule, one that reveals a Paris that no longer exists.The invention of the postcard in the 19th century revolutionized communication and created the original social networking tool: At the height of their popularity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, France was producing a million postcards a day, and collecting became a craze that spread around the world.The postcards here reveal the true artwork of the original medium, from hand-tinting techniques to nostalgic details too small to see with the naked eye: Sandwich-board men asleep on park benches, a cheese vendor eyeing a woman passerby. The messages penned to loved ones back home are perhaps the most delightful gems: “Bringing your wife to Paris is like bringing a meal to a banquet,Ã¢â ¬Â• quips one traveler.In its colorful entirety, Paris Postcards offers an addictively voyeuristic slice of the American experience of Paris in the early 20th century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“A discrete declaration of love, an array of surprising discoveries. His passion for Paris is that of a true Parisian.Ã¢â ¬Â• —MÃƒÂ©tro“How can we not be astonished by Leonard Pitt's profound knowledge of Paris history, and he's from . . . Michigan.Ã¢â ¬Â• —LÃ¢â ¬â„¢Echo“Leonard is completely legitimate, he's impregnated with Paris. He sees things that we don't see.Ã¢â ¬Â• —Le Figaro (France)

Leonard Pitt is an author and actor based in the San Francisco area. He has previously written several books on Paris, including WALKS THROUGH LOST PARIS and A SMALL MOMENT OF GREAT ILLUMINATION. Pitt is also the co-director of San Francisco's The Flying Actor Studio, specialising in physical theater. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Lenny is a friend and I give his book to other friends as a gift. It is extraordinarily well researched. I know. Paris is a place to be.

If you like postcards and happen to like Paris, this is a book you want. Leonard Pitt collected a few Paris postcards when he was in Paris in the 60's. He then moved to Berkeley and here, on the west coast, he found and bought stacks of Paris postcards that had been mailed, over time, by American visitors to that city. Pitt gives us an interesting history of the postcard, and proceeds to reveal a magnificent collection mailed mostly during the first third of the twentieth century. This is when the car is appearing but horses are still around, and when city apparel elegance is still clearly displayed. In some cases , we have the text written on either sides of the cards, together with maps of the location of the site on the card. Pitt knows Paris well, and he is able to reveal it's past to us. Some of the cards are stamped and one stamp dominates in the collection :the ten centimes La Semeuse designed by Roty which was in use between1903 and the end of the thirties. If you study the variations in that single stamp (color varies and so do the print) you can roughly date the cards. But that is not needed , most are dated either by the senders or the postoffice. The book is not dated, it is a real gem.

The many postcards in this book are beautiful and very evocative of a special era. Some of the postcards show the messages people wrote and there's also quite an interesting write-up throughout the book.

Very nice old photographs - small book, easy to put in a small bag and take to an appointment if you don't want to read magazines.

What I found most interesting were the messages that writers wrote about events at the time. Also the maps with the locations of the views were important in understanding the subject.

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