

Postcard Studies: An Anthology of Visual Culture and Interdisciplinary Research

Peter Chametzky

Call for Contributors:

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The goal of this anthology is to bring together in one volume the latest and most exciting work being done on postcards with some of the essays which have become groundbreaking classics in the field of postcard studies. Organized thematically, the anthology will seek to demonstrate the vitality of postcard studies as an interdisciplinary field of research in which scholars from across the humanities and social sciences have developed new methods for understanding the role of postcards as both historic and contemporary image-objects that have generated creative and theoretical activities on the part of artists, industry, scholars and consumers since the nineteenth century. Essays that investigate specific case studies (of postcard designers, producers, collectors, etc.) and/or methodological issues are especially welcome. Combined with the essays will be a selection of contemporary artists' engagement with postcards in their work to demonstrate that as visual documents, these mass produced images also bridge the making of images with their theorization.

Within the larger move toward a consideration of visual culture in interdisciplinary research, postcards have taken on a leading place. As images that are carriers of text, and textual correspondence that brings images across boundaries of class, gender, nationality and race, postcards are artifacts that provoke questions of discipline and subjectivity,

especially as these relate to concrete practices of production, consumption, collection and appropriation. Rather than offering a limited set of answers that would prescribe how to look at postcards, what to interpret in them and how to defend them as a viable subject of study within the humanities and social sciences, the essays in this anthology will ask questions. Postcards have provoked scholars to examine complex relations among subjects, producers, senders and receivers, and to challenge notions of authority, originality, class, gender and power. By investigating these ephemeral pieces of visual culture, we are forced to confront deep seated prejudices about forms of representation, the way they function and our manner of reconstructing their history.

Postcards form a constitutive part of the way in which the business of art, commerce, history and identity is negotiated on a daily basis. And yet, there has been no accounting for the significant work being done on these objects and no attempt to take stock of the scholars who have made postcard studies an integral part of their historical and theoretical investigations. In bringing this scholarship together in one volume, this anthology will make an important contribution to establishing the place of postcard studies within the larger field of visual and cultural studies.

Guidelines and Deadlines:

Due: April 15, 2003 (notification of inclusion in anthology by May 15, 2003)

300-500 word abstract

Curriculum vitae and 100-150 word bio.

Cover letter explaining interest and background in subject with current contact information, including: name, mailing address, e-mail address, phone/fax numbers

Final papers of about 6,000 words (with maximum of 10 illustrations) will be due August 1, 2003

Send to:

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Reference:

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