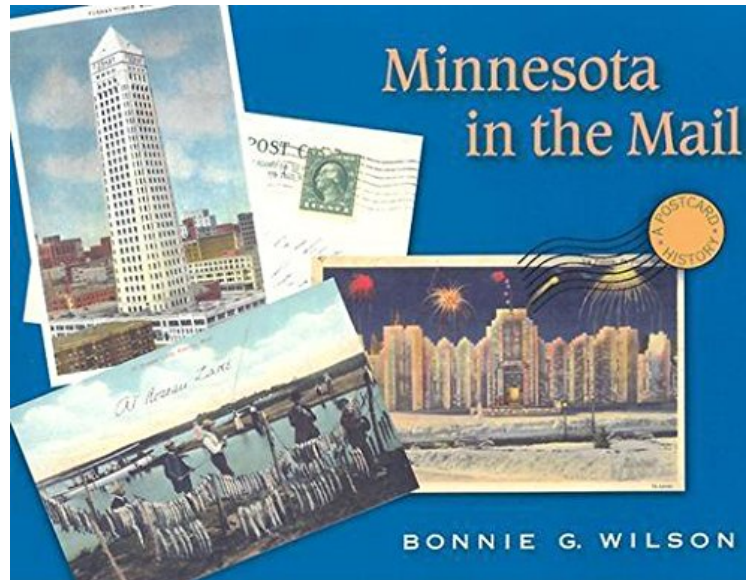




Bonnie G. Wilson

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(Download) Minnesota in the Mail: A Postcard History

## Minnesota in the Mail: A Postcard History

**Bonnie G. Wilson : Minnesota in the Mail: A Postcard History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Minnesota in the Mail: A Postcard History:

"Arrived safely, will write more later." "Having a wonderful time, wish you were here." The briefest of messages, displayed for all the world to see, is scrawled across the back of a picture postcard of a placid lake or a small-town main street. Historic black-and-white images, gorgeous linen postcards, and contemporary chromes all tell stories of the state and its visitors over the decades. In *Minnesota in the Mail*, curator and postcard collector Bonnie G. Wilson highlights both the images and the curious stories behind them. Using 185 postcards selected from the extensive collection of the Minnesota Historical Society, she helps readers understand the needs and wants of postcard makers and senders, at the same time sharing historical details that go beyond the captions and messages. Grouped in four categories towns, businesses, families, and vacations are postcards showing resorts and main streets, the worlds largest ball of twine and a barber shop on a railroad train, oversized fiberglass sculptures and ads for flour, and Ojibwe family and a woman baking in her kitchen. Wilson's concise history of the postcard industry is a helpful overview for postcard enthusiasts and novices alike. For those interested in learning how to read a postcard beyond the penned messages and preprinted captions a postcard primer offers a starting point, while cards and captions throughout the book illustrate this practiced skill. Details about regional publishers, including brief business histories and signature elements, are gathered in an appendix that collectors will appreciate. For over a hundred years, postcards have been created to show off a place and the people in it. *Minnesota in the Mail* uses these exquisitely distilled depictions to display the images and identity of the state itself.

"Minnesota in the Mail is a handful of terrific books wrapped up in one cover. On the one hand, it's a detailed guide to

collecting, identifying, and understanding the cards themselves: who made them and why, how they were used and when. Beyond that, however, Bonnie Wilson offers a delightful mini-history of Minnesota in pictures? a saga composed of snatches and snippets gleaned from the messages on backs of cards and the scenes illustrated on their fronts."-- Karal Ann Marling, author of *Blue Ribbon: A Social and Pictorial History of the Minnesota State Fair and Merry Christmas! Celebrating America's Greatest Holiday* "This outstanding collection of Minnesota picture postcards of the past century and more gives us insights into the daily lives and activities of our Minnesota forebears. The images enable us to view the familiar sites of our state as they were seen by our ancestors, to learn how they lived, worked, and played."-- Hyman Berman, Professor of History, University of Minnesota, and co-author of *Jews in Minnesota*