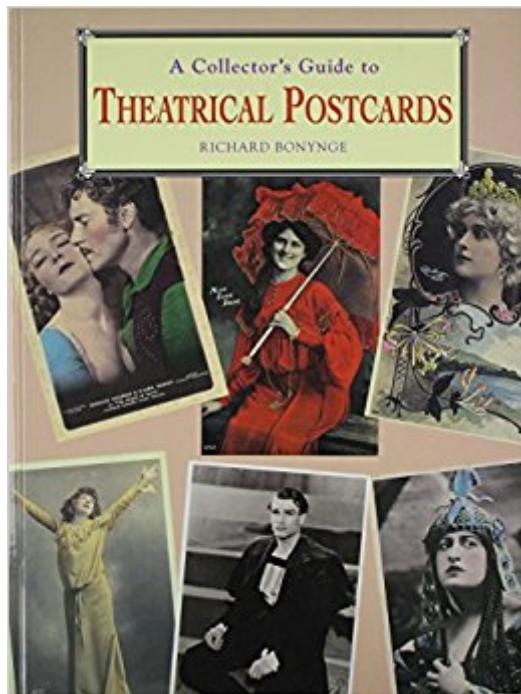


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# Collector's Guide To Theatrical Postcards



## Synopsis

Bonynge has built an enormous collection of theatrical postcards & is well placed to compile a useful guide for those already in the field, for those who would like to start collecting, & for the many who are fascinated by the theater & its history. He offers advice on starting a collection, categorizing theatrical postcards, finding them, & estimating their relative values. Over 200 postcards are illustrated, covering ballet, variety, pantomime, opera, circus & cinema; there are performers, playwrights & composers. The book is a spectacular portrait gallery of famous faces, not to mention fashions in theatrical dress, with many rare shots. Illustrations are in color, & duotone.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

Postcard collecting is generally an inexpensive hobby and you can often get very old ones quite cheaply. This is a beautiful full-color (excepting of course, the black and white cards) reproducing around 200 celebrity postcards of the 19th and early 20th century (the latter is mostly limited to the movie stars), most of them issued in England. The book is divided into chapters on ballet, music hall, circus, cinema, theatre advertising, drama, Shakespeare, and Musical Comedy. The book opens with a two page history of collecting postcards and the goes into the chapters, which have on one page paragraph biographies of the celebrity pictured and on the facing page, the postcards produced usually four to a page in a size slightly smaller than an actual postcard. Among the variety stars pictured are Nijinsky, Anna Pavlova, Cicely Courtneidge, Eugene Stratton, Julian Eltinge, Houdini, Charlie Chaplin, Robert Taylor, Gloria Swanson, Ramon Novarro, John Barrymore, Mabel

Normand, Dolores Del Rio, Enrico Caruso, Ernestine Schumann-Heink, Ellen Terry, Ivor Novello, Sarah Bernhardt, Mrs. Leslie Carter, Maude Adams, Laurence Oliver, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Anna Held, Billie Burke, Sydney Granville, as well as many others still famous or forgotten for century. The British book has both a dust jacket and an embossed cover. This is basically a light picture book, certainly not a definitive reference guide on the subject, and a few hours browsing on ebay or the net might pull many of these images as well as scores more, yet it is a pleasant enough pictorial on a hobby that may not be very exciting but has been around for well over a hundred years.

The contents of this book are fairly straight forward. On the right hand side of the page is illustrated 4 postcards (in both colour & B&W) and the left hand side is a biography of each of the people depicted, the date the card was published and where it was published. Even if you don't collect postcards this is fascinating book to browse through. It's full of beautifully reproduced period postcards and hundreds of short biographies of both the greater and lesser stars of the theatrical world of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

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