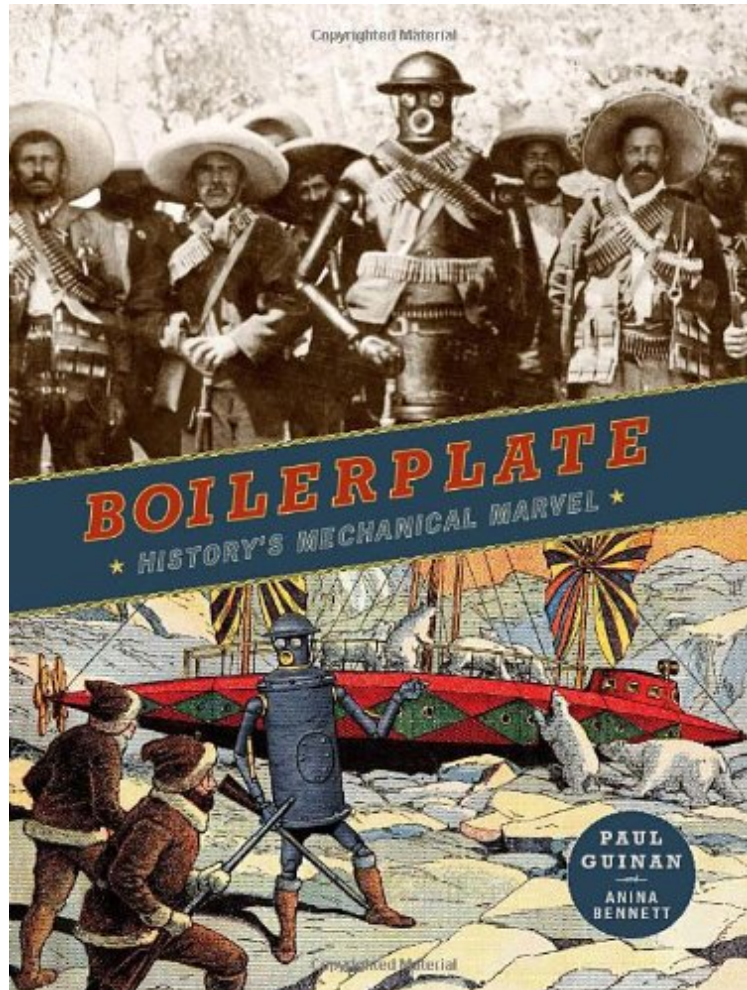


(Mobile library) Boilerplate: History's Mechanical Marvel

Boilerplate: History's Mechanical Marvel

Paul Guinan, Anina Bennett

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#691441 in Books Guinan, Paul/ Bennett, Anina 2009-10-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 11.00 x 1.00 x 8.50l, #File Name: 0810989506160 pages | File size: 36.Mb

Paul Guinan, Anina Bennett : Boilerplate: History's Mechanical Marvel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boilerplate: History's Mechanical Marvel:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. More than an alternate historyBy Tracy RowanBoilerplate is an ambitious book, rich with detail that makes the story feel about as real as anything you can get from a history book. Guinan and Bennett have constructed an alternate history which lies so close to the real thing that I promise you you'll be checking Google and Wikipedia to see if what they're saying is true or not. I'm still not entirely sure that Boilerplate, the robot, didn't exist. He appears, Zelig-like, in photo after photo with historical figures and yet blends into the background as if he was nothing very much out of the ordinary. The main reason for the brilliance of this book is the deft way the visuals are handled. The text itself is a bit dry, though it does have a history-book feel to it which works well under the circumstances. If pastiche was the intention, then it's well done. But the book isn't just a

wonderful fantasy. Folded into the history is a pointed commentary on subjects which are still pertinent a century later. Boilerplate is a mute witness to early movements for workers' and women's rights. It fights alongside the Buffalo Soldiers and sees action in the Philippine-American War, Spanish-American War and WWI, fighting both in the trenches and with T. E. Lawrence, in Arabia. While the narrative never becomes preachy, only a fairly obtuse reader could fail to understand the point of history as it's presented here. This is not a book likely to appeal to people whose beliefs run to the right of the political spectrum. "Robot", a word not in existence when Boilerplate itself was supposed to have been created, derives from a word that means "forced labor." (Karel Capek, R.U.R., 1920) Even the name, "Boilerplate" suggests a kind of non-existence, something that only serves as a model for the real thing. Created as a replacement for soldiers, Boilerplate is intended to save lives in time of war. Sadly, what he foreshadows is mechanized warfare, increasingly removed from human concerns. There's a nice tension between our knowledge of what Boilerplate represents, and his thoroughly anthropomorphized features -- his human form and a face that registers perpetual surprise, between his utter lack of personality and the concern his creator feels for him as he strides into battle. The questions raised by this book aren't easy ones, but they're raised in a way that does allow us to choose the level on which we read. Boilerplate is still a ripping fantasy adventure. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A "ripping yarn" about a mechanical, victorian Forrest Gump By Ronald L. Russell History is often made by unknown individuals, with credit going to those who happen to be in positions of authority. This is somewhat the case with the automaton who is the subject of this book. Supposedly constructed the early 1890's for the purpose of replacing human soldiers, and unveiled in 1893 at the Chicago Worlds Fair, the robot traveled the world with his inventor and participated in many of significant historical events of the era. Like Forrest Gump, Boilerplate rubs shoulders with the movers and shakers of his time, and was well known to his contemporaries, but came to be largely forgotten after he was no longer in the public eye. The excellence of this book is illustrated by the fact that significant numbers of readers don't realize it is a work of fiction. Hundreds of "archival" images "prove" that the robot served with Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders, Lawrence of Arabia, and General Pershing, pursued Pancho Villa through northern Mexico, and traveled to the Antarctic and to the Yukon. Every photograph, dime-novel cover, hand-tinted postcard, movie poster and newspaper caricature is perfectly done in the appropriate style of the era. Boilerplate's existence is thus better "documented" than any character in classical fiction or for that matter, anyone in the Bible. The book is actually a history lesson of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, made so much more interesting by seeing them through the eyes of Archibald Campion, the robot's inventor. Over the 25 year span of the adventure, the robot saves the lives of a polar expedition, outpaces the Duryea brothers first automobile, sparks a popular series of adventure novels, inspires cubist painters, stars in silent movies, fights valiantly in several wars, and continued to show up in pop culture for decades following its disappearance in combat in 1918. I was delighted to "learn" that Hanna Barbera even had a '70's Saturday morning cartoon show based on Boilerplate's adventures, (which I was somehow unaware of at the time). The text is written in the style of the time, which is to say, it assumes a certain level of literacy, and isn't "dumbed down" to a lower grade level. The exploits of Boilerplate and Campion are described with considerable understatement, as was the custom, rather than the now current excessive use of superlatives. Those who enjoy the writing style of period authors such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Jules Verne, or H.G. Wells will likely feel very comfortable with this book. This style of writing perfectly complements the authentic-looking photographs and illustrations which are profusely spread on every page. I enjoyed every minute of this smashing tale. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Blown away. By Customer To call this book a 'graphic novel' is a disservice to what it is: an interesting interpretation of recent historical events with reference to the world's first (and only) mechanical man. What is not is a series of sequential images designed to tell a story; do not go into this story hoping for fun and super-heroics. This is written and beautifully designed as a text book, it is reference material for a school-house of a more simple, if fictional, time. The character of Boilerplate is almost flawlessly thrown into events in history of which we've learned and many we haven't or have tried to forget. The text makes references to obscure ideas which, it turns out, are theoretically accurate. As a fan of American folklore, books like Salt, which take a look at history from the point of the importance of their topic, creative endeavors which strive to tell their story in a new way, and print design, Boilerplate fits my bill for A FIVE-STAR work of fiction. Definitely a 'must read'.

Meet Boilerplate, the world's first robot soldier not in a present-day military lab or a science-fiction movie, but in the past, during one of the most fascinating periods of U.S. history. Designed by Professor Archibald Campion in 1893 as a prototype, for the self-proclaimed purpose of preventing the deaths of men in the conflicts of nations, Boilerplate charged into combat alongside such notables as Teddy Roosevelt and Lawrence of Arabia. Campion and his robot also circled the planet with the U.S. Navy, trekked to the South Pole, made silent movies, and hobnobbed with the likes of Mark Twain and Nikola Tesla.

About the Author Paul Guinan and Anina Bennett have been collaborating on comics and graphic novels since 1989, including the Eisner Award-nominated science-fiction comic series Heartbreakers. Paul is an artist and writer whose clients include the History Channel and the Cartoon Network. Anina is a writer and editor who has worked with Dark

Horse Comics and international publisher Egmont. They live in Portland, Oregon.