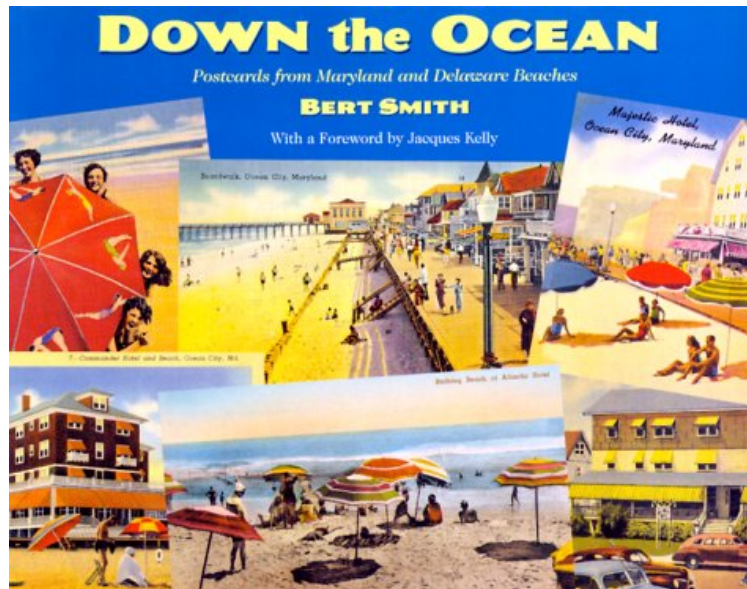


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Down the Ocean: Postcards from Maryland and Delaware Beaches

Professor Bert Smith : Down the Ocean: Postcards from Maryland and Delaware Beaches before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Down the Ocean: Postcards from Maryland and Delaware Beaches:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Down the OceanBy Mrs. Gloria BondA thoroughly enjoyable book, especially for those familiar with Ocean City, MD and the Delaware beaches. Every summer these beaches swell to the sizes of large cities with visitors looking for sun and relaxation by the Atlantic. "Down the Ocean" takes you back, in picture postcards, to a time when these beaches were just gaining their popularity. Early hotels are shown in their heyday. There are views of the Boardwalks and of people in the sun bathing outfits of the early 1900's. I had so much fun with this book I finished it in one sitting and would highly recommend it to others!

In this companion to his book Greetings from Baltimore, Bert Smith takes us on a tour of summers past in Ocean City, Maryland, and the nearby Delaware beaches, where vacationers have been going for more than a century to find sun, surf, and souvenirs. Down the Ocean offers a wonderful selection of charming postcard scenes of the early days of these resort towns, when visitors held tight to safety lines and bravely entered the water dressed in heavy woolen bathing suits. It also takes us through the decades that followed, when automobiles and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge made jaunts to the ocean more convenient and brought changes that transformed the mid-Atlantic coast. Accompanied by Bert Smith's engaging account of local history and lore, the images assembled here document not just the appearance of beach towns but also the feel of beach life from years gone by. Some postcards from the first half of the twentieth century were individually hand colored, and many display photographic tricks, illustrated embellishments, humorous cartoons, or unique design elements -- making them far more evocative than mere snapshots. These postcards capture views of Ocean City's grand hotels of the past, such as the Atlantic, the Plimhimmon, the Stephen Decatur, and the Commander, as well as smaller cottages, motels, and boardwalk businesses. Many of these structures

have been destroyed by fires, storms, or the ravages of time; others have been altered beyond recognition or replaced by condominiums. Whether you seek saltwater taffy, a carousel ride, a moonlight stroll on the boardwalk, or a quiet view of a historic lighthouse, you'll find it all, then as now, "down the ocean." "Some of the happiest postcards are those saved or sent from our summer vacations at the ocean. With bright or faded images of the beach and sun and short messages like 'the weather's hot,' 'the water's cold,' and 'the fish are biting,' these colorful souvenirs can instantly take us back to warm breezes, hot sand between our toes, and the smell of french fries and fresh saltwater taffy... You can almost hear the ragtime pianos of the pre-World War I years as you turn over a softly colored card of the old Atlantic Hotel and read the greeting put down in an elegant, flourishing hand, in real ink that flowed from a fountain pen in 1910, or imagine crowds jitterbugging to the joyful jive and swing of the big bands in the 1940s when you see a glowing technicolor linen-textured card of Rehoboth Avenue, with its wartime message hurriedly scribbled in pencil." -- from the Introduction

"A nostalgic vintage Technicolor postcard trip to the fabled ocean resorts of Maryland and Delaware and summers past... Smith has included in his wonderful retrospective a number of postcard whimsies, such as a nighttime view of the Ocean City boardwalk from the Coast Guard station." -- Frederick N. Rasmussen, Baltimore Sun

About the Author Bert Smith, a graphic designer who has worked in print and television for thirty years, teaches in the School of Communications Design at the University of Baltimore. He has been the recipient of design and typography awards from the New York Art Director's Club, Print Magazine, the American Institute of Graphic Arts, Graphic Design: USA, and the Printing Industries of America. His other collection of vintage postcards, Greetings from Baltimore, is also available from Johns Hopkins.