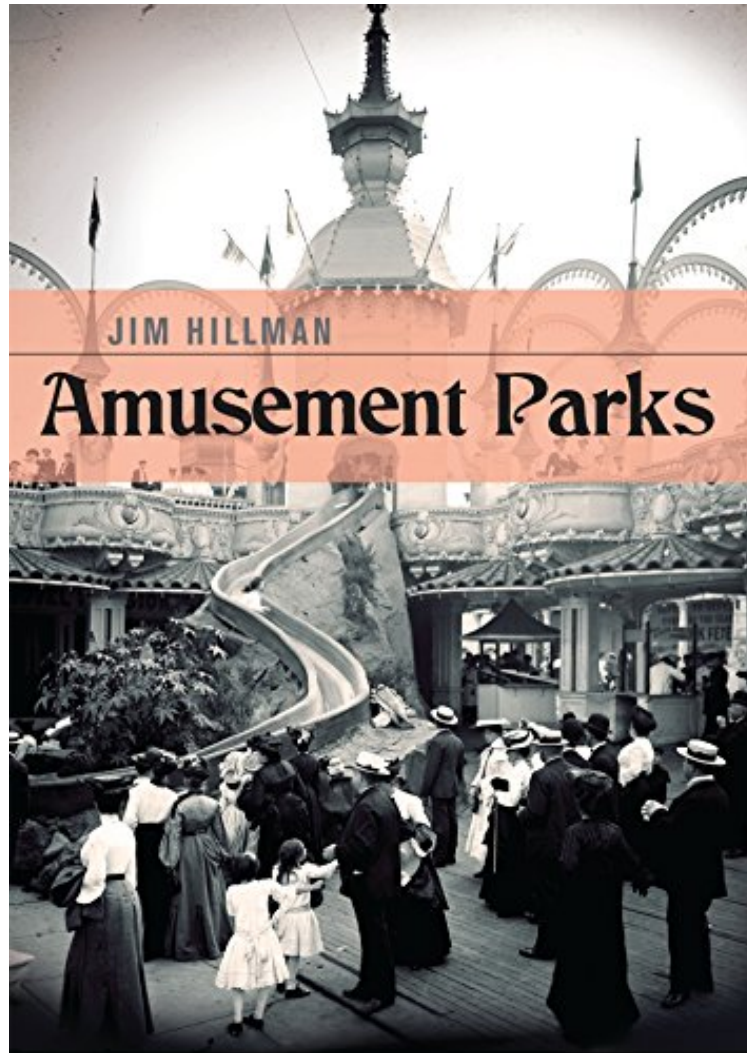


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Amusement Parks (Shire Library USA)

Jim Hillman

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Jim Hillman : Amusement Parks (Shire Library USA) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Amusement Parks (Shire Library USA):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Fun and Useful Resource For Amusement Park Enthusiasts By Dirk Drudgler Jim Hillman is definitely an amusement park enthusiast. These amusement parks are not your super sized Disney-fied mega resorts. They are the smaller, less well known parks which are part of the cultural identity of the communities immediately surrounding them. Many have physically disappeared, built over by malls and housing developments, but still live on in the memories of area residents. This short work starts with a description of the development of these parks over 100 years ago, many as "trolley parks." These were parks which were established at the end of trolley lines to encourage weekend ridership. Picnic areas, bathing areas and restaurants soon added

attractions like rides and music venues and amusement parks were born. The book is a little disorganized, especially toward the beginning and sometimes has the feeling of an itemized list with descriptions which lack some of the passion the author obviously has. The illustrations are abundant and excellent and are one of things I would have liked to have seen more of. This is a fun read if you are nostalgic for these wonderful parks, especially the ones that have vanished. My favorite part of the book was the overview of the parks which are still around. Along with a great description of how they survive there is also a comprehensive list of internet resources to find out more about them and the people who are committed to their survival. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Like the subject: ups and downs. By Richard T. Barber For the price of \$1.99, it wasn't a bad deal. I didn't think that the book was very well written or organized particularly well. The early history of the parks and evolution to today's theme parks was interesting. There were some interesting facts, but a more complete and detailed one would obviously have been better. Overall, for the price, I would recommend it as a primer for those who wish to know more about amusement parks. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Boring By Billy I was expecting more information than what the book gave. It wasn't a fit for me. The information was not all that interesting.

America's amusement industry emerged from simple swimming ponds, family picnic areas, and community gathering spots. Although the first major entrepreneurial-driven amusement resort, known as Jones Woods, grew from the banks of New York's East River in the 1800s, the Golden Age of American amusement parks began with the mid-1800s development of a Brooklyn peninsula into "America's Playland": Coney Island. Coney Island also paved the way for other developments, including America's oldest continuously operating amusement park, Lake Compounce in Bristol, Connecticut, and the defunct Rocky Point Park in Warrick, Rhode Island. By 1893, and the opening of the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition, Americans were becoming familiar with the marvels of the midway. By the early 1900s, amusement parks dotted the landscape and several larger cities had more than one commercial park. Many of these parks became the stuff of lasting memories, icons of America: Playland Park in San Francisco, Elitch Gardens in Denver, Riverview in Chicago, Riverside in Indianapolis. Many of America's grand amusement treasures have vanished, and many other parks are struggling for survival. But while many of the parks have disappeared, amusement park memories are alive and are firmly part of nostalgic America. As long as the clatter of the old coaster cars fosters nervous anticipation and the thumping of the carousel band organ remains, there will be a market for these American classics. With thoroughly researched text and historic images, author and park enthusiast Jim Hillman captures the sights, smells, and vitality of America's grand amusement park traditions.

About the Author Jim Hillman is a Director and the Events Coordinator of the National Amusement Park Historical Association. He is the author of several books and articles related to history and amusement parks. He studied business administration and sociology and has taught at several colleges and universities, including Indiana State University, Vincennes University and the University of Phoenix.