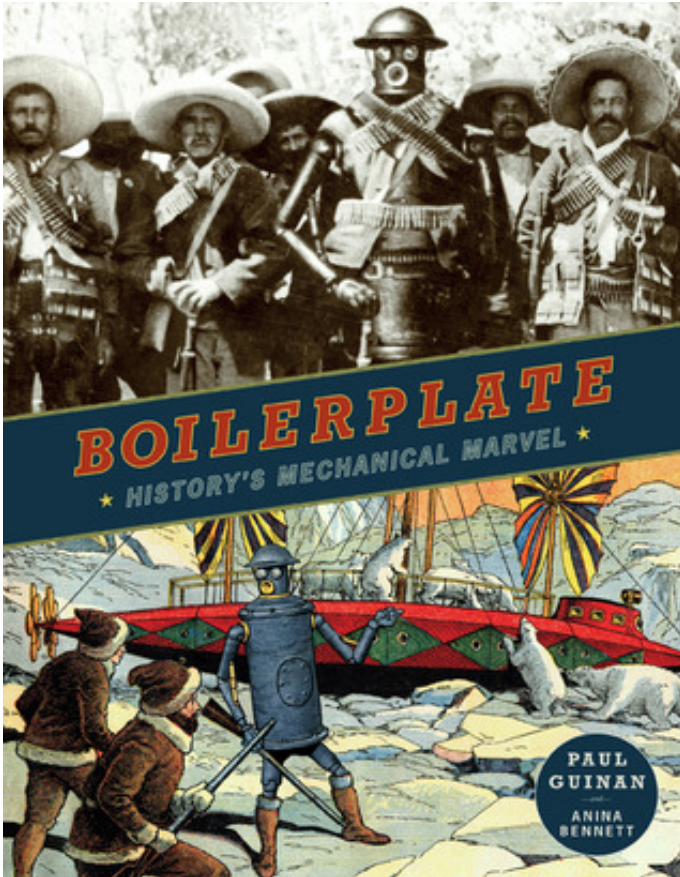

Paul Guinan

Boilerplate: History's Mechanical Marvel



Title: Boilerplate: History's Mechanical Marvel

Author: Paul Guinan

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Description

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.

You say you've never heard of Boilerplate before? That's because this book is the fanciful creation of a husband-and-wife team who have richly imagined these characters and inserted them into accurate retellings of history. This full-color chronicle is profusely illustrated with graphics mimicking period style, including photos, paintings, posters, cartoons, maps, and even stereoscope cards. Part Jules Verne and part *Zelig*, it's a great volume for a broad range of fans of science fiction, history, and robots.

Insightful reviews

Nick: This very much qualifies as alternate history and retro science fiction, since it's about several technologies and devices that never were, in our reality.

Oddly, I found the style of the book to be somewhat frustrating, since the creators were so caught up in the whole "robot Forrest Gump" concept that they glossed over too many things. Both the robot and some of the innovations necessary to create him have consequences that are not addressed in the story, because those changes are not the focus of the tale.

So, while the story of a 19th-century robot wandering through American history is really cool, it felt like it could have been even better, with a bit more thoughtful treatment.

Jenn Longoria: Originally created by artist Paul Guinan and featured on a website, Boilerplate was intended for comics but instead wound up as the subject of an illustrated history of the mechanical marvel's fictional exploits. Using a 12-inch articulated model of this 19th century robot, Guinan and his wife Anina Bennett photoshopped the character into a variety of historical settings. *Boilerplate: History's Mechanical Marvel* is a faux-history book that is dying to be turned into a faux-documentary.

Sarah L. Covert: Every critic hopes for the day that a small portion of greatness crosses their desks. This is no small portion, my fiends. This is the whole kit and kaboodle! When I cracked open *Boilerplate: History's Mechanical Marvel* for the first time, I was blown away. I have not felt this way about an illustrated book since the first time I laid eyes on Bernie Wrightson's *Frankenstein*. Though the subject matter is drastically different – they are both pieces that were made with love, by people who are insanely talented. Every time I open *Boilerplate* it brings a smile to my face.

This illustrated book is not easily pinned to a genre. It is a healthy mix of Science Fiction, Steampunk and History. We follow Boilerplate, the first robot soldier – designed by Professor Campion in 1893, through his adventures in war and in peace. We see him battle along side Teddy Roosevelt, we witness rubbing elbows with folks like Mark Twain and Nikola Tesla and so much more.

This book is rich with history, gently woven with fiction and endlessly fascinating. I have read through it a couple of times and I am still picking up on new things. The period style graphics, the photos, the paintings... they are all done with such attention to detail that it is hard to tell what is physically real and what is illusion. The research that went into this book must have meant many sleepless nights for this talented husband-wife team.

Final Thoughts:

Boilerplate: History's Mechanical Marvel is stunning, spellbinding and nothing short of brilliant. It is something I will read over and over and over. I cannot say enough about this book. It gets my highest praises and my highest recommendations. By hook or by crook, you MUST own this book. If you like Science Fiction, Strange Tales, Steampunk, Robots, the Victorian Era, History or if you simply like to smile!

(Read full review with links and interview here: <http://shenever Slept.com/newsandrevie...>)

Brenda Clough: Mildly interesting, extra as a image artwork piece than as fiction, given that there's no actual plot. Is it simply an instinct on my part, or is there, someplace else, the true novel/story/movie/whatever approximately Boilerplate? This booklet appears like a complement to a few different paintings -- like "The paintings of the Lord of the Rings."

Warren: Mock-non-fiction account of a mechanical guy and his exploits in overdue nineteenth to early twentieth century. very similar to Forrest Gump, Boilerplate controlled to get himself in all significant occasion of the days and meet the entire movers and shakers of the era. Created as a coffee-table book, it has loads of pictures, sidebars, maps, graphics. attention-grabbing and enjoyable learn while you're into heritage because it has loads of historic information and occasions which are factual.

John Bladec: The art during this booklet is fantastic. it is enjoyable to determine Boilerplate, a victorian period android, slipped into historic photos, Zelig-like. regrettably the e-book reads like a jr. excessive historical past textbook. i assume it is a long way to benefit a bit historical past for these childrens who're resistant, however the writing does not encourage approximately the thrill of the illustrations. it truly is too undesirable Boilerplate could not have a narrative useful of its art.

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