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# 1st Place: "Behind the Magic: A Research Collection on the History of The Walt Disney Company"

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April 17, 2017

### Behind the Magic: A Research Collection on the History of The Walt Disney Company

I have always been a very curious person and enjoy learning how things work and how things are made. I have also always loved Disneyland and at a young age my curiosity met up with my passion for Disney. Over the years I began collecting Disney memorabilia and have collected a number of Disney books—far more than listed in the subsequent pages. At Chapman I have had the incredible opportunity of assisting with one of the University's most popular classes: *The Pursuit of Happiness and Knowledge: Walt Disney and Charles Darwin*. Thanks to our proximity to Disneyland and Disney's corporate offices in Glendale, we have been fortunate to have many fascinating guest speakers come to the class. Many of the books in my collection were written by these guests, and nearly every book discusses attractions created by our guest speakers. Having the ability to meet the people I so admire has been an incredible opportunity I have had through Chapman. I began compiling my collection as a child, around age 10, and have continued for the past 13 years. I have been gifted books, purchased them new, and often times found them in antique stores or via used book sellers, particularly for the rare books in my collection. Many of the books listed below are particularly historic (including Diane Disney's biography on her father, from 1959), and many are meaningful simply to me (such as the guidebook from the year I was born). Each book is unique and I enjoy sharing them with my friends and family and explaining what I love about each one. I look forward to growing my collection in the future, as I continue to make new memories.

Annotated Bibliography

1. Bright, Randy. *Disneyland: Inside Story*. New York: H.N. Abrams, 1987. Print.

This is first book published on the history of Disneyland, and remains the most cumulative account of the creation of the Happiest Place on Earth.

2. Broggie, Michael. *Walt Disney's Railroad Story: The Small-Scale Fascination That Led to a Full-Scale Kingdom*. 1st ed. U: Pentrex, 1997. Print.

This is the definitive guide to Walt Disney's love of railroads. Michael Broggie's father Roger was the first Imagineer and unbelievably critical to the creation of Disneyland. Disney would not be what it is today without Roger Broggie. Michael is a regular visitor to Chapman's Disney and Darwin class and I have gotten to know him over the past few years. I have a first edition copy of this book that was signed by Michael in 1997 that I acquired years later and am now able to call him a friend. This connection makes this book particularly meaningful to me.

3. Birnbaum, Stephen, and Wendy Lefkon. *Birnbaum's Disneyland*. 1993 ed. New York: Hyperion & Hearst Business, 1992. Print.

I have many Disneyland tourist guide books (many not included in this list due to quantity), but this one is particularly meaningful to me as I was born in 1993, and find it fascinating to see what the park was like the year I was born.

4. Burnes, Brian, Dan Viets, and Robert W. Butler. *Walt Disney's Missouri: The Roots of a Creative Genius*. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star, 2002. Print.

This book summarizes Walt Disney's life in Missouri, where many of his ideas formed and he became the man he was.

5. Canemaker, John, and Mary Blair. *The Art and Flair of Mary Blair: An Appreciation*. New York: Disney Editions, 2014. Print.

This colorful book honors the stunning artwork of Mary Blair, famous for her designs of it's a small world, and many murals throughout Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts.

6. Disneyland, Incorporated. *The Story of Disneyland: With a Complete Guide to Fantasyland, Tomorrowland, Adventureland, Frontierland, and Main Street U.S.A.* U.S.A.: Western Printing & Lithographing, 1955. Print.

This is one of my most treasured acquisitions as it is Disneyland's guidebook from 1955 and is in fine condition—perfect aside from being a book printed over six decades ago. It was printed before the park was completed so it has no pictures, but rather gorgeous color illustrations for each land and attractions. It is incredible to see how things have changed in the past 60+ years and what early park visitors would have experienced. I was fortunate to find this book at an antique store in Old Towne Orange, down the street from Chapman University.

7. Dunlop, Beth, and Eric Himmel. *Building a Dream: The Art of Disney Architecture*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1996. Print.

Disney has built many incredible structures over the years, and this book discusses some of their most famous buildings.

8. Faessel, Stephen J. *Anaheim: 1940-2007 (Images of America)*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Pub., 2007. Print.

This book remembers the Anaheim of the past—what the city was like when Disney entered and changed it forever.

9. Gabler, Neal. *Walt Disney: The Triumph of the American Imagination*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. Print.

This book is seen as the authoritative biography on Walt Disney and is essential to any Disney collection. Gabler was the first author given complete access to the Walt Disney Archives, and his thorough book is an incredible tribute to Walt's life.

10. Gennawey, Sam. *Walt Disney and the Promise of Progress City*. Orlando: Theme Park, 2014. Print.

This book details the EPCOT that could have been—the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow that Walt dreamed of building.

11. Heimbuch, Jeff. *Main Street Windows: A Complete Guide to Disney's Whimsical Tributes*. Unit: Orchard Hill, 2014. Print.

Disneyland is famous for its tribute windows lining Main Street U.S.A. that remember iconic Disney Imagineers and personnel. Heimbuch compiled a fantastic overview of these tributes, and is also an employee of Chapman University.

12. Hunt, Vanessa, Kevin Neary, and Susan Neary. *Maps of the Disney Parks: Charting 60 Years from California to Shanghai (Disney Editions Deluxe)*. New York: Disney Editions, 2016. Print.

Disney Parks at the six resorts around the world all certainly have lots in common but are also quite different. This book tracks and compares the layouts of the iconic parks.

13. Koenig, David. *More Mouse Tales: A Closer Peek Backstage at Disneyland*. Irvine: Bonaventure, 2002. Print.

This was one of the first books that ignited my passion for Disney. The peek behind the curtain this book gives is fantastic.

14. Koenig, David. *The People V. Disneyland: How Lawsuits & Lawyers Transformed the Magic*. Irvine: Bonaventure, 2015. Print.

Throughout its 60+ year history, Disneyland has faced many lawsuits that change the way it functions—both for better and occasionally at the loss of some magic. This book chronicles how such suits have transformed the park.

15. Korkis, Jim, and Paula Sigman Lowery. *The Vault of Walt: Volume 5: Additional Unofficial Disney Stories Never Told*. Vol. 5. Orlando, FL: Theme Park, 2016. Print.

This book chronicles stories about Walt and his company.

16. Korkis, Jim. *The Unofficial Disneyland 1955 Companion: The Anecdotal Story of the Birth of the Happiest Place on Earth*. Ed. Bob McLain. United States of America: Theme Park, 2016. Print.

Every cast member (employee) who worked at Disneyland in its early years have fascinating stories, and this book compiles many into one place.

17. Kurtti, Jeff. *Since the World Began: Walt Disney World - The First 25 Years*. New York: Hyperion, 1996. Print.

This is one of the best books on the history of Walt Disney World and is integral to any collection.

18. Kurtti, Jeff. *Walt Disney's Imagineering Legends and the Genesis of the Disney Theme Park*. New York: Disney Editions, 2008. Print.

Disney's Imagineers (a combination of the words "imagination" and "engineer") have become legends in their own rights, and this book briefly summarizes some of the biggest names in Disney history.

19. Lefkon, Wendy. *Field Guide to Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park*. 1st ed. New York:

Disney Editions, 2001. Print.

Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park and resort in Florida are full of unique animals and plants and this book is a guide for visitors to understand all that they are seeing. For some reason, it is no longer sold in the parks but I find it essential to any visit.

20. Lindquist, Jack, and Melinda J. Combs. *In Service to the Mouse: My Unexpected Journey to Becoming Disneyland's First President: A Memoir*. Orange, CA: Neverland Media and Chapman University Press, 2010. Print.

Jack Lindquist was involved with Disneyland from 1955, and had an incredible number of stories to share. He was a trustee at Chapman (later a trustee emeritus) and donated the "Jack and Belle Lindquist Dream Room and Disney Collection" that showcases much of his Disney collection. Jack's stories bring the early days of Disneyland to life, and this book is integral to anyone's Disney collection. I had the honor of meeting Jack many times and I treasure this book.

21. Littaye, Alain, and Didier Ghez. *Disneyland Paris: From Sketch to Reality*. English ed. Paris: Neverland Editions, 2012. Print.

This is one of my best acquisitions, direct from Paris, France, and it details the gorgeous history of Disneyland Paris.

22. Malmberg, Melody. *The Making Of Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park*. New York: Hyperion, 1998. Print.

Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park and resort in Florida present a zoo like no other, with animals seemingly roaming free, through incredible design feats accomplished by Disney Imagineers. This book chronicles how the park was created and how this new form of zoo brings people and animals together in a way nowhere else has been able to accomplish.

23. Markey, Kevin. *Secrets of Disney's Glorious Gardens*. New York: Disney Ed., 2006. Print.

Disney Parks are famous for their stunning gardens and floral artwork, and this comprehensive book details how the gardens are brought to life.

24. Marley, David John. *Skipper Stories: True Tales from Disneyland's Jungle Cruise*. Ed. Bob McLain. United States of America: Theme Park, 2016. Print.

Disney's Jungle Cruise is one of its most popular rides, with iterations in Disneyland, Walt Disney World, Tokyo Disneyland, and Hong Kong Disneyland. The attraction has acquired its own following, and this book records some of the incredible stories of its iconic skippers.

25. Marx, Jennifer, and Alexander Marx. *PassPorter's Walt Disney World*. 18th ed. Ann Arbor: PassPorter Travel, 2015. Print.

This is one of the authoritative guides to Walt Disney World Resort, and is essential to planning any Walt Disney World vacation.

26. Miller, Diane Disney. *The Story of Walt Disney*. 1st ed. New York: Dell, 1959. Print.

Walt Disney wanted a way to tell his life story, and hired an author to produce this book with his daughter Diane to serve as the first biographical book on Walt's life. This is one of my most treasured acquisitions, and is essential to any Disney collection.

27. Neary, Kevin F., and Susan Neary. *The Hidden Mickeys of Walt Disney World*. Los Angeles: Disney Editions, 2016. Print.

Disney is famous for hiding "hidden Mickeys" throughout its park, and this book acts as a guide for where to find the ones located at Walt Disney World.

28. Paik, Karen, Ed Catmull, Steve Jobs, John Lasseter, and Leslie Iwerks. *To Infinity and Beyond!: The Story of Pixar Animation Studios*. San Francisco: Chronicle, 2007. Print.



This book is a great history on the early years of Pixar, a studio that revolutionized the animation industry.

29. Pollock, Shauna, Rolly Crump, and Jim Korkis. *Creating Classroom Magic: Using Lessons from the Life of Walt Disney to Create an Experimental Prototype Classroom of Tomorrow*. United States of America: Theme Park, 2015. Print.

This book serves as a guide on how to use some of Disney's iconic "edutainment" styles to blend education with entertainment in the classroom.

30. Schroeder, Russell K., and Diane Disney. Miller. *Walt Disney: His Life in Pictures*. New York: Disney, 2009. Print.

This book features an incredible selection of pictures of Walt Disney, and truly brings him to life. Diane Disney collaborated on the project and has given it a unique take from a daughter to father.

31. Sehlinger, Bob, and Len Testa. *The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World 2016*.

Birmingham: Unofficial Guides, an Imprint of Keen Communications, 2015. Print.

This is my most updated version of the popular "Unofficial Guides" for Walt Disney World. Used heavily in planning my visit in 2016, these great books are indispensable in planning a successful vacation. They are also very helpful in chronicling changes to the parks over the years. In my opinion, it is tied with the PassPorter guide to Walt Disney World as the best guide book to the resort (see entry 25 for the PassPorter guide).

32. Sehlinger, Bob, Seth Kubersky, and Guy Selga. *The Unofficial Guide to Disneyland 2016*.

Birmingham: Keen Communications, 2015. Print.

This is my current edition of the popular "Unofficial Guides" for the Disneyland Resort. While I know the Resort extremely well, it is always good to keep updated on changes

and new attractions in the park. I also like to maintain a view of the park geared for tourists, as I love showing visiting friends and family members around the resort. In my opinion, this is the best guide to Disneyland.

33. Smith, Dave. *Disney A to Z (Fifth Edition): The Official Encyclopedia*. 5th ed. Glendale: Disney Editions, 2016. Print.

Dave Smith founded the Walt Disney Archives and maintains a relationship with them, still working throughout retirement. Smith is a regular visitor to Chapman University's Disney and Darwin class and I have had the pleasure of meeting him many times. These books are essential to any Disney collection and summarize nearly everything imaginable to do with Disney. Updates are released online as they come, and new editions are printed regularly.

34. Smith, Dave. *Disney Facts Revealed: Answers to Fans' Curious Questions (Disney Editions Deluxe)*. New York: Disney Editions, 2016. Print.

Smith has run a popular "Ask Dave" column for decades and it has appeared in many media, most recently on [www.D23.com](http://www.D23.com) (home to the Official Disney Fan Club). These books compile the popular questions and are published regularly. I also have a magazine clipping of an "Ask Dave" question relating to the 1955 Disneyland Guidebook in entry six.

35. Smith, Dave. *Disney Trivia from the Vault: Secrets Revealed and Questions Answered*. New York: Disney Editions, 2012. Print.

Dave Smith's knowledge of Disney is unparalleled, and he has written many books detailing Disney's inspiring past.

36. Stanton, Andrew, Steven Pilcher, and John Lasseter. *The Art of Finding Dory*. San Francisco:

Chronicle, 2016. Print.

*Finding Nemo* is one of Pixar's most popular films, and revolutionized how water is created through computer generated imagery. Its sequel *Finding Dory* was also very popular and the advancements between the two films is incredible. This book celebrates the artwork and imagery in *Finding Dory*.

37. Strodder, Chris. *The Disneyland Book of Lists*. Solana Beach: Santa Monica Press, 2015.

Print.

This fun book lives up to its title, giving lists of things present in Disneyland, such as “30 Walt Disney Quotes About Disneyland,” or “Disneyland's Opening Day Attractions,” among many other quick reads.

38. Surrell, Jason, Marty Sklar, and Tom Fitzgerald. *The Haunted Mansion: Imagineering a Disney Classic*. Los Angeles: Disney Editions, 2015. Print.

The Haunted Mansion has developed a massive following of its own, and this book does a fantastic and thorough job explaining the history of the iconic attraction, now present in unique iterations in five Disney Parks around the globe.

39. The Editors of LIFE, THE. *LIFE Walt Disney: From Mickey to the Magic Kingdom*.

LIFE, 2016. Print.

This recent publication is a great (brief) overview of Walt Disney and includes fantastic photos.

40. The National Geographic Society. *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC: August 1963*. 2nd ed. Vol. 124. Washington D.C.: National Geographic Society, 1963. Print.

This publication is one of the earliest overviews of Disneyland and features a 50-page article on the park. The article includes stunning photographs (many shown across multiple pages) and a large color map of the park.

41. The Saturday Evening Post. *The Saturday Evening Post: My Dad Walt Disney*.

Saturday Evening Post, 1956. Print.

This publication features one of the most iconic depictions of Walt Disney on its cover, Walt riding one of his beloved trains surrounded by the characters he created. This is one of my favorite acquisitions and another copy was recently featured in the Walt Disney Family Museum's exhibit: "All Aboard: A Celebration of Walt's Trains."

42. Thomas, Bob. *Walt Disney: An American Original*. New York: Hyperion, 1994. Print.

This is another biography on Walt Disney, and is published by The Walt Disney Company.

43. Walt Disney Productions. *Walt Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean: The Story of the Robust Adventure in Disneyland and Walt Disney World*. United States: Walt Disney Productions, 1974. Print.

This fascinating book gives a great look at the iconic attraction, and features terrific photographs of the attraction in its early days.

44. Walt Disney Productions. *Walt Disney's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. New York: Viking, 1979. Print.

This retelling of the famous tale includes stunning illustrations as it brings the story to life. It is the definitive coffee-table style book on Snow White.

45. Wright, Alex. *The Imagineering Field Guide to Disney's Animal Kingdom at Walt Disney World: An Imagineer's-Eye Tour*. New York: Disney Enterprises, 2007. Print.

Disney's Imagineers have produced a number of field guides to their parks that highlight the best parts of each park. This book acts as a guide for guests to explore the Animal Kingdom Park and get an insider's peek behind the design.

46. Wright, Alex. *The Imagineering Field Guide to Disney's Hollywood Studios at Walt Disney World: An Imagineer's-eye Tour*. NY, NY: Disney Editions, 2010. Print.

Another of Disney's field guides, this book gives an insider's point-of-view to the park and can be used in touring Disney's Hollywood Studios.

47. Wright, Alex. *The Imagineering Field Guide to Disneyland*. New York: Disney Editions, 2008. Print.

Another of Disney's field guides, this book gives readers a unique look at the park and is to be used touring throughout Disneyland in California. A companion guide to Disney California Adventure also exists, but has been excluded for brevity.

48. Wright, Alex. *The Imagineering Field Guide to Epcot at Walt Disney World: An Imagineer's-Eye Tour*. New York: Disney Editions, 2010. Print.

This field guide gives a fascinating peek behind the curtain of one of Disney's most unique parks. Epcot is comprised of two sections: Future World and World Showcase. Future World showcases technology of the past, and fondly remembers technology of the past. World Showcase is one of the most captivating places there is, as it brings together impeccable pavilions celebrating Mexico, Norway, China, Germany, Italy, the United States, Japan, Morocco, France, the United Kingdom, and Canada (listed in clockwise order). There is nowhere else where one can experience all these countries in one day.

49. Wright, Alex. *The Imagineering Field Guide to Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World—Updated!* 2nd ed. New York: Disney Editions, 2009. Print.

This field guide summarizes Disneyland Park's sister park in Florida. The most popular park at Walt Disney World, Magic Kingdom is known worldwide and this book points out unique points of interest, from an Imagineer's perspective.

50. Younger, David. *Theme Park Design & The Art of Themed Entertainment*. 1st ed.

Inklingwood, 2016. Print.

This is the first textbook on themed entertainment, the study and industry of theme parks, and gives a fantastic overview of terms and industry practices present in Disney Parks around the globe.

### WISHLIST

1. Dunlop, Beth, Tom Staggs, Wing T. Chao, and Bruce Vaughn. *Building a Dream: The Art of Disney Architecture*. New York: Disney Editions, 2011. Print.

I love architecture and this rare book would be a fantastic addition to my collection.

2. Finch, Christopher. *The Art of Walt Disney: From Mickey Mouse to the Magic Kingdoms and Beyond*. New York: Abrams, 2011. Print.

This all-encompassing book covers art throughout Walt Disney's life and I plan to purchase it someday.

3. Gurr, Bob. *Design: Just for Fun*. Riverside: App-Gurr Design, 2012. Print.

Bob Gurr is one of the most famous Imagineers having designed dozens of attractions at Disney throughout his career. He is also a regular visitor to Chapman's Disney and

Darwin, but his book is very in demand (due to a limited printing) and hard to get ahold of. Someday I will add his book to my collection.

4. Handke, Danny, and Vanessa Hunt. *Poster Art of the Disney Parks*. New York: Disney Editions, 2012. Print.

This book showcases many of the iconic attraction posters created for each ride at the Disney Parks.

5. Hench, John, Peggy Van Pelt, Frank Gehry, and Martin A. Sklar. *Designing Disney: Imagineering and the Art of the Show*. New York: Disney Editions, 2008. Print.

This book will add to my collection of books about Disney Imagineers—the people who create the magic.

6. Kotjenschulte, Daniel. *The Walt Disney Film Archives: The Animated Movies 1921-1968*. Colonia: Taschen, 2016. Print.

This recently released book gives a fascinating look at the early Disney films.

7. Kurtti, Jeff, and Bruce Gordon. *The Art of Disneyland*. New York: Disney Editions, 2005. Print.

This hard to find book highlights concept art created for Disneyland and I eagerly look forward to adding it to my collection.

8. Kurtz, Bob, and Marc Davis. *Marc Davis: Walt Disney's Renaissance Man*. New York: Disney Editions, 2014. Print.

Marc Davis is another famous Imagineer and this book chronicling his creations will be another great addition to my collection.

9. Marling, Karal Ann. *Designing Disney's Theme Parks: The Architecture of Reassurance*. Paris: Flammarion, 2006. Print.

This impressive book further details Disney's famous architecture, and will add to the cohesiveness of my collection.

10. The Imagineers. *Walt Disney Imagineering: A behind the Dreams Look at Making the Magic Real*. New York: Hyperion, 1998. Print.

This is the best book produced yet on Walt Disney Imagineering. I had a copy that I treasured but recently passed it down to a close family member and I look forward to re-adding it to my collection in the near future. It is the most essential book I can recommend to any Disney fan.