Consuming Passions: Leisure and Pleasure in Victorian Britain

By Judith Flanders

HarperCollins Publishers. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Consuming Passions: Leisure and Pleasure in Victorian Britain, Judith Flanders, A delightful and fascinating social history of Victorians at leisure, told through the letters, diaries, journals and novels of nineteenth-century men and women, from the author of the bestselling 'The Victorian House'. Imagine a world where only one in five people owns a book, where just one in ten has a knife or a fork - a world where five people out of every six do not own a cup to hold a hot drink. That was what England was like in the early eighteenth century. Yet by the close of the nineteenth century, the Industrial Revolution had brought with it not just factories, railways, mines and machines but also fashion, travel, leisure and pleasure. Leisure became an industry - a cornucopia of excitement for the masses - and it was spread by newspapers, advertising, promotions and publicity - all of which were eighteenth-century creations. It was Josiah Wedgwood and his colleagues who invented money-back guarantees, free delivery and celebrity endorsements. New technology such as the railways brought audiences to ever-more-elaborate extravaganzas, whether it was theatrical spectacles with breathtaking pyrotechnics and hundreds...

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Reviews

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A Traveller’s History of London. Great Victorian Railway Journeys: How Modern Britain was Built by Victorian Steam Power. Karen Farrington. $15.99. Pocket Guide to Edwardian England. Evangeline Holland. $2.99. Walking Dickens’ London. It covers more than Victorian Britain, and touches on the shopping experience and the rise of the cash economy, it gives colour and life to social history, and there is nothing new in 3-D movies - they had train crashes on stage before the cinema. Not a quick read, but a text which really brings the past to life. Likewise, although the title of the book refers to Victorian Britain, large parts of it deal with the 18th century, and the first 37 years of the 19th century before Queen Victoria came to the throne. The impression that you get reading the book is that Judith Flanders made enormous numbers of notes, then, without reviewing the material critically or discarding anything, rough sorted them by topic, and then sat down to write. In her splendid book on Victorian "leisure and pleasure", Judith Flanders devotes a whole chapter to Christmas; this is hardly surprising, for it is and was then a retailers' paradise. The key components of the "traditional" Christmas were available for purchase in all good stores and the canny entrepreneurs of 19th-century Britain seized their opportunities. Consuming Passions covers such a vast amount of ground that reading it can sometimes feel rather like watching a fast moving conveyor belt of consumer durables which have flashed by before you have time to examine them fully. And I could have done with a little more about the humans behind the goods: the ambitious, ingenious, ruthless visionaries who caught and exploited the spirit of their age. Consuming Passions tells the story of Victorian leisure and pleasure as an interrelated and intricate set of transformations—a fascinating, bewildering, marvel-crammed quest.Guardian. In 'Consuming Passions', the bestselling author of 'The Victorian House' explores this dramatic revolution in science, technology and industry -- and how a world of thrilling sensation, lavish spectacle and unimaginable theatricality was born. See all Product description. Customers who bought this item also bought.

Likewise, although the title of the book refers to Victorian Britain, large parts of it deal with the 18th century, and the first 37 years of the 19th century before Queen Victoria came to the throne. It amended the regime established under the Licensing Act 1832. Under the Licensing Act 1737 (10 Geo.II, c. 28), the Lord Chamberlain was granted the ability to vet the performance of any new plays: he could prevent any new play, or any modification to an existing play, from being performed for any reason, and was not required to justify his decision. Consuming Passions: Leisure and Pleasure in Victorian Britain. HarperCollins. pp. 292–342. ISBN 0-00-734762-6. Dean, Joan Fitzpatrick (2010-04-29). Riot and Great Anger: Stage Censorship in Twentieth-Century Ireland. Univ of Wisconsin Press. ISBN 9780299196646.
From the reviews of Consuming Passions:

Over the course of the nineteenth century, a whole new world opened up to an ever-growing section of the population—a world of retail choice, of travel for pleasure, of cultural and sporting diversion. It is a world explored with much wit and insight by Judith Flanders. The subject is a large one. A deeply satisfying exploration of how the Victorians pursued their leisure time Bursting with original research and statistics, it gives a panoramic view of Victorians at play. Country Life. A fascinating look at the birth of leisure. Britain, the world’s first industrial society, will lead the way into a glorious future, which can be seen, all mapped out, in the courts and aisles of the Crystal Palace. Start your review of Consuming Passions: Leisure and Pleasure in Victorian Britain. Write a review. Oct 23, 2012 · Karen rated it really liked it · review of another edition. It should be added that, although this is called Leisure and Pleasure in Victorian Britain it actually goes well back into the 18th century to illustrate the development and change that took place in Victoria's time. Rich and rewarding. ...more. flag 15 likes · Like · see review.

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