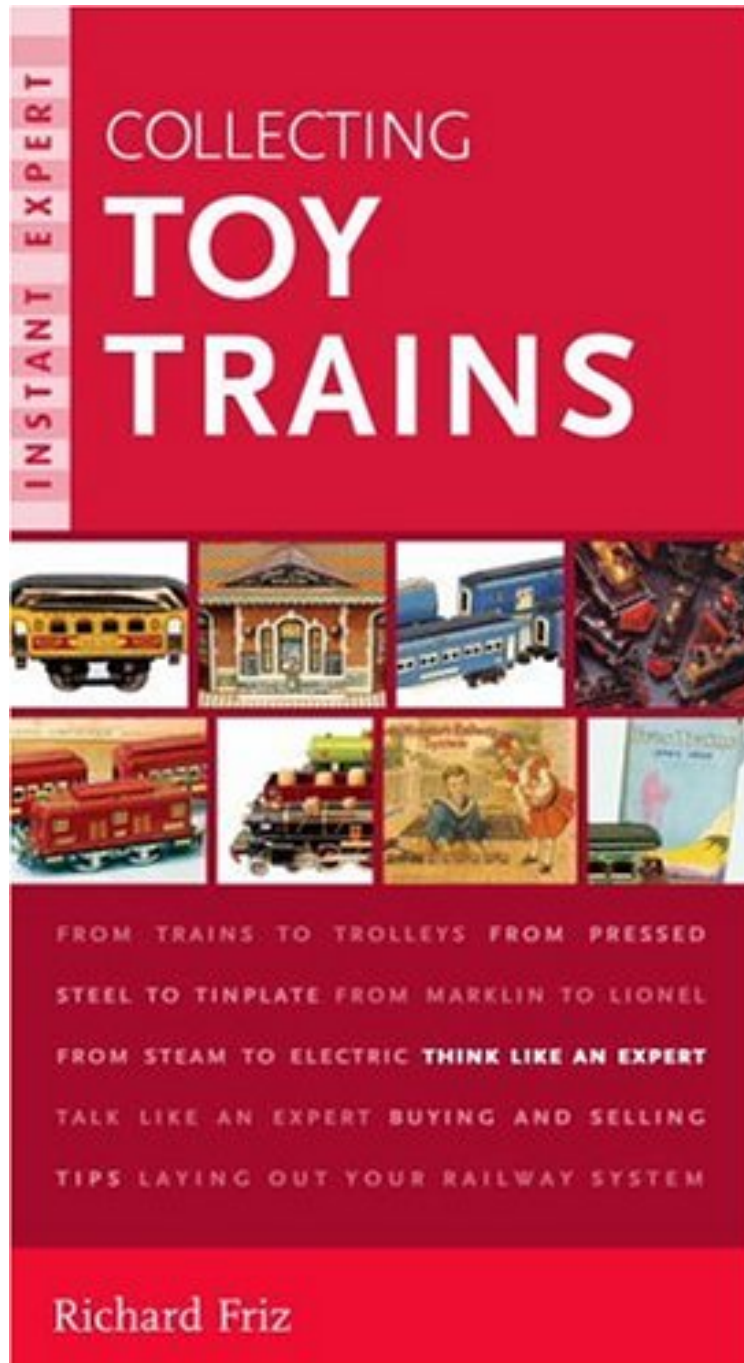


Instant Expert: Collecting Toy Trains (Instant Expert (Random House))

Richard Friz

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Richard Friz : Instant Expert: Collecting Toy Trains (Instant Expert (Random House)) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Instant Expert: Collecting Toy Trains (Instant Expert (Random House)):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, but if you like toy trains, you don't think so, probably. By ((Marco Buendia)) This is not something I know anything about, or, for that matter, have cared about since I was very young. But it came to my attention when I found it in the dumpster behind the Zero Public Library. This is a book about the toy train industry and the standard practices of its enthusiasts. There's a lot about the history; the fellows who manufactured these things as well as the styles of modeling; all of this goes back about as far as the rail industry goes. Most of the book, though, covers the craft, display, and (e)valuation of this stuff, the toy vehicles and the rails/scenery etc. Railroad enthusiasts are frequently well-educated, though of the "self-" variety; I mean enthusiasts of the real thing (still in existence, though decreasingly varied and increasingly inscrutable, like most of the world). Fans of toys, not so much. But this is a surprisingly literate guide; a wide range of cultural phenomena are alluded to here. At one point, George Will is quoted at some length (he prefers American Flyer to Lionel). I would have thought this book would be a winner with those who care, but that would have been before I spent a lot of time in public libraries. It wasn't, evidently. There are still quite a number of books on the shelf on toy/model trains in the Zero Public Library, though. The guy at the Solutions Desk told me "these guys want either A) prices, or, more of them, B) stuff on layouts. That book didn't have much on the former (he quotes some sample prices, the kind some nuts will pay for this stuff) and nothing on the latter so they didn't check it out. This book is meta-collecting, and these guys don't like meta- anything. Or they don't know that they do. They're nerds, no offense. The Director wanted to throw all the model train books out until she found out that the Mayor likes model trains. And BTW: call them 'model', not 'toy'".

collecting toy trains