

# Vancouver Postcard Club

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 28: NO. 1

April 2010



Vancouver Postcard Club Annual Show & Sale will be held at the Hastings Community Centre on **Sunday May 30th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Mark your calendars!

## Upcoming Postcard Events

After rather a quiet few months on the postcard front we're pleased to see the calendar of events filling up again. The highlight of the month for many of us is the club meeting on the third Sunday of the month at the Hastings Community Centre. The next three meetings promise to be particularly interesting and, as usual, there will be postcards to trade. Bring along any postcards that are surplus to your collection and make a note of the following dates and presenters at the upcoming meetings:

**Apr. 18;** VPC meeting: Roger Packer - Cards of Hong Kong, China and Japan

**May 16;** VPC meeting: Carole Harmon talking about her grandfather, Byron Harmon

**June 20;** VPC meeting: Stan Stewardson – Lacrosse cards

In addition to our Annual Show & Sale on May 30th, postcards can also be found at the following events in April and May:

**Apr. 9-10;** RICHPEX, Sheraton Vancouver Airport (formerly Best Western Richmond, 7551 Westminster Highway, Richmond

**Apr. 10 from 10-5 and Sunday, Apr.11 from 10-4.** The North Shore Numismatic Coin Show will be held at the Oakridge Centre Auditorium, (41st & Cambie).

**Apr. 17-18;** Kerrisdale Antiques Fair, Kerrisdale Arena, 5670 East Boulevard at 41st, Vancouver

**Apr. 24-25;** Fraser Valley Antiques and Collectible Club show, Queen's Park Arena, New Westminster

**May 16;** 41st Century Flea Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver

## A Busy Few Months!

Apologies to all for the later than usual issue of the Spring newsletter! Your Editor changed employer in January and the first few months at a new firm haven't allowed him much time for postcards. It's a sad state of affairs when one's need to earn a living interferes with one's personal hobbies!

No club meeting was held in February while we all enjoyed the 2010 Winter Olympics. (We must admit that our postcard collections didn't get much attention during those two weeks). However, club members were treated to two outstanding presentations at the monthly meetings in January and March. At the first, Don Steele gave a talk about Smithers, illustrated with some wonderful postcards from his northern B.C. collection. At the March 21st meeting, long-time Steveston resident Harold Steves entertained members with his presentation on farms, fishing and Indians along the lower Fraser Valley, showing many fine postcards from early B.C. photographers, including Philip Timms.

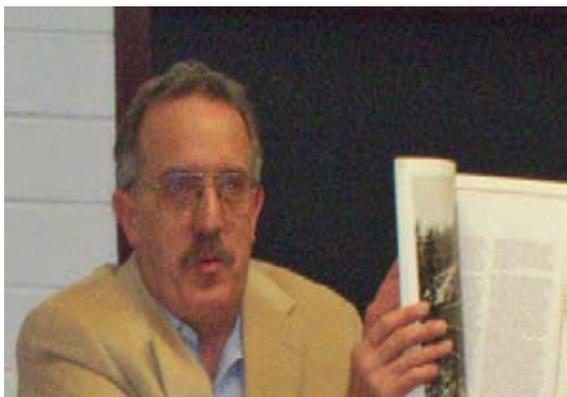
Following last year's death of Albert Tanner, Vancouver's largest postcard dealer, there has been a noticeable drop off in opportunities to trade postcards. We have had to go further afield than usual to attend shows - in the past two months to Victoria and Toronto (unhelpfully on the middle weekend of the Olympics) and even to Richmond! But we have the impression that there are plenty of postcards around and certainly the number of eBay listings for BC postcards has increased in recent months - mostly recycled material that fails to sell due to poor presentation or unrealistic pricing expectations. When there are more sellers than buyers in the stock markets, share prices go down. The same can't yet be said of postcards on eBay: if the postcard doesn't sell the first time, we've even seen sellers mark up the price on re-listing to give a spurious impression of rarity. Guess what - the card generally doesn't sell at the higher price either!

The absence of postcard trading opportunities in Vancouver is one reason why this year's Vancouver Postcard Show on May 30th is so eagerly anticipated and we look forward to seeing you all there.

# Club News



*Twenty-two members were present at December 2009's AGM, Club Photo, Auction and Christmas Party. Elected by acclamation were Don Steele, Pres., Ron Souch, Vice-Pres., Margaret Waddington, Archivist and Sec.-Treas., Philip Francis, Newsletter editor and Art Davies, Social Director. In order to avoid meeting on Mother's Day and the Thanksgiving weekend, it was decided to move the meeting date to the third Sunday of the month in 2010.*



*Tim Mustart conducted the auction at the AGM which included items donated by Per Jensen in memory of Albert Tanner - the proceeds of which went to the club.*



*Refreshments were arranged by Art Davies*

Don Steele preceded his January 17th Powerpoint presentation of Smithers cards with a brief outline of its history. Located 222 miles east of Prince Rupert, it was established as the divisional headquarters of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in 1913 and was named after the chairman, Sir Alfred Smithers. A farming community which has had several operating mines, it has good steelhead fishing and has produced some great hockey players, artists, actors and poets.

On March 21st Harold Steves used his father's antique "Radiopticon" projector to show cards of farms, fishing and Indians along the lower Fraser Valley.

New member Ron Leith gave out copies of the catalogue for his Saturday, April 10th philatelic auction, to be held at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Richmond. We also welcomed Peter Moogk, who collects B. C. Electric, early Vancouver, and Niagara Peninsula cards, and founding member Lee Lightfoot and her daughter.

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ALLAN MACLEAN CUMMING LEAN – An update from Margaret Waddington

According to Lean's birth certificate, his mother's name was Lettice Anne Cumming, not Gladys Ann Cumming as stated in his marriage certificate.

Ref: GRO (U.K) Birth registration, Sept. quarter 1864, Tunbridge district, vol. 2a, p. 459, #371

# President's Report

December 13th, 2009

I believe the Club has had a very successful year under the direction of THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE inaugurated for 2009 and I recommend it be continued.

We were all saddened, by the fact that since our last AGM we lost four long time members of this Club being Chris McGregor, Albert Tanner, Fred Thirkell and finally Abe Charkow. Our Club will not be the same.

During the year Philip Francis took over as Editor of the Club Newsletter and presented us with an expanded format and a fresh layout which has proven to be very well accepted by our membership.

The Club enjoyed some exceptional speakers and postcard digital presentations during the year. This method of showing and enjoying postcards seems to be the way to go.

This year the Club Postcard Show and Sale was a huge success with outstanding displays, excellent attendance and good financial results.

The change in the time and date of our meetings has marginally improved attendance and as a result, we have garnered a few new members.

The Club Website is being well used with well over 100 hits per month and increasing.

The Clubs entry into Book Publishing has been successful with some modest profits. It is easy not to make money on these ventures. The result has been that some important research is now available to collectors.

The Club is now using the "Board Room" at the Hastings Community Centre, which is adequate for our needs, and somewhat less expensive.

The Executive Committee is recommending that we change the meeting times to the Third Sunday in each month at the same time and place. The Community Centre tells us this time is available for those dates.

Finally I would like to personally thank those members of the Executive and others who have worked so hard to make some of the changes noted above. I look forward to a bright and productive 2010 for the Club.

*Don Steele, Club President*

# More eBay Peeves

As more and more postcard collectors turn to online sources for their cards, it's quite surprising that some of the most active eBay sellers have made so little effort to improve the presentation of their cards. An article on this subject a few issues ago prompted a small backlash from a few local sellers - probably well-justified since several of them provide outstanding service to their customers. If you look at the eBay inventory of artsycoolcat, for example - one of our favourites - you'll see a clear, enlarged image of each postcard offered for sale - often front and back - a detailed description of the card with caption, publisher and series number. You will always receive your purchase, well-packaged in a hard plastic protective sleeve, a day or two following the auction; the shipping & handling charges are reasonable; and the feedback is positive and generous.

At the risk of causing offence to less scrupulous sellers here are four more pet peeves to add to our earlier list -

1. **Packaging** - we've received a number of cards that have been creased in the mail due to inadequate packaging. In one case, the buyer's name and address were imprinted on the front of a real photo because the seller had written the address in pen on the envelope but hadn't put any protective packaging on the card inside. Duh! If you won't use a hard plastic sleeve please at least use some cardboard.

2. **Listing** - a scanner is an essential and inexpensive item for any serious postcard seller. Unfortunately, some are still using a wobbly handheld camera for their listing images and it's like looking through a windshield in a heavy rainstorm without wipers. Postcard values depend so much on the condition of the card - if they can't see a clean image in the online listing, savvy buyers will take a pass.

3. **Description** - one of the most prolific eBay postcard sellers lists his cards in the following way - "Postcard, British Columbia, Canada, Unused on the Back, Nelson." No additional description, no other information to assist the search - e.g. subject, publisher, series etc - and no image of the back of the card. Buy it Now? No thanks.

4. **Pricing** - all the evidence on eBay shows that a low starting price often leads to a higher final price, as more potential buyers get drawn into the bidding process. But how often do you see a relatively common Gowen & Sutton card with a starting price of \$8.99! High starting prices don't sell cards, particularly if combined with a grimy image and little or no additional information.

No offence intended - just some friendly advice to our local eBay sellers. We do love you, really!

# Biographies of B.C. Photographers

GUS. A. MAVES, 1882-1942

Compiled by D. Mattison



*Fort St., Victoria, B.C. - by Gus Maves*

Gustave Adolph Maves was born on March 2, 1882 in Pembroke, Ontario, to August Maves and Wilhelmina Wilb, both immigrants from Holland. Little is known at this time of Maves' early years prior to 1901 when he was working as a clerk, possibly in Creighton Mine, Ontario. In 1902 he established himself in the photographic business. According to his obituary, he owned a large lithographic plant in Toronto, coming west in 1918 on the advice of physicians.

On August 10, 1905 he married Margaret Jane Crawford in York, Ontario. She was born on February 29, 1876 in Cobden, Ontario, to Robert Crawford and Madeline Beall. Margaret was not only Gus' life partner, she was also a skilled artist and colorist who applied her talents to many of his photographs, some of which were credited and copyrighted to her. The most well known example of their work is a group portrait reproduced from a colored lantern slide of female strawberry pickers proudly displaying their harvest which graces the cover of Edward Cavell's book *Sometime a Great Nation: A Photo Album of Canada, 1850-1925* (1984).

For most of their lives in Victoria the Maves lived at 395 King George Terrace (formerly 395 Sunrise Ave.), on the waterfront near the corner of Beach Drive, in the municipality of Oak Bay. In the early 1930s Maves photographed the exterior of his house and gardens from several angles at various times of the year, as well as the interior of his home portrait studio. The Maves raised their two children here, Carl Rembrandt Maves (1906-1983), and Diana (later Mrs. Frederick L. Barr) Maves.

In June 1982 the BC Archives acquired the surviving records of Gus. A. Maves from his daughter. The records include 4 albums, two of which contain sample postcards. According to the B. C. archival appraisal document (accession 89-0969, formerly Visual Records accession 198303-041) there are 1,133 negatives and 1,959 prints, including positive transparencies. The main body of original negatives are 8 x 10 inch nitrate negatives, which

were subsequently copied onto 3 x 4 inch or other sizes of nitrate stock. These were the working copies from which Maves produced his postcards and lantern slides.

None of Maves' prints or lantern slides preserved at the BC Archives include any of his home studio portraits. Instead, they are chiefly landscapes, still life photos of fruits, vegetables and flowers, some group portraits and various examples of industrial photography, most notably for the provincial and federal agriculture departments, as well as exteriors and interiors of homes throughout the Greater Victoria area.

Maves made a trip through parts of the interior, documenting agricultural activities in the Okanagan and elsewhere in 1930 and 1931. His photographs of Victoria and Vancouver Island were used by the Victoria and Island Publicity Bureau, a predecessor of Tourism Victoria. A selection of his 16 x 20 inch color transparencies were exhibited under the province's sponsorship at the 1930 Canadian Exhibition. His photographs were also featured in magazine articles and in two publications from the late 1930s, including a souvenir illustrated booklet for the May 1930 visit to Victoria of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

The inside of cover of Album A contains a description of Maves' and his wife's photographic and artistic capabilities: "Color-correct Photography, Photographic Souvenirs, Coloured Lantern Slides, Pictorial Advertising, Commercial Coloring, Bromide Enlarging, Fine Art Portraiture, Air Brush Work, Transparencies, Post Cards, Calendars, Fine Art Prints, Etc."

Examples of his postcards appear in Albums A and B. The Album A cards are a mixture of color and b&w samples, along with many 3 x 4 inch prints, the latter all identified by a negative numbering system and a brief title below the mounted prints. Some of the prints and postcards are credited on the front lower right corner to Gus A. Maves or M. Maves or Margaret Maves and some of the postcards are copyrighted and numbered on the print surface. Album A also includes a series of colored lantern slides titled "Hand Colored Art Gems," one of which is a self-portrait.

Album B contains 164 postcards. The first 71 are a set marketed as "Descriptive Art Postcards." The series title for these is "From Picturesque Victoria, B. C., Tourist Centre and Playground of the Pacific Northwest." The title, descriptive caption and credit all appear in a rectangular box printed to the right or below the image. The next set of 69 cards, which includes two views of the Inner Harbour and six individual shots of the Canadian Pacific's Princess boats, are those in which the title and credit are printed on the card surface. The last 24 were issues of a dozen each that were titled "12 Photographs of Picturesque Victoria, B. C." and "12 Photographs of the Famous Butchart Gardens". Each set cost 25 cents. Due to his father's ill health, his son Carl took over the business in April 1941, Gus passed away on January 28, 1942. Margaret died two years later on May 1, 1944. She and her husband were cremated at the Royal Oak Crematorium, Saanich.

## Biographies (Contd.)



*Olympic Range, Juan de Fuca Straits, Parliament Bldgs. and Inner Harbor - Victoria, B.C. - by Gus A. Maves, 32*

The author acknowledges with thanks the research of Margaret Waddington and the assistance of the staff at the BC Archives, Royal BC Museum.

### References:

#### BC Archives death registrations:

- 1942-09-600155 (in mfm B13173) (death Gustave)
- 1944-09-643634 (in mfm B13183 (death Margaret)
- 1983-09-001023 (in mfm B13627) (death Carl)

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Ancestry.com. Ontario, Canada births 1869-1909, Registrations of births and stillbirths, 1869-1902, MS 929\_25, entry 027063

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Library and Archives Canada. RG 31: Statistics Canada. 1901 Census, Ontario, district 92: Nipissing, sub-district Z(1)-2: Snider and Waters, p. 7, family 52, line 8 (in mfm T-6484)

Mattison, David. Camera workers: the British Columbia, Alaska & Yukon photographic directory, 1858-1950  
<http://members.shaw.ca/bchistorian/cw1858-1950.html>

Daily Colonist, Jan. 29, 1942, p. 3: "Death takes Gus A. Maves" (obit) & p. 14: "Deaths... Maves"

Daily Colonist, May 4, 1944, p. 14: "Deaths... Maves" (obit Margaret)

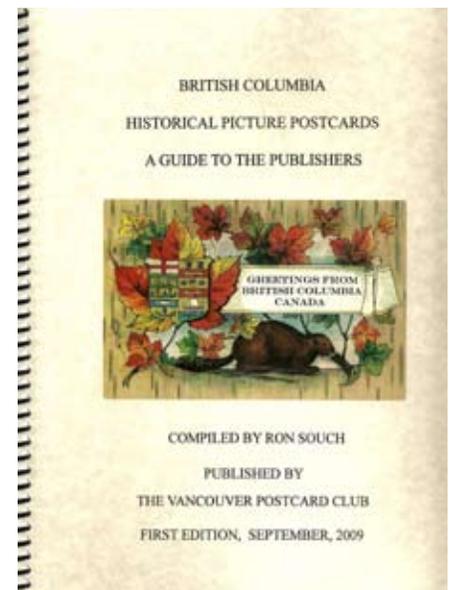
Maves, Gus A. Picturesque Victoria on Vancouver Island, Capital City of British Columbia. Victoria, B.C.: Diggon-Hibben Limited, [193-]

Victoria and Vancouver Island: Old World Atmosphere in a Western Setting. Victoria, B. C.: David Spencer Limited, 1939. (on cover: "Commemorating the Visit to Victoria of Their Majesties King George VI & Queen Elizabeth")

## Postcard Publications

Serious collectors of BC postcards will already know how invaluable are the postcard listings of various publishers produced by Ron Souch. But for newcomers to the hobby, or even those wanting to know more about the early history of this province, Ron's publications provide both some useful background as well as a checklist to help organize your collection. A complete list of Ron's publications can be found at the club website [www.vancouverpostcardclub.com](http://www.vancouverpostcardclub.com) (together with recent issues of this newsletter).

Ron Souch's most recent publication - "British Columbia Historical Picture Postcards - A Guide to the Publishers" has been a runaway success and the first printing of 50 numbered copies is now sold out. If you are still interested in obtaining a copy of this excellent reference document please email Margaret Waddington, Club Secretary, at [mwad@shaw.ca](mailto:mwad@shaw.ca), so that we can consider the possibility of a second printing.



Collectors will be pleased to know that Ron is also in the process of completing second editions of his 2003 listings of the Canadian postcards published by the B.C. Printing & Litho Ltd and the Picture Postcards Published by the Gowen, Sutton Co. Ltd. Ron tells us that the Gowen, Sutton publication will include around 5,000 postcards, including many new discoveries not included in the first edition.

Ron is hoping to have these publications completed in time for sale at the Postcard Show on May 30th. He has asked that those who wish to reserve a copy let him know in advance by email to [ronsouch@shaw.ca](mailto:ronsouch@shaw.ca) so that he can get some idea of the numbers to print. Stay tuned for further details.

del·ti·ol·o·gy

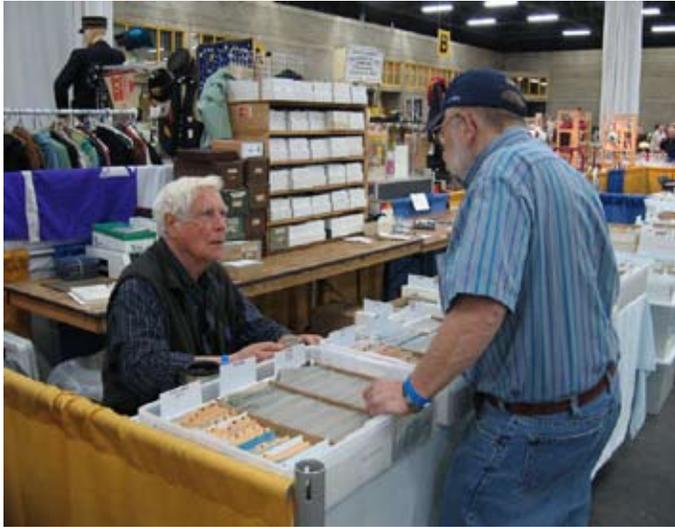
[del-tee-ol-uh-jee] [dɛl'ti-ɔl'ə-jɛ]

noun - the hobby of collecting post cards.

Origin: 1945-50; Gk delti(ón), dim. of déltos  
writing tablet + -o- + -logy

# John Cheramy

By Norman G. Gordon



*John Cheramy discusses a trade at a recent postcard show, while Glenda steps out for a coffee.*

I first met John Cheramy while attending John Regitko's Coin International Fair, held a number of years ago in the West End of Toronto. (It was later held at the Primrose Hotel in downtown Toronto.) John was set up as a vendor, selling small ticket items from jewellery to tokens... be it to a beginner or advanced collector. He always had something of interest and it's no wonder, you could hardly get to his table thanks to his wide variety of choice tokens, etc.

At the time, I was trying to build a collection of Ontario [Masonic] Lodge and Chapter pennies, including some odds and ends related to tokens. John suggested that I should expand my collection and consider branching out into the province of Quebec. When he showed me several Chapter pennies he had for sale, well it just blew my mind! Quebec Chapter pennies on the high end had custom made pennies, where they used two English pennies joined together in a locket with ring, hinge and clasp. These pennies had a silver keystone welded into the penny... with the candidate's engraved mark. They are sought by many collectors who specialize in this area of Masonic tokens. At this show I purchased all John's Quebec Chapter pennies from the regular to the high end pennies. He would later mail me all his Masonic related tokens for which I was grateful.

Our friendship grew to the point that I got him to bunk at our place during his Toronto shows.

We always set one day aside... motored to Hamilton to visit Ken Palmer, another great collector of Dairy tokens and Chapter pennies, who also published various publications related to his collecting interests.

Tagging along on some of these trips was John K. Curtis founder of the North York Coin Club (Another "big" collector.). It was such a rewarding experience for me to sit back and listen to these advanced collectors discussing everything from J.O.P.<sup>1</sup> dollars to obscure, hard to find tokens, etc

At one visit John was leafing through my library when he came across an American publication called "Postcard Collector." Well, he lit up like a Christmas tree and knew, right there and then, that this was the next move. The reason – the collecting of tokens was slowing down to a stalemate. So when he flew back to Victoria he jumped with both feet into postcard collecting, buying and selling postcards nationwide. It was history in the making.

I was collecting postcards of Masonic temples, my home town of Cochrane, Ontario and other nearby rural areas.

We still keep in touch as for the past 10 or 12 years I have been clipping out the Toronto Sun and Star bridge and chess puzzles, as these are not available in his area.

Personally I don't think that there is a finer gentleman - and honest to boot - than John and also his wife Glenda. My only regret is that I wish we didn't live so far apart, as John tells me they have a weekly collectors get together at a local Victoria, B. C. coffee shop... which is unheard of here in the Toronto area.

Almost forgot... always look forward to your P.C. Newsletter... It's interesting to read John's "Cheramy's Chatter."

1. Note from John Cheramy: "Joseph Oliva Patenaude, a Nelson, B. C. jeweller, had a lot of faith in silver and encouraged the minting of Canadian silver dollars starting in 1935. He made a couple of tiny dies which included his initials, "J.O.P.", and hammered these into Canadian silver dollars for many years, including 1935-1953."

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## Toronto Postcard Show

The 29th Annual Toronto Postcard Show was held on Sunday 21st February at the new location of Thornhill Community Centre, just north of Bayview and Hwy. 410. It was a spacious and accessible location for the 30 or so dealers and several hundred postcard collectors from across Canada. It was a bit of a scramble getting to the Centre of the Universe this time as the show organizers hadn't consulted the Olympic calendar and flights out of Vancouver were a bit more difficult than usual. (It did however give us an opportunity to try out the Canada Line to YVR and we are now regular users!).

The show featured many of Canada's largest dealers and for a Vancouver collector starved of opportunities to buy postcards it was quite a feast. One of the highlights was meeting Michael Smith (author of several books on patriotic postcards) who was selling off large parts of Bill Buchanan's collection on consignment, mostly at \$3 a card. Wow, quite a change from Vancouver prices! We also spent time at the tables of Frank & Brenda Hoyles, Neil Hayne, Derek Dalton and Paul McWhinnie. BC's own Don Kaye was also seen doing some lively business.

Of course, the Toronto dealers have the largest stock of central and eastern Canada postcards. But it seems that relatively few collectors from western Canada make the annual pilgrimage and we have always come home with a good selection of BC postcards, many of which are not often seen out west.

# Cheramy's Chatter - by John & Glenda Cheramy

**March 20, 2010** – It's been a busy year up until now. We started off by receiving a request from a local broker for our better Prairie postcards for a client of his in Alberta. Some 20 albums later, we're still working on assembling better postcards for all of Canada plus several themes and publishers/photographers.

We've had visits from Philip Francis twice, and Jeff Dufour, and Tim Woodland once each. It's nice to be able to sit back and talk postcarding with knowledgeable collectors.

At VICTOPICAL **March 6 & 7th**, visitors included Peter Zeschuk from the mainland and Bill Bokstrom from the mid-Island and did some trading with each of them. Also at that show, Tracy Cooper, the postal historian and busy executive who was quite involved with technology at the Winter Olympic Games and now with the LRT extension in the lower Mainland, had a look at some of our cards and has visited us several times, involving a few trades.

We still meet weekly with several Vancouver Postcard Club members, Ian & Robin Mowat, Lee Dowsley, Don Stewart, Ron Greene, and occasionally Mike Rice.

We are now preparing for our annual Alberta trip, planning on spending the **March 27, 28th weekend** in Calgary and then attending the annual Wildrose Antique Show in Edmonton during Easter week. We look forward to meeting many members at the antique show. We are also planning for our Oakridge, Vancouver visit April 10th and 11th and hope to see many of you there. Also, don't forget the Fraser Valley Antique Show at Queen's Park Arena, New Westminster, at the end of April.

**March 24** – Glenda and I caught the 9:00AM ferry, had a quick stop at Foot's Stamp store in Langley for a short visit, carried on up the highway. Our first night was in Revelstoke. The next day, we spent a good part of the afternoon in Canmore (a beautiful place) and left our Alberta cards for an hour or so with Meg Nicks, Sunny Raven Framing Gallery. She stock quite a few Harmon cards, and she found a few in our stock. That night we were in Calgary and had dinner with John Humphrey, the former promoter of the Blue Mtn. Antique show.

Next day we visited a coin shop and a book store and then spent the evening with good friends who have a booth in the Crossroads Market. Saturday we visited the market till noon, then left for Red Deer with a stop in Airdrie (no purchases), and then Olds where we left a few cards for a retired antique dealer. We arrived in Red Deer late afternoon and had a brief meeting with newly retired Dr. Robert Lampard who had acquired 2 collections from Ernie Nix. Ernie, now retired in Ontario, was a major collector of Alberta postcards, and of Canadian church postcards. Ernie's brother, a doctor, had delivered the Lampard twin boys many years ago, so it was natural that Ernie offered some of his collection to Bob. The collections he showed us were of Native Indians and Frank Alberta, before and after the slide in 1903. We were allowed to trade for part of the natives collection, and almost all of the Frank cards.

**Sunday the 28th**, we arrived in Edmonton. Our first stop was at a flea market mall at 50th St and the Yellowhead Hwy where we found Lawayne from Northgate Stamps operating his booth. Lawayne deals in coins and paper money and had a nice display of each. We also visited his shop on 118th Ave on Tuesday, and were again impressed with the items in his shop. Too bad he's not into postcards! We did get some discount postage to help with our mail order business.

On **Monday 29th**, we planned a visit with the McCuaigs at 1PM, so on the way we stopped at West Edmonton Mall and had a talk with Jack Jensen, the owner of the Coin & Sports Card shop. He's about to expand his location by at least 50% -- lots of action here! Jack was telling us that he did a million dollar gold deal a few day before. We then visited Jack & Dorothy McCuaig for about three hours. Jack seems to be getting around a little better and they were talking about a visit to Victoria, perhaps in early May, to see their son and family, and also to attend a Muffin Break for show & tell.

**March 30 & 31st** – Tuesday & Wednesday, taken up with visits to 2 antique malls, very little to find! We did stop to see a postcard collector and managed to trade for several hundred dollars worth of cards. **Tomorrow, April 1st**, is set-up day and we're not looking forward to it! A small parking lot with room for about 40 vehicles at a time and almost 200 dealers all wanting to get in at the same time! More on this trip next issue!

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## The "Group of Seven"



One of our favourite real photos is this image of seven young ladies by Leonard Frank from around 1920. But who are they? Although their hands are clasped as in prayer, their seductive smiles suggest that theological thoughts aren't uppermost in mind. And where was this photo taken - with the ladies dressed to kill among the ferns and leafy branches? We know from Cyril Leonoff's magnificent biography "An Enterprising Life" that Leonard Frank accompanied the Vancouver "Amazons" Ladies Hockey Team to Banff in February 1921. But with all due respect, this Group of Seven ladies don't look as if they've just come off the ice. Any suggestions? Please send to philipfrancis@shaw.ca with subject line "Group of Seven".

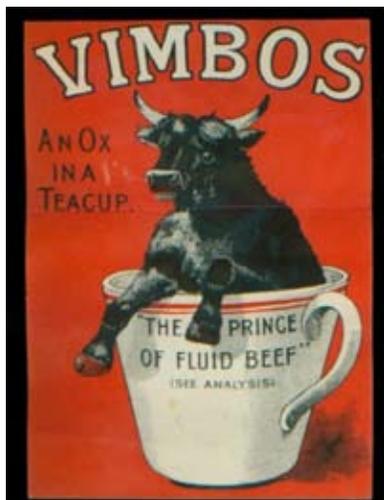
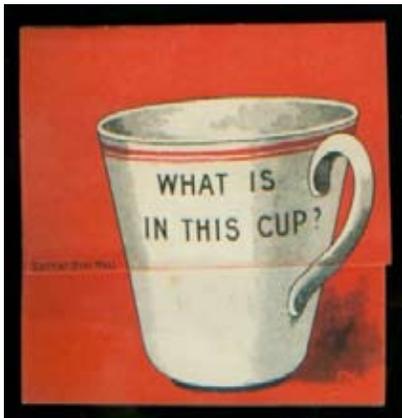
# American Views - “Coming Unglued” by Buzz Kinninmont

From mid-February through late March, half of our kitchen sink was unavailable for normal use. It had become the soaking basin in which more than 300 pieces of very colourful late-Victorian British advertising scrap were being carefully removed, one page-full at a time, from the album they'd been pasted into more than 110 years ago.

Queen Victoria's 1897 Diamond Jubilee was the topic on the ads on the first few pages, and the pages at the back of the album held the delightfully illustrated front covers (only, unfortunately!) of a number of London department stores' 1897 & 1898 Christmas catalogues.

Many of the pieces were large trade cards and flyers, measuring in the range of 6 in. by 9 in., many of them for soaps (Pears, Sunlight, Lifebuoy), perfumes, cigarettes, cigars, etc.

A few of them were metamorphic trade cards – ones that open to reveal that a portion of the illustration seen when the card is closed is also part of the hidden illustration, like this one for Vimbos bouillon, “Ox in a Teacup – The Prince of Fluid Beef”:



Prices realized for some of these items on eBay have been astounding, with a couple of the metamorphic cards selling for more than \$140 each.

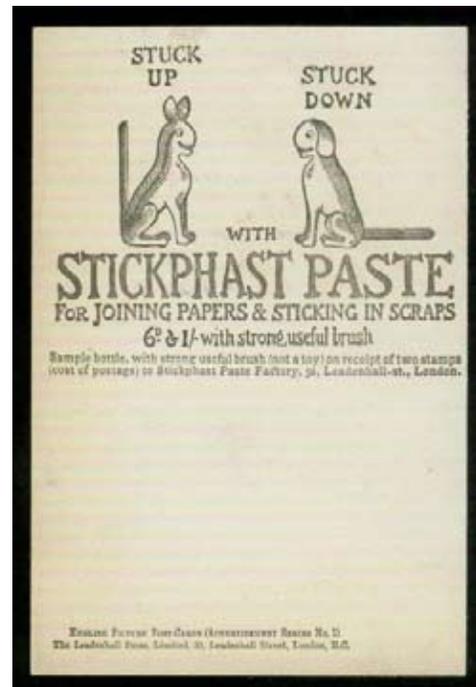
Even better, the following fabulous cardboard stand-up die-cut ad for Cope's tobacco sold for \$340 – more than the cost of the entire album:



It shows a soldier and a sailor blowing smoke in the face of the puritan they are dragging away. The puritan's hat says “Smoke Not” on it, and his legs are on a separate piece that folds back to support the item, and to make it look more like he is indeed being dragged along.

But perhaps the nicest surprise of all from the album was learning, once it had been soaked free of its page, that the following very cute ad was not a trade card – it was a court card – an early, squarish British postcard of the type that are usually found with a view of London or of one of the seaside resorts.

Never before had I seen a court card that was an advert. And it couldn't have been touting a more appropriate product – “Stickphast Paste” – the glue that had been used to secure all of the treasures in the album, and which was wholly responsible for that half of our sink being tied up for all that time.



Happy hunting, everyone...!