



POSTVIEW

The Newsletter of the
Vancouver Postcard Club

www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca

Volume 29 No. 1

February 2011

Welcome to Postview

After 30 years we felt it was time to spruce up the format of the Club newsletter and we hope you'll approve of the new look. We may know a bit about postcards but we could sure do with some expert assistance with our Adobe InDesign software (all advice and offers gratefully received).

number of those attending our monthly meetings. But if you would really prefer not to receive an additional piece of mail, please let Jill know and she will take you off the list. We're going to try this for at least a year.

As you'll read inside, there have been some excellent Club meetings in recent months and we have an interesting program for the months ahead. The new meeting time of 12 noon to 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month seems to be working well and more members are attending and bringing postcards to trade. There will be even more postcards in future following various recent donations of postcards to the Club.

Please put a couple of dates in May into your calendars. This year's Vancouver Postcard Show will be held on Sunday 29th May. A number of new initiatives will be announced soon to make this year's show, in our 30th anniversary year, an even more exciting event for BC postcard collectors. At the monthly meeting on May 15th we will receive a visit from members of the Antique Chapter of the Vintage Car Club of Canada - and their vehicles! Further details in the next issue.



"The Beauties of Vancouver cannot be exaggerated. Too busy to write." Series 2403 published by B.B. London in 1910.

Thank-you!

Many people have contributed to this first issue of Postview and we want to take a moment to thank them. The assistance of Margaret Waddington, Contributing Editor, is particularly appreciated. We also extend thanks to Correspondents John and Glenda Cheramy ("Cheramy's Chatter" is always one of our most popular features) and Buzz Kinnimont, for his American Views. This issue we also feature a column from Club President, Don Steele.

We also want to thank Joyce Hodge and her staff at BondRepro who have helped us with the masthead and give us great rates for printing and folding the newsletter. Thanks also to Jill Charkow for her work on distribution.

Philip Francis, Editor

We had great fun choosing a new name for the publication to replace the more prosaic "Vancouver Postcard Club Newsletter". Members of the Club Executive were polled and, like economists, came up with multiple alternatives. Close runners up were BC Postcards, In the Rear View Mirror and Postcardiana - a recent addition to the lexicon by our friends at the Toronto Postcard Club. To cut a long story short, "Postview" was the clear winner. Hopefully it will tide us through the next 30 years!

Another change approved by the Club Executive was to arrange for the newsletter to be printed in colour and for a paper copy to be sent to each member. Some of you, of course, prefer to receive the newsletter by email and we will continue to send you an email copy and post it to the website. But we felt that if you receive a printed copy you might more easily be able to show it or pass it along to a friend. We want to expand the membership of the Club and increase the

In this Issue

Page 1 - Welcome to Postview
Page 2 - Love it or Hate it - eBay is Here to Stay
Page 3 - President's Report. Vancouver Postcard Club News.
Page 4 - Biographies of B.C. Photographers. Alexander & Hilda Wilson.

Page 5 - TuckDB - a great new postcard resource. How to clean old photos?
Page 6 - Cheramy's Chatter. Upcoming Postcard Shows.
Page 7 - American Views. Postcard Etiquette.
Page 8 - Anatomy of a Listing. Postview.

Love it or Hate it - eBay is Here to Stay!

While you're riffling through a box of cards at a postcard show, a common subject in the background chatter is about buying or selling postcards on eBay. Whether you're a collector or a dealer, it seems we all have a "love/hate" relationship with the world's largest online marketplace. Founded in 1995, eBay now has over 100 million registered users around the world and it seems that many of these are postcard collectors.

If you're at all interested in buying or selling postcards you need to have an eBay and PayPal account (for which there is no charge) - go to www.ebay.ca to register.

But although it doesn't come with a government warning, eBay (like any other compulsive activity) can be dangerous for your health. We once heard the wife of an obsessive user call herself an "eBay widow" - her partner, a postcard collector, so dominated the home pc that she could only read her email when he was napping between bids. For the habitual eBay user, we must also add the risks of a sore lower back, tennis elbow as well as manic swings of mood - elation, depression or seething anger. For normally polite and mild-mannered collectors bidding on eBay can bring on violent emotions (not unlike being overtaken at speed on the inside at a traffic light) as a highly sought after item on eBay slips from your grasp in the final seconds by a program-trading "sniper", that most unpleasant species of collector. The "You have been Outbid" message that pops up in your inbox evokes the same visceral emotions as finding a parking ticket on your windshield.

Despite this, eBay has become an indispensable postcard market place for many of us, particularly when we are starved of opportunities to buy and sell cards at regular shows. It is in many respects the perfect medium - easily searchable, transparent, no barriers to entry, many buyers and sellers - in fact all the features we learned in Economics 101 that define perfect competition. Unfortunately, of course, that's the theory and in practice buying and selling on eBay is often a frustrating experience -

Sellers - who still won't invest in a basic scanner to show their cards; or who won't include any information about the card (no publisher, no series number) or who won't reveal their "shipping and handling" charges until after the auction - (advice to buyers, give them all a miss) and

Buyers - who are slow to pay for their pur-

chases; or who don't bother to give positive feedback, even for excellent service.

And then there are a few frustrations with the eBay process itself, particularly the lousy exchange rates on your PayPal transactions. But these are relatively minor issues when compared with the extraordinary opportunity that eBay provides for 24/7 trading with other postcard enthusiasts around the world, often at better prices than we can obtain in our local market place. We also like the convenience of the new eBay Mobile app that allows you to follow the progress of bidding while you're on a ferry to Victoria or (even) when your partner insists on shared access to your home computer (advice to eBay users, get yourself an iPad - it's a lot less expensive than a marital separation). You can't beat eBay - so join it!



We have seen several examples in recent weeks of eBay working at its best (or worst) depending on your perspective. The above real photo postcard of the City Hospital, Nanaimo, B.C., by Philip Timms, perhaps B.C. finest early postcard photographer, is a case in point. A rarely seen image, the postcard fetched USD 127.50 with 15 bids with the winning bid at 22:07:47 EST, 12 seconds before the closing time of 22:07:59 (darn!). Here was a situation where a quality seller back east posted a nice clean image of the front and back of the card and included a complete description of the card and short biographical details about Philip Timms. She was rewarded with an outstanding sale price as three different categories of collector found and bid for the card - collectors of Nanaimo postcards (who seem to have deep pockets), hospital postcard enthusiasts and of course the usual Timms suspects. Another recent feature of eBay is the anonymity of the buyer so we don't know who the successful bidder was but with a "feedback score" of over 1,000 we must assume they knew what they were doing.

Another interesting feature to the above auction is that we also know of a Philip Timms photo of the City Hospital, Nanaimo,

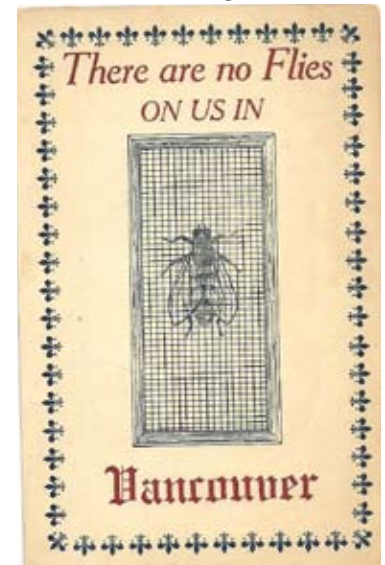


- also numbered 275, that shows a very different view (see above) or possibly even a different building. Could one of our Nanaimo friends provide us with some explanation - email to philipfrancis@shaw.ca



Another rarely seen real photo by Chilliwack-based photographer J.C. Walker - a previously unlisted view of Vancouver International Airport in the 1950's - went for USD 37.62 after 7 bids. The card was offered for a starting bid of USD 5.00 by a seller in Illinois, USA. Without eBay or one of the other online auction services this card might never have made it into the hands of a Walker or "airports" postcard collector.

And then sometimes you just get lucky and find a card you haven't previously seen in dealers' stock in B.C. Here's a quirky card by Pugh Mfg. Co of Toronto from c. 1905 that went for \$0.99 from a Virginia, USA seller:



President's Report



Don Steele reports to the Club AGM

I believe that the two components that have allowed this Club to survive over some 30 years are the Newsletter and the quality speakers who have made presentations over this period. 2010 was no exception; the Newsletter simply continues to improve and is enjoyed by postcard collectors across the country, including readers in the USA.

Over the years we have enjoyed many great presentations but particularly this year with Harold Steves, Roger Packer, Carole Harmon, Diane Rodgers, Stan Stewardson, Milt Blackburn, Art Davies, Philip Francis and others who entertained and educated us about their particular passion for postcards.

You will hear from our Treasurer that the Club has enjoyed a profitable year with, I think, record incomes producing an improved surplus position without increasing our dues. The Postcard show was a financial success which is also reflected in the annual financial report.

We have over 100 members, for the first time in several years, and our expanded Web Page records approximately 125 hits per month. We have added links to the Pacific Northwest Postcard Club, the San Francisco Area Postcard Club and MJR Postcards and Covers.

Despite the change in our meeting times the overall attendance to the regular monthly meetings has increased slightly and continues to do so.

The inauguration in 2009 of an Executive Committee has worked well, and has eliminated the need for lengthy monthly business meetings. I recommend this system of Management continue.

Finally I would like to personally thank those members of the Executive and others who have assisted with The Postcard Show and the Annual meeting. I see no reason why this Club should not survive for another 30 years.

Vancouver Postcard Club News

December 19, 2010. Seventeen members attended the Club's Annual General Meeting at the Hastings Community Centre. Don Steele opened with a survey of the Club's progress in 2010 - see column to the left. Elected by acclamation were: President: Don Steele; Vice-President: Ron Souch; Secretary-Treasurer and Archivist: Margaret Waddington; Newsletter Editor: Philip Francis. Tim Mustart volunteered to help with the May Show. The annual auction was ably conducted by Tim Mustart, with Christmas party refreshments, including a 30th anniversary cake, arranged by Art Davies. Tim Woodland warmly thanked Don, on behalf of all VPCC members, for his outstanding leadership and willingness to serve "one more year".

January 18, 2011. Last minute computer problems forced the cancellation of Mike Hocevar's presentation "Bus Lines of B. C. with particular focus on the Pacific Stage Lines in the Lower Mainland." [Mike's talk has been rescheduled to June 19th.]

Instead Dudley Booth stepped in at short notice with a memorable presentation "A Journey Back in Time," a slide show featuring a stunning collection of photographs taken by Vancouver photographer Cyril Littlebury, who from 1922 to 1932 took hundreds of pictures of Vancouver and beyond, some of which were issued as postcards.

The story behind the photos was a fascinating one. In 1946 Dudley's father found a black wooden box containing 1,000 negatives while clearing out an empty house in Vancouver and gave it to his 14 year old son. Each negative was carefully labelled with date, place and subject matter but there was no clue as to the identity of the photographer. At 14 Dudley wasn't too interested in history but he saved the box. When he retired 50 or so years later, Dudley pulled them out and began to study them carefully. Some were of West Coast ships so he took them to the Maritime Museum who identified them as Littlebury's.

Dudley showed over 100 Littlebury images of Vancouver and the surrounding area as well as some historic images from other photographers of that era.

We encourage you to visit Dudley Booth's website www.historicphotos.ca where you will find almost 2,000 original photographs, which may not exist elsewhere. High resolution, limited edition archival prints are available for purchase from the website.

After his presentation, Dudley was awarded a free one year membership of the Club and we are hoping to meet him again at future meetings.

Dudley writes - It was a real pleasure for me to present some of my photos to your very interesting group of people. I always learn something when I make these presentations, like discovering all about the arches that were constructed for the 1912 visit of royalty. One of your members also mentioned that his grandfather sailed on one of the fishing "smacks" that sailed from Lowestoft. A couple of photos of these ships were among the last that I had time to show.

Thank you for the kind offer of a membership, application for which I will send along in a day or two and will look forward to attending.



Dudley Booth presenting to the Club meeting on January 18th

Upcoming Meetings

Mark your calendars for the following meeting dates:

February 20 - Don Steele will make a presentation on the postcards of Atlin.

March 20 - Philip Francis will present his collection of the picture postcards and real photos of J. Howard A. Chapman, one of BC's most prolific early photographers. This is perhaps the first public presentation of Chapman's postcards. Over 500 Chapman cards will be offered for sale at the meeting.

April 17 - John Davies will present the postcards of Yellowstone National Park.

May 15 - Philip Francis will present postcards and real photos of early Vancouver street scenes and old vehicles. We will be joined by members of the Antique Chapter of the Vintage Car Club of Canada.

BIOGRAPHIES OF B. C. PHOTOGRAPHERS



Margaret Waddington
holding a Canadian.org Certificate

ALEXANDER AND HILDA WILSON Compiled by M. Waddington

Alexander Wilson was born on February 1st 1886 in Edinburgh, Scotland to Robert Noble Bryden Wilson, a printer's manager, and Margaret Fenton. He apprenticed as a photographer and in 1911 immigrated to Canada, boarding with fellow Scots George and Christina Gray, at 2518 - 48th Avenue, Vancouver, and working as a salesman.

From 1913 to 1915 he was a photographer with Bishop & Christie, "photo supplies," at 421 Granville Street, Vancouver.

On December 1st 1915 he married Hilda Annie Harrington - born November 9, 1887 in St. Pancras, London, England to William John Harrington, a merchant, and Louise Maria Calkin - in Vancouver.

A week later, he enlisted at Victoria with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. In the last two years of his overseas service, he was selected by the Canadian government as an x-ray operator and medical research photographer in the largest English army hospitals. The pictures he made in this connection were kept at Ottawa in lantern slides for medical studies.



Yale Road, Chilliwack, B. C.
Photo Wilson / 18

By 1920 he was working as a photographer in Chilliwack, owner of the Wilson Studio. In 1924 it offered a Chilliwack and district postcard series featuring over 80 local views taken with Alexander's \$350.00 Graflex camera. It had also inaugurated an "In at Nine out at Five" service for local amateurs and carried a line of imported Japanese, Dutch and Old County art china and pottery.

In 1928 the name changed to Wilson's Photo & Art Studio, then renamed Wilson's Photo and Gift Studio, "Alex and Hilda Wilson, proprietors, portraiture, amateur finishing and commercial work, leather goods and imported art china, local views and picture framing," in 1939, before being sold to R. A. Spencer in 1945.

The Wilsons retired to White Rock where Alexander died July 3, 1966, age 80. Hilda, who died May 8, 1975 in Vancouver survived by numerous nieces and nephews in England, is buried in Sunnyside Lawn Cemetery, Surrey.

Alexander Wilson produced many real photo cards of the Fraser Valley and Fraser Canyon. Most of them do not bear his name but are



Chilliwack, B. C.

Photo Wilson / 59

identified by distinctive lettering on the view. The capital letter "C" and the letter "y" have long extensions at the bottom. Many of his cards are numbered.

Hilda, a photographer and part owner of Wilson's Photo and Gift Studio, also issued real photo cards of the Fraser Valley and Fraser Canyon. These are signed "Wilson, H." and have distinctive lettering like those of Alexander Wilson. Some are numbered, with numbers up to #72 seen.

The cards labelled "Wilson Studio" are numbered coloured lithographs of the Chilliwack area.



Shady Rest Auto Camp, Boston Bar, B.C.
Photo by Wilson. 3.



Empress Hotel Lounge, Chilliwack, B.C.
Photo by Wilson. 99

References:

- BC Archives marriage registration 1915-09-081350
(in mfm B11379) (marriage Alexander & Hilda)
- BC Archives death registrations:
1966-09-009467 (in mfm B13278) (death Alexander)
- 1975-09-007893 (in mfm B13342) (death Hilda)
- B. C. directories: Vancouver: 1913-1915
Chilliwack: 1920-1932; 1934-1945
White Rock: 1956/57-1965
- B. C. provincial voters lists:
Chilliwack: 1920, 1924, 1928, 1933, 1937, 1945
- Chilliwack Progress, Oct. 22, 1924: "Wilson's studio gives Chilliwack a city service"
- Library and Archives Canada RG 31: Statistics Canada
1911, B. C., dist. 12: Vancouver, sub-dist. 56: South Vancouver, family 59, lines 32-34 (in mfm T-20338)
- Library and Archives Canada, RG 150, Accession 1992-93/166, Box 10431-33, regimental no. 103344: "Wilson, Alexander"
- Mattison, David. Camera workers: the British Columbia,
Alaska & Yukon photographic directory, 1858-1950:
"Wilson, Alexander" & "Wilson's Photo & Art Studio"
<http://members.shaw.ca/bchistoria/cw1858-1950.html>
- Province, Vancouver, B. C., May 9, 1975, p. 25: "Deaths...Wilson" (obit. Hilda)
- Souch, Ron. British Columbia Historical Picture Postcards: a guide to the publishers:
"Wilson, A or Wilson Photo Co.", "Wilson, H.," and "Wilson Studio"

TuckDB - A great new postcard resource!

Whether or not you're a collector of postcards published by Raphael Tuck & Sons, you'll want to know about a wonderful new website that is now available to worldwide postcard collectors. And most of it was developed here in BC. Take a few minutes to check out www.tuckdb.org.



"Don't Worry - Smile" - Series 9173. Signed by artist Graham Hyde. Published by Raphael Tuck & Sons

TuckDB has been over 12 years in development - for a detailed history visit <http://tuckdb.org/about> - and has involved collectors from around the world. It now includes a listing of almost 120,000 cards published by Tuck and over 10,000 images (mainly at this stage of the Americas) have been scanned and uploaded to the website. It is a tremendously time-consuming task both to enter comprehensive information about each card and also to scan the front and back and upload it. Many people have been involved in this work

Much of the listing is based on Richard and Alison Moulton's Tuck collection, which is probably the largest now in existence. Richard has personally entered tens of thousands of Tuck postcards into his Tuck Access database. They include all the best known postcard artists from the early years of the 20th century including Henry Wimbush, Harry Payne, Lance Thackeray, Louis Wain, Charles Flower and Raphael Kirchner. They include postcard views from all over the world including many from Canada.

Tuck's postcards offer a collector tremendous opportunities. They are typically numbered by series, each series consisting of 6 postcards. The collector can assemble a fine collection by artist, region, style (e.g. art nouveau) or subject (e.g. cats).

In addition to Dr. Moulton's key contribution, an important figure in the development of the website is Justin Tanner, son of our late friend Albert, Vancouver's largest postcard dealer, now sadly missed. Justin was the designer of the website and currently maintains the website from his temporary home in Budapest. We tracked down Justin who told us that "For years my father (Albert) tried to get me interested in postcards but I showed zero interest. I even helped him at postcard shows but I still I remained uninterested. Then I was introduced to Richard Moulton to help him maintain his MS Access list of Tuck postcards.

After learning more about the MS Access Tuck database I convinced Richard that an on-line database was the best way to share this information with the world. And began working on TuckDB. During the course of development I started to enjoy some of the more artistic cards and hand selected some of the best images to be displayed on this page:

<http://tuckdb.org/postcards>



Justin Tanner at the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva.

Says Justin - "The passion of postcard collectors like Richard and others who have visited TuckDB motivates me. I want to help them share their passion with the world."

On behalf of their friends at the Vancouver Postcard Club, we'd like to congratulate Richard, Alison, Justin and their many collaborators on this great work in progress!



"Mixed Bathing" - Series 9562 Signed by artist William Henry Ellam. Published by Raphael Tuck & Sons

How to clean old Photographs?

As you build up a collection of real photos it's nice to be able to show them to friends and other collectors. To prevent them getting damaged they are best kept either in albums or in Ultra-PRO clear polypropylene sleeves. Inevitably, however, some of these old photos come with sticky finger-marks, blobs of postal ink, or minor chips or other signs of their age. What's the best way to remove these imperfections?

We wrote to Dudley Booth, who specializes in photo restoration. This is Dudley's reply:

My advice with regard to the photos would be to only handle with cotton gloves, and do no experimentation with anything. Fingerprints are often impossible to remove because the acid has etched the image of the finger onto the photo. It is usually there forever.

I remove defects from my photo collection digitally using Photoshop. Most damage can be removed so that the digital image looks like new. Most archives don't want to alter the original images, as it is then no longer the original.

Once you have scanned them in high resolution would be the only time I would consider any attempt at restoration of the hard copy.

Any attempt would only be done after exchanging ideas with someone who does this for a museum or archive, and even then I would want to see an example of a similar problem being solved by his method.

Water or liquid damage is among the worst to deal with as there is usually nothing that can be done to recover the image, and this applies to clean water as well.

We also consulted Stephen Lunsford, a respected B.C. bookseller and dealer in old photographs. This is Steve's advice (from Perth, Australia, where he is visiting):

There are smudges and there are smudges. Surface soil is simple; anything stuck into the emulsion is another matter altogether. My advice would be to ask yourself why you want to mess with the cards at all. Surface soil doesn't pose a long-term threat to the card, all else being equal. Any cleaning that involves more than gentle wiping with dry cotton is a) going to have to be decided on a card-by-card analysis of the type and extent of soiling, state of the emulsion, etc. b) be expensive for a professional to undertake because of the time and expertise involved and c) ultimately result in only limited aesthetic improvement. For reproduction purposes, it is easy to scan and then clean up the scan, rather than mess with the original these days.

So you may be tempted to try and clean up an old photo with water or even (someone suggested) clear boot polish. The advice of the experts, however, is don't try it! Have you found a way to clean your old photos without damaging them?

Cheramy's Chatter - by John & Glenda Cheramy

Last bulletin we left off mid- to late-December 2010. Glenda and I headed up-Island to our daughter Vicki's home in Nanaimo for a few days over Christmas. We had a house call in Parksville, thanks to a referral from Mike Smith of Toronto, who writes excellent and interesting articles for Canadian Stamp News magazine, thanks Mike! Not a big lot but it included a couple of more interesting cards. Later we got a few postcards and stamp albums, some world paper money and QSL (ham radio) cards from our son-in-law Andy's recently widowed mother. Her late husband, Bill Rumley who passed away early December, used to run stamp shows in Victoria along with a good friend of ours, David Wood, who passed away several years ago. Now if anyone out there collects, or knows who collects, ham radio cards, please let us know – we have about 4,000 of these cards and no-one to show them to!

After our Christmas dinner at a young relative's home (14 diners, including Vicki and Andy and us) we rested another day, then made a house call and were able to acquire a few more Island cards in a trade on our way south to home.

Jan 22, 2011 – Glenda and I left on the early (7AM) ferry because it was the one with a buffet. Stops in Richmond and Chantou for supplies, then on to Foot's Stamps in Langley, also for some supplies next door (Pastime Sports Cards) and then to an enjoyable evening at the Foot home in Surrey. Early Sunday, 4:30 alarm, saw us at Denny's just south of the Oak Street Bridge at around 7AM before the bourse room being available for set-up. We were right inside the door on the right, so an easy set-up – 3 dolly loads plus one carry box. Had friends ready to enter at a little after 9AM but not allowed to officially do business until 10:00 – the bourse chairman let us bring them in (2 early birds) and sit at our table to socialize (no sales) until official opening time. Very busy from 10 on – a few postcard lots – one virgin album and one large box of postcards, many cards we've never seen before. We even bought a lot of Canadian silver bullion from an elderly lady. In attendance, we noticed Milt Blackburn, Philip Francis, Don Steele, Tim Woodland, Ron Souch, Peter Zeschuk, David Morris, Joe Ochs and Per Jensen. We normally start loading up at around 3PM to head for the 5 o'clock ferry but this day we were busy right until almost 4:45, getting to Tsawwassen terminal a little after 5:00. They had put one of the Spirits on for 6 o'clock

so the buffet looked after our hunger pangs and made the trip home seem quicker.



We received the Jan. 2011 San Francisco Bay Area postcard club bulletin and noted that our friend, Lew Baer, the editor, is scheduled for back surgery – spinal modifications. Best wishes for a quick recovery from your Canadian friends!

Early January we got an email from Richard Moulton (Victoria), co-owner of a huge Raphael Tuck postcard collection, asking if we could help a good customer of Jose Rodriguez who is a good friend of Richards. The customer owns a museum in St. Paul, Minn. And has been coming to Victoria for the last 44 years! Dr. Seth Hawkins has been interested in early Victoria homes and business buildings and wanted to write a book about buildings which no longer exist, e.g.. Lester Patrick Arena (Oak Bay) which was torn down in 1929. The Victoria Cougars won the Stanley Cup over Montreal in 1928, but postcards of the arena are very elusive. We managed to find a few cards for Seth, and encouraged a few more Muffin Breakers to offer scans of their early cards of schools, churches and merchant buildings no longer here. Book to be published later this year (more on this later).



Sunday, Jan 30th Victoria bourse – We attended Don Shorting's one-day show at the Comfort Hotel and met Ron Leith, Ron Greene, Richard Moulton, Per Jensen, Lee Dowsley and Don Stewart. Quite a few new dealers set up this time. We made a few trades for cards and bought a few inexpensive items for ourselves.

Our next show will be March 12-13th, VicTopical at the Comfort Hotel, Victoria and then we plan on attending the Rich-Pex stamp show the following weekend in Richmond. Ron Leith has a large auction coming up at this show March 18 & 19th. We'll also be back to the Mainland April 2 & 3rd for the Oakridge coin & stamp fair, and April 9 & 10th for the Queen's Park Arena Fraser Valley Antique Show, New Westminster. Later in April we head to Alberta for the Wild Rose Antique Show in Edmonton on Easter week, April 22 & 23rd. Looks like a busy couple of months! Hope to see you at one or more of these shows.

Upcoming Shows

Feb. 19-20; Greater Seattle Postcard, Stamp & Paper Collectibles show, Kent Commons, 525 – 4th Ave. North, Seattle, WA

Feb. 26-27; Greater Portland Postcard, Stamp & Paper Collectibles show, Oregon National Guard Building, 10000 NE 33rd Drive, Portland, OR

Mar. 12-13; VICTOPICAL Stamp & Postcard Show, Comfort Hotel, Victoria

Mar. 18-19; RICHPEX Stamp Show, Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Richmond

Mar. 20: 21st Century Flea Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Dr. at 16th Ave., Vancouver

Apr. 2-3; Oakridge Stamp & Coin Fair, Oakridge Mall, Vancouver

Apr. 9-10; Queen's Park Arena Show, New Westminster

Apr. 16-17; Kerrisdale Antiques Fair, Kerrisdale Arena, 5670 East Boulevard at 41st Avenue, Vancouver

May 13-14; Vancouver Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn Express, 2889 East Hastings at Renfrew, Vancouver

May 15; 21st Century Flea Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th Ave., Vancouver

May 29; Vancouver Postcard Club 30th Anniversary Show – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. featuring a live auction and presentations around 12 noon. Refreshments served 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

American Views - by Buzz Kinnimont

Three B. C. Cards found recently:



All Hallows' School in Yale, the first Canadian girls' school to have both Native Indian and Caucasian students. It's a printed image from a photograph by A. Murchie of Ashcroft. The card was mailed from Yale to Winnipeg by a student named Lorena R.... whose signature is in very pale brown ink at the UL corner of the image. Much more info about this institution can be found online.



Another UBC image – this one of the Agriculture Building – by J. C. Walberer before he changed his name to J. C. Walker as discussed in an earlier issue.



An interesting chrome of the Lion's Gate Bridge which, of the multitude of such cards that one sees, probably best reminds us at a glance that the bridge originally had only two traffic lanes. The two cars in the foreground highlight that fact, and it's also clear that the photographer stood in middle of the road to get this shot rather than up on the Park Drive overpass whence most of the similar postcard photos were taken.

Do you remember when the bridge and the Causeway were first converted to three lanes, and the only way to know whether the middle lane was for northbound traffic, southbound traffic... or whether it was for passing at one's peril... was by heeding the manually-rotatable signs at the north end of the bridge and at the south end of the Causeway?

In this image, there's a yellow sign to the right of the red convertible reminding drivers that a toll had to be paid when they got to the north end of the bridge.

Do you remember the different-coloured, dated weekly tickets that the toll-takers clipped? And what about postcards showing the north end of the bridge and the toll booths... are there any?

Postcard Etiquette

Have you ever been to a postcard show and come away with a bloody nose? This happened to us once and not because we were fighting with another collector over who found a sought after postcard first. It was at the Toronto Postcard Show some years ago and we were sitting in front of a dealer's table minding our own business and quietly riffling through a box of cards. We found several that we liked and stood up to hand them to a dealer to agree a price. At the same moment a larger gentleman to our left delivered a head shot that would have been called a four minute major at Rogers Arena as his right elbow came up sharply and caught us full on the nose. Moral of the story? Don't sit or stand too close to other collectors at postcard shows - they are an excitable bunch prone to unpredictable body movements.

Which reminds us of a few other "do's and don'ts" when it comes to postcard shows. Don't put a heavy folder of papers on the dealer's table in front of you - it makes them nervous about the possibility of one of their cards getting "mixed up" in your folder. Don't pull an expensive real photo out of its sleeve to have a closer look - particularly if you've just had ketchup with your fries. Similarly, please don't put food or coffee on the dealer's table. More than once we've seen a spillage and several hundred dollars worth of damage (as a buyer, you're responsible for the cost). Don't pull cards out of a box if someone is already working on the box. Two collectors working on the same box is annoying and an invitation for trouble.

Do, please, return any cards to the same place in the box where you pulled them out to look through. Use a marker if it helps you remember. If in doubt, ask the dealer whether he puts his cards in front or behind (the marker).

When it comes to trading on eBay, always leave feedback for your buyer or seller. Feedback scores make a difference and it's only polite to let a seller know if you've received your card and to thank him or her for good service, if appropriate. If you're a seller, please package the postcard carefully and avoid ballpoint pens for writing the address. More than once we've found our name and address imprinted on the front of a postcard. Putting the card in a rigid plastic sleeve avoids any arguments over whether you or the Post Office is responsible for the creases. And please, please, use a scanner not a wobbly handheld camera.

Anatomy of a Listing - The Picture Postcards of J. Howard A. Chapman



Ron Souch, on deck in Sydney, cruising between postcard listing projects

If you're a postcard collector in B.C. chances are that you have at least one of Ron Souch's postcard listings. For many of us they have become an indispensable aid in building our collections. They not only tell you what you're missing but also help you identify what you've got.

There are now over 20 such listings which means that B.C. is possibly the most "listed" postcard region of Canada - a comprehensive, ahem, listing of Ron's postcard listings can be found under the "Just Published" feature of the Vancouver Postcard Club's website. Producing listings of this kind requires a particular set of skills including, most obviously, attention to detail, perseverance and often an extraordinary capacity for problem-solving.

We were given an insight into all of these attributes when we accompanied Ron Souch and Club Archivist Margaret Waddington (from whom the listings may be obtained) on a recent visit to Victoria. We were off to

try and find the answers to some previously unknown questions concerning the picture postcards of J. Howard A. Chapman, one of Victoria's most prolific early photographers and postcard publishers from the early 1900's. Chapman is the next in line for Ron's postcard listing treatment.

As with many of Ron's postcard projects they start with a large collection of postcards, in this case loaned by another member of the Vancouver Postcard Club. The collection consisted of over 1,000 Chapman cards, largely assembled by the late Chris McGregor. Many of these were duplicates, differing only in small variations of the "backs" or (for example) the location of the title or the colour of the ink in which it was printed. Ron decided at an early stage to focus mainly on the "front" of the cards and decided to list them numerically, under a number of categories including black & white collotypes, coloured cards, sepia cards etc. He was helped in this by an earlier but incomplete listing compiled by Chris McGregor. The collection has been added to during the past several years.



"Climbing the Rockies" - Published by J. Howard A. Chapman, #1210

One of the questions concerned Chapman's "Acme" personal listing of his postcards because Chapman collectors had not been able to identify a number of them and others appeared to be misnumbered. So we first went to visit the Provincial Archives in Victoria which possesses Chapman's own album of postcards and real photo cards. Ron was able to fill in a number of gaps by going through each of the 500+ postcards in Chapman's album and checking them off against his own listing. We then went on to the City Archives in Victoria to perform a similar exercise with similar positive results.



In recent days Ron has been contacting other Chapman collectors, including Jack McCuaig in Edmonton, to see if he can fill out the few remaining gaps in the numbered series. Then a final proof read and off to BondRepro to have the listings printed and bound.

We're pleased to announce the publication of the first (almost) complete listing of J. Howard A. Chapman postcards and real photos. The publication is a tremendous bonus for B.C. postcard collectors and is expected to renew interest in one of our first great postcard publishers. Copies may be ordered from mwad@shaw.ca and will be available for purchase (\$30) at upcoming Club meetings. Make sure to get a copy!



Members of the Vancouver Postcard Club pose for the annual photograph at the AGM on December 19th, 2010

Contact Us

Postview is the quarterly newsletter of the Vancouver Postcard Club. The views expressed herein are the views of the Editor and contributors where named and may not reflect the views of the Club as a whole.

We welcome letters and articles from members but reserve the right to edit them in the interests of space. Please send any material by email to the Editor, Philip Francis, at philipfrancis@shaw.ca. Postcard images to accompany your material are welcomed (please send as a .jpg attachment).

If you have any questions or comments on the articles in this issue, please email Philip at the above address.