

Vancouver Postcard Club

Newsletter

July 2010

www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca

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Some of the 83 collectors browsing through the thousands of postcards on offer at this year's Vancouver Postcard Show.

Upcoming Postcard Events

Make a note in your calendars of the following events coming up in the next few months:

July 18; 41st Century Flea Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver

Aug. 22: Victoria Stamp & Coin Fair, Comfort Hotel, Victoria

Sept. 3-5; BNAPEX, Fairmont Empress Hotel and Victoria Convention Centre, Victoria

Sept. 4-5; Kerrisdale Antiques Fair, Kerrisdale Arena, 5670 East Boulevard at 41st, Vancouver

Sept. 19; 41st Century Flea Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver

Oct. 2-3; VICPEX, Comfort Hotel, Victoria

Oct. 15-16. VANPEX, Community Hall, West Burnaby United Church, 6050 Sussex Avenue, Burnaby

Oct. 16-17; Greater Portland Postcard, Stamp & Paper Collectibles Show, Oregon Army National Guard Bldg, 10000 NE 33rd Dr., Portland, OR

Oct. 24; Victoria Book & Paper Show, Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney

Thousands of Postcards

Thirteen postcard vendors from across western Canada covered 25 tables with hundreds of boxes of postcards and paper ephemera at the Vancouver Postcard Club annual show and sale at the Hastings Community Centre on Sunday May 30th. This year's show, a highlight of the year for BC's postcard collectors, proved to be just as well organized as in previous years and thousands of postcards changed hands. Although the number attending were well down on previous years (83 this year compared with 170 last) the vendors appeared satisfied with the day's trading activity.

Despite the smaller number of buyers there was no evidence of a reduction in postcard prices! This is somewhat surprising given the general economic climate and the fact that several large BC collections have come onto the market during the past year. We also hear that some of the dealers are thinking of downsizing and it remains to be seen whether prices will be marked down in the months ahead to shift their stock. Although we've found individual cards still carry 2008 and 2009 prices, we've also found dealers willing to discount significantly on larger lot purchases.

There were seven outstanding displays this year and congratulations go to the following medal winners:

1st Prize: Ron Souch – Transportation on B. C.'s Inland Waterway

2nd Prize: Tim Woodland – B. C.'s Vanishing Pulp and Paper Mills.

3rd Prize: Lance Arnett – Early Vancouver

Many people are involved in putting on a successful postcard show. Special thanks go to show organizer and VPCC President Don Steele; to Margaret Waddington for managing admissions and counting the votes for the displays; to Ron Souch for publicity; to VPCC member Tim Mustart for manning the concession stand providing sandwiches, pastries, pop, juice, coffee and tea to those attending. Last but not least our thanks go to Lance Arnett who, as in previous years, acted as MC.

We'd love to get some feedback from the show! Send an email to philipfrancis@shaw.ca with any suggestions for changes or improvements next year.

Club News

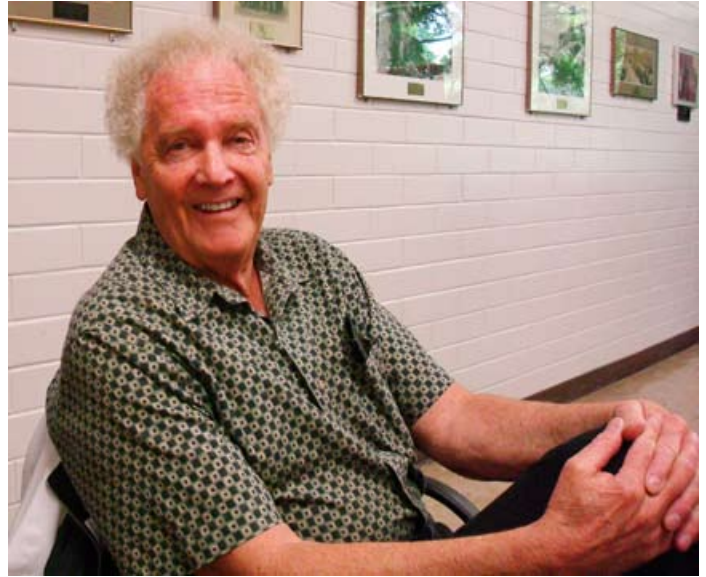
It's been a busy few months for the Club. In addition to holding the annual Postcard Show on May 30th, the Club has hosted monthly meetings in April, May and June on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

At the Club meeting on April 20th, Roger Packer showed a wide variety of cards from Hong Kong, Japan, and Manchuko. Included were Hong Kong cards of Chinese actors, Chinese criminals in stocks and the Kowloon Railway. Among the Japanese cards were pictures of Geisha girls, an artistic ship card featuring the Kashima Maru and a portrait of General Kodama, chief of staff of the Manchurian armies. The Manchuko cards included views of Chinese death cages, a Chinese orchestra, and part of a Chinese garden.

On May 16th, in a long-awaited presentation, Carole Harmon came to talk to club members about the photographs of her grandfather, Byron Harmon, the famous Banff photographer. Carole is the daughter of Don Harmon who took over "Byron Harmon Photos". She was born into a family of photographers of wilderness and it is perhaps not surprising that Carole is herself a professional photographer and graphic artist.

Carole co-founded Altitude Publishing Limited in 1979 and expanded "Byron Harmon Photos" into the foremost regional publisher in the Canadian Rockies. Carole now lives and works in both Vancouver and in Banff. She operates the Harmon Gallery which is located in the historically designated and restored Harmon building in Banff.

In her presentation Carole expressed appreciation to the many collectors of Byron Harmon postcards as they would collectively hold a more representative collection of his work, particularly from the early years, than anything else extant. Harmon was born in 1886 on Whidbey Island and was raised near Tacoma. He had built his own first camera and later travelled as an itinerant photographer, coming to Banff in 1903. Carole told us that her grandfather was a great story-teller and this was why his photographs had a certain narrative quality. He had suffered from asthma all his life and coastal air did not agree with him. This is one reason, perhaps, why his photos and postcards of BC are relatively scarce compared with his views of the interior and Rockies. Byron Harmon had been the official photographer for the Alpine Club and always went along on the special trips and survey expeditions. Many of his postcards were hand-developed in his own dark room, a role that was performed later by his son Don, Carole's father.



At the Club meeting on June 20th, Stan Stewardson, the Club's first President, presented probably the most complete collection of lacrosse ephemera and post cards in existence. Stan called the first Club meeting in 1980 when four potential members showed up. The Club flourished and has met continuously ever since then.

Stan, a lacrosse player himself, is a great speaker with an incredible memory for detail. In an excellent presentation, he provided a brief outline of lacrosse history in Canada. It was derived from the game of "baggataway" which, as played by Georgian Bay Indians, involved up to 1,000 men, a field of 15 miles and could go on for days. Jesuit missionary Jean de Brebeuf writing in 1636, was the first to describe the game and opposed it because it was violent, involved betting and was part of the religion the Jesuits were trying to eradicate. The first lacrosse sticks, which were manufactured by the Indians, were flat and lacked a pocket. Lacrosse became so popular that in 1905 an Act of Parliament declared it Canada's national game. BC had three teams in the 1910s – New Westminster, Vancouver and Victoria - with as many as 10,000 spectators turning up at New Westminster matches.

Club members, please make a note of the upcoming meeting dates! On Sunday 19th September, John Davies will be the guest speaker. Other meeting dates planned are Sunday 17th October and 21st November. Details of speakers will be contained in the next issue.

Do you have a particular interest in an area of postcard collecting that you would like to share with other club members? We would welcome hearing from you if you would consider speaking at one of the Club meetings.

Biographies of B.C. Photographers

BONNER, CONSTANCE MARGARET, 1907-1995
Compiled by M. Waddington



Photo by Constance Bonner Shawnigan Lake, B. C.

Constance Margaret Bonner was born January 23, 1907 in Grenfell, Saskatchewan to George Edward Bonner and Sarah Louisa Cole.

At the time of the 1906 census, George, a contractor, who immigrated from England in 1902, and Sarah, who immigrated in 1906, were living with Thomas M. Wright in Grenfell, Saskatchewan.

By June 18, 1911 when the 1911 census was taken, the family had moved to Douglas Street in Revelstoke.

In 1912 they moved again, this time to Cobble Hill, Vancouver Island, where her father ran a hardware and grocery store.

Constance was a skilled mountain climber and won honours as an artist and photographer of Island scenes.

She received her early training in art in Victoria, and also attended annual classes held each summer in Banff.

In 1949 one of her paintings "Fishing Boats, Coal Harbor," was accepted for exhibition in the 18th annual British Columbia artists' exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Many of her water-colour paintings have been purchased by art lovers as far away as New York and San Francisco as well as many parts of eastern Canada.

Constance died February 2, 1995 in the Cowichan Extended Care Centre, Duncan, B. C.

Margaret Waddington would like to express her appreciation to Kathryn Gagnon, Curator/Manager of the Cowichan Valley Museum & Archives for the information she provided.

References:

B. C. directories: (Cobble Hill) 1935-1948, 1950-51, 1950-1954, 1956

Colonist, Nov. 29, 1953, p. 2 (Mag. Section): "Bonner of Cobble Hill" (George Bonner)

Colonist, May 30, 1968, p. 32: "Deaths... Bonner" (obit George Edward Bonner)

Daily Colonist, Victoria, Oct. 21, 1949, p. 18: "Painter shows harbor scene"

ISC Vital Statistics Genealogy Search Page, registration 733: "Bonner, Constance Margaret" www.isc.ca/VitalStatistics/Genealogy/vsgs_srch.aspx

Library and Archives Canada. RG 31 Statistics Canada

1906 Census of the Northwest Provinces, Saskatchewan, district 15: Qu'Appelle, sub-district 28: (townships 16,17 in ranges 7 and 8 west of the 2nd meridian), address: Grenfell, p. 1, family 4, lines 17-18 (in mfm T-18360)

1911 Census, B. C., district 9: Kootenay, sub-district 49: Revelstoke, p. 18, family 169, lines 22-26 (in mfm T-20334)

Mattison, David. Camera workers: the British Columbia, Alaska and Yukon photographic directory, 1858-1950, vol.2

<http://members.shaw.ca/bchistorian/cw1858-1950.html>

B.C. Photographers

Have you obtained your copy of "Biographies of B.C. Photographers" yet? Only a few copies of this publication are still available from the author, Margaret Waddington, at mwad@shaw.ca. The publication is a compilation of all of the biographies that have appeared in this newsletter in recent years and is a valuable source of information for all those interested in early B.C. photography and postcards. Order your copy from Margaret today - priced at \$25, postage included.

What makes a Postcard Collection?

If you browse through the “members’ interests” section of the Club roster you’ll be struck by the very wide range of interests. Here’s a random sample from our listing - mom and pop on the farm, goats, Great Lakes shipping, B.C. shipwrecks, small Scottish village scenes, fire trucks, Bowen Island, Gowen Sutton, leather, hotels, anything re buttons, Stanley Park, B.C. Pioneer cards - to name a few!

Apart from a love of old postcards (there are now many collectors of modern postcards too!) what can one infer from all of these different interests? Or as a newcomer to postcard collecting might ask - where on earth do I start? There are of course many different ways to collect postcards but the three most common these days are topographical, by subject or by publisher. Here are a few comments for novice collectors.

Topographical collectors -or “topos” as they are sometimes referred to in the trade - collect postcards of a specific location (the word literally means a detailed mapping of the features of a small area, district, or locality). A topographical collector is typically looking for postcards of a specific town or area, often connected with their own personal history - birthplace, family home or holiday location. This can be quite specific - e.g. Yoho National Park or New Westminster (a popular area for BC postcard collectors) - or much broader, including whole cities, such as Victoria or Nanaimo (another popular interest) or even a country such as Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) or even Canada - for example “early Canadian small towns”. A word of warning - the wider your topographical interest the more rapidly your collection will take over your basement!

There are just as many, and more, collectors who collect by subject. As noted in the “members’ interests” of our roster this includes an almost infinite variety of subjects. We have seen beautiful collections of butterfly postcards; wonderful displays of early transportation - whether horse drawn carriages, inland paddle-steamers, steam engines, or the first years of Canadian aviation. Other subjects might include postcards showing violins or cats, teddy bears (be prepared to spend a lot of money), early 20th century actresses, Canadian politicians, or nudes - not all on the same postcard! Then there are the different types of postcards - for example “patriotic”, “novelty”, “greetings” or “hold-to-light”. It’s possible to become quite expert just by collecting the postcards relating to a particular subject and in the process learning a lot about social history and how life has changed for us in the 21st century compared with 50 or 100 years ago. Old postcards provide a window into the past that is often not available from other media. Pick a subject that you enjoy!

A third category of collector is more interested in a specific photographer or postcard publisher. For example, Dr. Richard Moulton in Victoria has probably assembled the largest worldwide collection of postcards published by Raphael Tuck & Sons, one of the most prolific British publishers from the first half of the 20th century. Closer to home, there are many local publishers of Vancouver or BC postcards that are still very collectible - European Import Company, Coast Publishing, Thomson Stationery or Camera Products to name a few. Other major publishers - Valentine & Sons, Warwick & Rutter, W.G. MacFarlane etc - also produced hundreds of BC postcards and you will find many examples of their work at postcard shows or online. Ron Souch’s recent publication lists them all!

More specific still is some of the pioneering work done by the collectors of early B.C. photographers. We think particularly of the work of Abe Charkow and Chris McGregor on Philip Timms. Many real photos from the first half of the 20th century are still readily available - Barraclough, Elliott & Baglow, Spalding, Frank Gowen, Byron Harmon etc. Collecting by publisher or photographer allows you to get to know and appreciate the technique or style of the artist as you build up as complete a collection as possible of their work. In addition, particularly if the cards are numbered, you will enjoy hunting for cards to make up the series - as well of course to experience the frustration of being outbid on a specific numbered card you wanted! Also, because the dealers price their cards for different collectors, you may find that a card you want is priced at (say) \$50 when all of the other cards in this series are going for \$5. Expect to find a scarce cancellation on the back of the card or a highly sought after view on the front, for example a rare visit by a Japanese warship!

Although we’ve identified three broad descriptions of postcard collectors and collections - topographical, subject or publisher/photographer - there is of course a lot of overlap and no one gets too hung up on the differences between them. For example, a Philip Timms real photo of the first service held at St. Andrews Wesley church in Vancouver would fit nicely into all three categories mentioned above! Also, a collection that starts off as “subject-related” (e.g. Vancouver hotels) can quickly become topographical. In fact one of the joys of postcard collecting is the journey down a long and winding road. We have met a few postcard “disciplinarians” who have only ever collected the views of one location or subject or photographer. But most collectors find that their interests change and develop over time and that their collections tend to reflect this. In this sense, like beauty, what makes a postcard collection is in the eye of the beholder.

2010 Winter Olympics

In the December 2009 issue of this newsletter (page 6), Margaret Waddington listed the three sets of approximately 50 postcards that were issued to celebrate the 2010 Winter Olympics. Margaret informs us that in addition to its Miga, Quatchi and Sumi cards Canada Post issued two new sets of prepaid Vancouver 2010 Olympics cards:

Five colour cards with illustrations by John Belisle:

Bobsleigh – Four-Man / Bobsleigh, Bob à Quatre

Curling

Freestyle Skiing –Aerials / Ski Acrobatique, Sauts

Ice Sledge Hockey / Hockey Sur Luge

Snowboard Parallel Giant Slalom / Surf Des Neiges Slalom Géant Parallèle

and two colour views:

Vancouver, BC Photo by John Sinal Photography Inc.

Whistler, BC Photo by Insight-Photography.Com

Two of these attractive cards are illustrated below -



Saskatchewan postcards



Club member Harland Ronning has sent along 3 postcards that the Saskatoon Main Library issued recently to promote some displays/events they sponsor. These are available to any member who wants to write in for them.

Girls from King Edward School dress in Japanese costume to perform the fan drill, ca. 1904

John Rawlyk in his customized roadster on Spadina Crescent at 22nd Street (see above)

Skier in mid-flight at the ski jump located on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River near the CPR bridge, circa 1948

Also available are 3 cards issued by the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists to promote Archives Week 2010:

Athol Murray College of Notre Dame Archives/Museum – Wilcox Football Club, 1912 (shown below)

Diefenbaker Canada Centre, JGD-253 – John Diefenbaker Walking Near the Prince Albert Court House, ca. 1947

Prince Albert Historical Society – Bill Smiley Archives, T-46 – Race at the Fairgrounds, 1917



Cheramy's Chatter

By John Cheramy

Before I continue with our diary, I'd like to respond to Norman G. Gordon's very kind words about me (April 2010 issue). For at least a decade I would attend TOREX coin shows in Toronto 3 times a year. After a few shows where I met with Norman, we became good friends. He would pick me up at the airport and take me to his home for a night or two and then drop me off at the TOREX Hotel venue, later at the Primrose Hotel, a couple of blocks east of Maple Leaf Gardens. During the pre-show days we would scour the local coin and stamp shops for tokens, always taking a day off for a trip to Hamilton where we would visit with Ken Palmer, the local Guru of Ontario token fame. In all the years that I was driven around, we never, ever stopped for gas – yet his car's tank was always full.

Norman and his wife Liliane are one of the most hospitable couples I've ever met! In the quiet of the evening at Norman's home, I had a great run of Postcard magazines to read in my room, eventually inheriting them for my own library. Sometimes the Toronto Postcard show was on the same weekend as a TOREX show, so I would attend both. Many Sunday lunches were shared with Norman and, sometimes, Jack McCuaig (Edmonton), and local serious collector Rev. Ernie Nix. I haven't visited Toronto for the last 10 years or so but I still remember the many good times and conversations we had, including sometimes the TPC meetings if they fell during the time of my stay. Many thanks Norm & Lil!!

Edmonton – April Set-up day for the Wild Rose Antique show. Usually the Northlands complex is not ready until noon but this year we noticed dealers from our motel leaving early. Sure enough, we left at 10:30AM and got the final parking spot in the tiny dealers' loading lot. After a couple of hours unloading our van, we were all set up. Saw Gillian Budd, John Bucci (MJR), and Don Kaye behind their booths. Keith Spencer visited all three days and we did visit with the McCuaigs at their home. Also Jack paid us a visit at our motel room before the show. Our railway station postcards got a good going over at this show.

We left Sunday morning (Easter) for home, catching the 3PM ferry Monday so we were home early enough to be rested and able to attend the Muffin Break get-together Tuesday morning in Victoria!

Friday, June 9 – Friday morning we again ferried to the Mainland to view Ron Leith's auction lots in Richmond. We left a few bids but were not successful unfortunately. Also, because of a prior commitment, we weren't able to visit the stamp bourse, but we did trade a few postcards with Andrew Scott and ended up with an autographed copy of his latest book, *The Encyclopedia of Raincoast Place Names*. A huge book giving much background on Coastal place names. The Vancouver Numismatic Society coin show at Oakridge was the usual busy 2 days of activity. Many of the members of the Vancouver Postcard Club showed up and did some trading with us.

Home Sunday night and a week-and-a-half in Victoria before leaving again for the Fraser Valley Antique Show at Queens Park Arena April 23, 24 & 25th in New Westminster. Set up was easier than usual because we had some of our better postcards in albums and travelled a little lighter. Again, we saw many of the VPCC members here, including Jeff Dufour who works for the arena. Ron Souch was around both days gathering more information for his detailed Photographers/Publishers lists.

Most of May was fairly quiet until later in the month when we left home Friday, May 28th to visit Richmond first and then a visit to White Rock to trade White Rock and Crescent Beach cards for various cards earmarked for several of our friends. The next day, Saturday, I spent most of the day going over a large stock of cards, trading for quite a few and buying outright for the balance. It's nice to be able to show some new acquisitions to serious collectors who appreciate the chance to add to their collections.

Sunday morning, the 30th, I parked the van at the East Hastings Community Centre and walked up to "Tom & Jerry's" Restaurant for breakfast after dropping Glenda off there first. We had barely started on our sausages and/or bacon and eggs when Lance Arnett joined us. Lance brought us up-to-date on his travels during breakfast, then paid for our meal (wish I had ordered steak & lobster!) Lance had a nice lot of Alberta cards which we ended up trading for. Although the show was very busy, it could have used a John Mackie, Vancouver Sun article to bring in more collections.

We did manage to buy a nice collection of Edmonton cards from two charming ladies, one, the mother, was 93 years old but didn't look it. Saw a couple of other postcard lots but nothing of any consequence. John Mackie, please write an article to introduce the next show – it brings in many more collections and several general lots for sale! Among those set up were many members, including ourselves, Jill Charkow, Ron Souch, Carl Klenk, Don Kaye, John & Simone Bucci, Don Steele, Alan Pringle, Craig Bowsby, and Per Jensen. Visitors included Art Davies, Philip Francis, Maurice Guibord, Roger Packer, Gordon Poppy, Keith Spencer, Harold & Mrs. Steeves, Larry William and Tim Woodland.

As an aside, Keith Spencer breezed in early, whirled through all the bourses and finally ended up at our table. Keith looked like the proverbial cat that swallowed the yellow bird. He'd run out of cheques and had barely enough money to pay the LRT to the airport, so had a very productive show! Margaret Waddington very capably looked after the club table, mostly by herself all day! I hope she got some entertainment by listening to my banter with some of our customers and various people who stopped to chat.

All in all, another great Hasting Street show. We said "Hello" to Chris McGregor's son after the show was over – didn't have time earlier! I hope Chris's collection is finding good homes.

(Continued on page 8)

American Views - "Another Week in Postcard Paradise"

By Buzz Kinnimont

Monday, June 21 – can't remember – too long ago.

Tue. – check Craig's List, online, for "estate sales", "postcards", "photographs", "ephemera." Find by-appointment-only estate sale in Hollywood headed "Weird Stuff" mentioning lots of books for 25¢ apiece. E-mail for appointment. Receive response – assigned one of first three appointments at 10:00 A.M. next day along with someone who was only interested in the leather chairs with the branded-on steer-horn motif.

Wed. – get there right on time – small apartment in great old building on the hill – double, lush tropical courtyards with pool, lots of residents' individual barbecues in one corner. Two very nice sisters selling their late brother's things – he'd been in "the biz." The woman buying the chairs was a buyer-for-the stars, acquiring them for a Star Wars celeb.

Front room full of retro furniture, kooky magic-trick paraphernalia and quite a few odd, fun '60's collectibles. One bedroom full of clothes, the other full of books, a collection of animal bones and skulls and replicas (fortunately), in all sizes and shapes, of human skulls. And a small stack of ignorable postcards – all mod chromes of the European type.

Net result, three trips to the car required to remove all of our purchases, including a boxful of books, a pair of steer horns, a large stuffed lizard, strange decks of cards, a very cute "big-mouth" Black-Americana ashtray, and a rather frightening bright red 18" tall plaster statue of a grotesque reptilian creature named Exu Cobra. Left behind, for reasons of cost and common sense were the small satellite-shaped tabletop TV, the 30" high rocket-shaped standing ashtray and the dried blowfish.

Discussion of the probable benefits of therapy ensued, soon overtaken by discussion of the need to have a yard sale on Saturday.

Thur. - 6:15 departure for 35-mile drive to 9:00 estate sale advertising, amongst other things, postcards and books. Stop at Starbucks to get NY Times for crossword puzzle to kill time while waiting in line at the sale. No NY Times, so I get the local paper. In it there's an ad for a sale the next day – big list of items including postcards and stereoviews.

The sale I'm at is in a small retirement-community condo but it's good mostly because of the paper, which the seller likely brought in to enhance the sale. Especially nice were two falling-apart Victorian trade card albums.

Two small boxes of postcards yielded a nice little handful of about 50 for \$20, and while I was going through them a woman I'd contacted via her Craig's List ad called to say I could drop by to see the postcards and other paper that she had for sale... 30 miles in the opposite direction from home...!

Home to get Emily, and off to the antithesis of the previous day's Hollywood setting – a dry cul-de-sac with burnt-out lawns, cactus-covered hills behind, and a dark heavily air-conditioned house with a large dining room table covered with piles of sad, junky paper stuff. Nice people, fond of their little dead end street but worried about the bad area a few blocks over where they hear gunshots every now and then.

We don't have the heart to tell them how uncollectible their material is – which we normally would do – because someone had told the woman she needed to research what she had, and she'd spent hours and hours listing each item and trying to learn about it online.

Further discussion of the probable benefits of therapy on our way home. Once home, LH half of kitchen sink is re-commandeered for the process of trade-card album-page soaking.

Fri. – early departure for the sale found in previous day's paper – 25 miles in a different direction. Arrive at 7:15 – two others already there, but there's an entry-list of names. I'm number 10. Then I'm told there was apparently a previous list, started the day before (...!) which had disappeared. More people show up, mostly other dealers, much grumbling, net result I'm about 20th in the door. Too late, I fear, to get the best stuff.

Once inside, a couple of twists and turns are required to figure out which room the paper is in, to assess the rest of the available goods (a lot of uninteresting everyday household goods, mostly), to quickly peruse the two trays of dull-looking of postcards, and, finally, to find myself hovering over a shallow box containing about 100 untouched \$4-apiece stereoviews.

Moments later the nice woman who was ahead of me in line asks if I'll share them with her. Having not seen anything thrilling in my first glance into the group, I say "OK" in that pointed, sulky way that makes it clear that it's really not OK. She looks at about 4 of them, declares them to all be foreign, says she doesn't "do foreign" and walks away.

Meanwhile I'd realized there were some terrific views in the mix so I promptly sequestered the whole group to my end of the box and picked out about half of what was there. 45 altogether, 30 of them c.1880 views by a Montana photographer of Yellowstone National Park and of Butte.

I asked the fellow running the sale if he advertises on Craig's List and he said he does, but that he'd forgotten to that week.

Straight home to start listing my stereoview treasures on eBay. By 6:30 P.M. – through the miracle of BuyItNow – \$350 worth of them have sold.

(Continued on page 8)

American Views (contd.)

Sat. - up early to organize the yard sale. Overnight another stereo card had sold for \$400.

As we're setting up our merchandise on our street corner, a very sweet, slightly-familiar woman carrying a small bag of things she wants to sell asks if she can use a bit of space next to us. Of course she can.

She introduces herself as Suzanne, chats for a while with Emily, and upon learning that I'm Canadian tells us she's originally from Montreal, and that she's "the" Suzanne... Leonard Cohen's Suzanne... familiar because there'd been an article about her in the newspaper down here a few years ago.

Shopper traffic is low, blame assigned to World Cup despite our merchandise being far more entertaining than the US losing a match to Ghana.

A few of our oddities find new homes, but Exu Cobra – a guaranteed seller because of its weirdness – remains.

In the evening a few more stereoviews are processed onto eBay.

Sun. – up at 5:00 to go to small swap meet in the city of Torrance and then beyond to deliver a painting sold earlier in the week. Decide at swap meet to come back and set up there as a seller because I have most of the prior day's unsold material with me in the car.

Very little to buy there, but by 1:00 about \$400 worth of bulky, questionable recent estate sale purchases – Exu Cobra and many, many books included - had been sent on their way, significantly improving the car's gas mileage.

And then it was time for the Torrance / South Bay Postcard Club meeting just down the road.

I don't usually get to that meeting, but this one turned out to be particularly worthwhile. Two fresh boxes showed up, yielding a nice group of those embossed coins-of-the-world cards, some interesting Massachusetts views, a few whaling cards, some California, some misc. oddities and a small handful of nice Canadian patriotics.

Finally home by about 5:30 to find another stereoview gone for \$150 and bids totaling \$360 on three others. (Remind self to thank Starbucks profusely for not having the NY Times the other day.)

Mon. – abruptly awake at 4:37 remembering promise of newsletter article to Philip by yesterday A.M. Oops.

8:10 – Emily awake - article finished – stereoview bids up by another \$17 – all well.

And now it's time to have a look on Craig's List....



Tuesday morning update - this c.1875 stereoview of Butte, titled 'Looking down Montana street to the Smelter' just sold for \$550...! Yikes!

More Chatter - by John Cheramy

June was fairly quiet until the 12th & 13th. June 12th was a one-day Comfort Inn coin & stamp show. Very quiet! June 13th – Parkes Arena for an Antique show – lots of action – many dealers, big crowd! We were set up next to Robin & Ian Mowat who showed us how to merchandise! We managed to buy a nice lot of postcards but sales were sparse, although a few trades helped overall.

Was that Ron Greene behind a bourse table? A good idea, as he had some scarce BC tokens in a display case – not for sale – just as examples of what he wanted to buy for his collection – a great idea! Unfortunately no one came by to offer any rarities – it just goes to show that scarce tokens are not around any more. Some of the local collectors showed up at this weekend pair of shows, notably Lee Dowsley and Don Stewart.

More in the next newsletter – in the meantime, we hope everyone has a wonderful summer with some really good postcard finds!

Contact Us

The Vancouver Postcard Club newsletter is published 5 times a year and is edited by VPCC member Philip Francis with assistance from Margaret Waddington and Don Steele. Thank you to Margaret and John & Glenda Cheramy and Buzz Kinnimont for their contributions. If any member wishes to contribute an article or has a comment or question to share with other VPCC members please email the editor at philipfrancis@shaw.ca. We welcome your news and views!

The next issue will be published in September. We hope the lazy days of summer will give you plenty of time to add to your collections!