



# POSTVIEW

The Newsletter of the  
Vancouver Postcard Club

[www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca](http://www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca)

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## Salmon Arm

Some of our readers will know Salmon Arm as a bustling summer holiday town on Shuswap Lake, almost mid way between Vancouver and Calgary. It is a lot quieter out of the tourist season now that local sawmills have shut down.

Others may associate Salmon Arm with Pierre Trudeau's famous "Salmon Arm Salute", when confronted by three protestors in 1982.

Back in the early 1900s, Salmon Arm was a small forestry and farming community of a few hundred souls, owing its existence to the Canadian Pacific Railway that passed through it. Reginald Lingford's panoramic postcard, in our masthead, from around 1910, shows a few houses and farms clustered around a small church by the lake. (Postcard from Philip Francis Collection.)

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*Postview* is the quarterly newsletter of the Vancouver Postcard Club. We welcome articles from members. Address comments/questions to the Editor at [philipfrancis@shaw.ca](mailto:philipfrancis@shaw.ca).

## Showtime!

For postcard collectors in British Columbia the long winter wait is almost over. The annual Paper Collectibles Show & Sale, presented by the Vancouver Postcard Club, will be held on Sunday 25th May at the Hastings Community Centre from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For those of us a long way from the collecting hubs of southern Ontario, the annual Vancouver show is one of the highlights of the year.

According to show organizer Ron Souch, this year's event, the 27th in an unbroken line since 1987, will be one of the best. Already, 10 dealers have committed to attend, with 21 tables reserved. (Note to dealers - there is still room for one more but you will need to let Ron know of your interest immediately!). Several dealers told us that they have recently acquired important collections and will be bringing new and previously unseen material.

One of the highlights of the annual show is the competition for best display. Members are encouraged to bring along postcard displays (additional frames can be ordered from Tim Woodland). First prize of \$50 is offered by Jill Charkow in memory of her father Abe. The Club offers \$30 and \$20 prizes for the second and third most popular displays, selected by members' ballot. We expect to see many fine displays at this year's show.

In addition to postcards, this year's show will also include stamps, postal history, historical photographs and other vintage paper ephemera. The Club Executive has decided that admission for the 2014 show will be free of charge - donations towards the Club's expenses will be gratefully received. Free parking can be found across the street, behind the Community Centre. Why not bring a friend?



"I found such a lovely little pebble on the beach today, at Vancouver. I'm going to keep it." B.B. London Series. No. 2450. 1910. (Postcard from Philip Francis Collection.)

## How do you collect?

There are many different ways to collect postcards. Some collect a favourite town or country ("topographical"). Others collect by particular interest or subject - teddy bears, maps, Father Christmas, shipping etc. Some collect postcards for their historical interest while others

look for postcards by a particular photographer, artist or publisher. At the Club meeting on **Sunday 18th May**, *Postview* Editor Philip Francis will illustrate different ways of collecting postcards, old and new, drawing on his own collection.

# Club News

At the monthly Club meeting on February 16, 2014, **Tim Woodland** chaired a “show and tell” on the theme of “One of my favourite postcards.” Members were invited to bring a favourite card from their collection and explain its importance to them.



Club member Gordon Poppy presents a favourite postcard at the February 16th meeting.  
Photo: Don Steele

At the March 16, 2014 meeting **Ron Souch** showed 80 examples from his 2,000 card Hotel postcard collection. Included were cards of the Atlin Inn, the Aldergrove Hotel, the Clinton Hotel, the Elk, Comox, the Empress Hotel, Chilliwack, the Granby Hotel, Phoenix, and many other hotels from across B.C. including a rare interior view of the Hotel Vancouver.



Two of the fine hotel postcards presented by Ron Souch at the March 16th meeting.  
Photo: Jason Vanderhill

# Ron Leith Auction



*Ron Leith (above photo) writes:* We had a very successful postcard auction at the RICHPEX show on March 15th, 2014 with lots of record high prices along with enough bargains to delight everyone in attendance. Local dealers John Cheramy, Bill Foot, Wayne Dods, Firmin Windels, Lui Bassetto, George Saunders, Dave Deveney, Tom Watkins, Ron Higham, Mike Krabbendam, David Johnson, Peter Fleck, and Rein Stamm bought lots of postcards and other new material at the auction that should soon be seen in their sales boxes. Watch for them at upcoming postcard shows!

Asian postcard collections did exceptionally well selling at 3-4 times the estimates. Good examples were lots 1595-1596 with 100-200 cards and \$100 estimates that sold for \$300-\$400 respectively. Also, the 150 Canada real photo cards in lot 1560 estimated at \$100 sold for \$400. Saskatchewan postcards continue their hot streak. 18 cards in lot 441 with a \$100 estimate were hammered down at \$320. The Captain Harry Murray collection with over 7,500 different ship postcards was a highlight of the sale. Many ship collection groups sold at 2-4 times the estimates including lot 1292 comprised of 31 Alaska ship postcards that realized \$400. We extend a hearty thank you to those who participated and hope to see you all again at the 2015 sale. Thousands more interesting postcards have already arrived for the next auction and we can hardly wait to lot them. (Next Auction is tentatively scheduled for March 14-16. This still has to be confirmed so we do not conflict with the Edmonton Stamp Show that is also planned for March 2015.)

## Upcoming Events - May/June

**May 18:** Vancouver Postcard Club Meeting, 11:30-2. Philip Francis - “How do you collect?”

**May 25:** Vancouver Postcard Club Paper Collectibles Show & Sale, Hastings Community Centre, 3096 East Hastings, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**May 25:** 21st Century Flea Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

**June 12:** Herstory Café presents: “The Woman Who Shot Bill Miner: Photographer Mary Spencer (1857-1938),” an illustrated talk by Sherrill Foster. VPL Special Collections, 7th floor, 350 West Georgia, 7-8:30 p.m.

**June 15:** Vancouver Postcard Club Meeting, 11:30-2

**June 15:** Oakridge Coin & Stamp Fair, Oakridge Auditorium, 41st & Cambie

**June 21-22:** Greater Portland Postcard, Stamp & Paper Collectible Show, Lloyd Center, Doubletree Inn, 1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, OR, Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4

**June 22:** Victoria Stamp & Coin Fair, Comfort Hotel, Victoria, 9:30-4

**June 28-29:** Greater Seattle Postcard, Stamp & Paper Collectibles Show, Kent Commons, 525 - 4th Ave N, Kent, WA, Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4

# “The Fight of All Fights” - by Fred Hume

The “Greatest of Ring Fights” was just minutes away. “The scene at ringside will live for the ages,” exclaimed the Vancouver Province. The postcard depicting this moment stands as among my favourites, one purchased in San Francisco several years ago. It shows heavyweight champion of the world Jack Johnson being introduced by ring announcer Billy Jordan at the epic heavyweight title bout in Reno, Nevada, Monday afternoon July 4th, 1910.

The build-up and media coverage to this defining moment was enormous and relentless. Jack Johnson, the current champion, was being challenged in effect by the white boxing world as former title holder James Jeffries was coaxed out of retirement in an attempt to put an end to the black boxer’s reign. That summer, writer Jack London had coined the phrase “Great White Hope” referring to the likes of the popular Jeffries. “I will go at this negro from the first gong . . . I will win, mark you, I will win,” exclaimed Jeffries. Johnson meanwhile was just as confident albeit in an understated fashion.

The betting on this fight was extremely lively with Jeffries a 10-6 favourite. As the anticipation grew Jeffries ‘supporters claimed Johnson “. . . will turn white when Jeffries lands the first blow” and that Jeffries will execute “. . . the greatest assimilation of punishment in the boxing world.” However fans could not ignore the fact Johnson was “. . . light upon his great big feet and had a wonderful vitality . . . he trains with the best of good humour. Nothing worries him, not even his white wife who is always in evidence wherever he may be.” But it was apparent that as the masses were flowing into Reno they were behind Jeffries to a man, that they hadn’t come to see a fight, they had come to witness an execution.

The reigning champion Jack Johnson had risen from poverty in the 1890s to become by 1910 a relatively wealthy man, which saw him entertaining women with champagne and caviar, riding with great speed in gold-plated automobiles and flashing his gold-toothed smile. He also seemed to flaunt his popularity which resulted in his being vilified by many white folks. Plus he was dominant in the ring and a physical specimen, all of which caused a large segment of the populace to seethe. Johnson in fact was the first man of his colour to fight for, let alone win, the heavyweight championship. Nonetheless Province reporter Fred Hewitt was confident that on July 4th “. . . the championship will come back to the white race . . .”

The sky was clear with the sun’s heat tempered by a cool breeze as we look at Johnson, flanked by fight handlers, being introduced in the ring. The media stated “this will be the greatest crowd of fight enthusiasts the world ever saw” and this is “. . . the most terrific affair ever seen in the roped arena.” Indeed, by 1:30 that afternoon one witnessed a sweltering mass of humanity, a huge purse and in attendance an unprecedented number of women in “gaudy, yet colourful hats.”



The headlines read “Johnson Retained the Championship Today by a Clean Knockout.” Twenty thousand spectators saw a one-sided fight – Johnson dominating a former champion who was just a shadow of his former self. By round 12 Johnson was scoring almost all the blows with Jeffries a “bad looking sight.” In round 15 Johnson floored his man with Jeffries’ seconds rushing into the ring before the referee could count him out. “Johnson was like a black panther beautiful in his alertness and defense . . . he won as he pleased against Jeffries and was never in danger” declared referee Tex Rickard. Johnson won The Province’s respect as it stated “. . . he proved himself to be the master of every angle of the pugilistic art . . . the fight game has been going for years. This is the climax.”

As it was acknowledged the better man had won and that no boxer at his time was capable of wresting the title from the champion, Johnson in his personal Pullman Car, sped off toward Chicago to fulfill his vaudeville engagements.

A great champion and a great postcard.



Fred is a member of the Vancouver Postcard Club and contributes a regular feature to *Postview*. Born and raised in Vancouver, Fred has lived here for most of his life and since 1989 has worked at UBC as a historian.

# Biographies of B.C. Photographers

## KARL HUBER, 1898-1985

Compiled by M. Waddington

Vancouver photographer, Karl Huber, was born January 26, 1898 in Munich, West Germany to Bernhard and Caroline Huber. Karl, whose family owned a tannery, apprenticed as a locksmith.

At the age of 31 he immigrated to Canada, arriving at the port of Halifax on the 17th of June 1929 on the S.S. Thuringia from Hamburg. He announced that he was headed for Winnipeg and was looking for work, but arriving as he did just before the Great Depression, soon found that no one was looking for locksmiths or tanners sons. Taking such menial jobs as were available he tramped around the U.S. and Canada, visiting New York, Philadelphia, where he had relatives, Chicago, Los Angeles and Seattle before settling down in Vancouver, a city he loved.

He first appears in B. C. directories in 1930, described as a labourer with rooms at 1924 Alberni. The following year he was listed as an apprentice with Vancouver shoemaker, Pierre Paris, and was living at 1142 Hornby Street. From 1932 to 1934, he was a tanner for Pierre Paris, rooming at 721 Hamilton.

On learning of his mother's illness he made an extended trip to Germany, leaving July 18, 1934 and returning to the port of New York on June 13, 1935 on the S. S. Bremen from Bremen, Germany. Described as a furrier whose last residence was Winnipeg, he was on his way back to his home at 721 Hamilton.

On June 19, 1936 he arrived at Blaine, Washington intending to travel to Calgary but was debarred. Identified as a photographer for the first time, his last permanent residence was given as 546 Kingsway, Vancouver.

Not listed in 1937 he reappears in 1938 as a photographer rooming at 2231 South Cambie.

From 1939 to 1941 he operated his own studio, Cosmos Photos (cited by the directories as Kosmos Camera Shop) at 181 West Pender. He roomed



Real Photo Postcard by Karl Huber from the Neil Whaley Collection

at 2231 Cambie in 1939, 629 Cambie in 1940, and 677 Hamilton in 1941.

Renaming his studio Hollywood Photo Finish, he lived and worked at 232 East Broadway from 1942 to 1954.

In 1954 he married Leopoldine ("Lea") Hermione Haberman, nee Vystavel. They made their home at 4572 John in 1955 and 2556 East 16th Avenue in 1956, by which time Huber was retired. According to the federal voters lists they lived at Apt. 103, 1361 Harwood Street in 1962, 1936 Whyte Street in 1965 and 5681 Oakland Street, Burnaby in 1968.

Huber died July 8, 1985, age 87, in Richmond General Hospital, and was cremated July 12th at the Ocean View Crematorium, Burnaby.

According to Huber's daughter, Karl had long been interested in photography. When he came to North America he upgraded his amateur photographic equipment and purchased books to help him figure out how to use it. He chronicled his experiences as a hobo riding the rails, took pictures of places he visited, and recorded the development of the city of Vancouver.

In Vancouver he worked for two

or three postcard companies, including Gowen Sutton. He took many pictures of mountains, did studio portraiture, custom photo-finishing and, in the era before colour photography, learned how to tint photographs.

In 2008 club member Michael Rice acquired a collection of Gowen Sutton cards which included some of Huber's real photos. Club member Neil Whaley purchased one of these cards, the bottom image of which showed Huber (far left) with a group of co-workers when he was working as a tanner. Later Neil found another card postmarked March 15, 1931 featuring Huber's home at 721 Hamilton Street and a view of the Marine Building from the Vancouver Hotel (see opposite page). Both cards have a Defender back and were printed in the U.S.A.

Selections of Huber's extensive photographic work are available from Heffel Gallery Limited, 2247 Granville Street, Vancouver (see their website: <http://www.heffel.com>. "The Photographs of Karl Huber.")

*The writer acknowledges the invaluable information provided by Huber's daughter, Linda L. Richards, which made this profile possible*

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# Karl Huber Postcard

Some great detective work by Neil Whaley

# Letting Go

By Philip Francis



For many of us, working on our postcard collections is a form of guided meditation. It doesn't give you the same workout as yoga nor, perhaps, the same insight into the meaning of life. But we can't deny its therapeutic benefits even if, occasionally, it comes at a heavy price (see, for example, the article on "eBay Beauties" on page 7). We also have to admit that "Oh Darn" is more likely to be heard than "Om" as we are outbid, once again, in an online auction.

Knowing the pleasure that collecting has given him over many years, we were therefore interested to see the article about Uno Langmann in the Vancouver Sun on March 19th, by John Mackie. Several of us knew that Uno was intending to donate his unique collection of historical photographs to UBC. But it is the scale of the donation (more than 18,000 photographs) and their value (estimated at over \$1.2 million) that is breath-taking for fellow collectors.

Mackie reports that the Langmann collection is one of the most valuable donations of artifacts in UBC's history. It is the gift of a generous man with a love for early Canadian history represented in photographs and postcards. We congratulate Uno and the Langmann family on assembling and donating such a remarkable collection and express our gratitude that the photographs, formerly housed in the "inner sanctum" of the Langmann Gallery, will now be digitized and made available to a wider group of students, researchers and all others interested in the history of our country.

And it has got us thinking about the future of our own collections. If the greatest living collector of early historical photographs of western Canada can "let go" of his collection, what are the implications for the rest of us? At what point does "collecting" begin to produce diminishing marginal returns? What is the difference between "collecting" and "hoarding"? And if the UBC Library can make effective use of a collection of this kind, with the resources to digitize and make the photographs available to a global audience through the internet, are there other institutions that might also see value in our collections - whether for educational, research, historical or cultural purposes? We are encouraged by the interest being shown in vintage postcards by the academic community. Because, as collectors know, postcards offer a unique window into the past.

Neil Whaley writes: The above postcard mailed in 1931 is a personal card that Huber wrote to an aunt in Germany with a view of his home at 721 Hamilton - I bought it at a Vancouver show. I owned this card for years before it occurred to me that the handwriting was similar to the word "Vancouver" written on the back of the postcard shown opposite.

I used online translation websites and translated the message on the back of this card to roughly:

*"Dear Aunt Marie! I hope you got my card. How are you? I hope good! Here I send you the house where I live and a view of the city. There are shots of my last one. With my fervent good wishes! Your Carl."*

Up the side on the back it says "C Huber, 1244 Hornby Str" (I didn't recognise it as a capital H until I knew I was looking for the word Huber). Directories list Huber at 1142 Hornby in 1931 and 721 Hamilton from 1932-34. In the Street Address section of directories, the only person listed at 721 Hamilton is Mrs Margaret Richardson, a widow, so Huber may have been a renter.

On the chance that any work is undertaken to improve the translation of the message to his aunt, I went on translation websites and through trial and error I entered:

*Liebe Tante Marie!*

*Ich hoffe du hast meine karte neu ein bekommen. Wie geht dir immer? I hoffe gut! Hier schicke ich dir das Haus wo ich wohne mit einer ansicht der staat. Es sind eine von meinen letzten aufnahmen. Mit herzlichen Wünschen in einem fröhlichen 6 stirn und mit herzlichen süüfsen! Dein Carl.*

which Google Translation translated as:

*Dear Aunt Marie!*

*I hope you get my card to get a new. How you doing forever? I hope good! Here I send you the house where I live with a view of the state. There are shots of my last one. With best wishes to a happy end and with 6 cordial süüfsen! Your Carl.*

and which freetranslation.com translated as:

*Love aunt Marie!*

*I hope you got my card. How are you always? I hope good! Here I'll send you the house where I live with a view of the state. There are one of my last few shots. With my fervent good wishes in a joyful 6 BROW and with cordial süüfsen! Your Carl.*

There are a couple of words I just could not get. (I know it's not a "6.") Google Translate offers spelling suggestions sometimes if a person enters only one sentence at a time, and I tried substituting one letter at a time for some words.

# Cheramy's Chatter

- By John & Glenda Cheramy

**April 10**, first ferry to Vancouver for our annual trip to Alberta, visiting Calgary and attending the Wild Rose Antique show in Edmonton on Easter weekend. Glenda & I drove right through to Revelstoke, quitting for the day around 4:30 PM, our usual wine time at home. We normally aim for Golden, another hour and-a-half but both being slightly under the weather, we decided to quit early. Next morning we stopped for breakfast at the Diner in Golden then drove to Canmore to visit the Sunny Raven framing gallery, run by Meg Nicks & Paul Goutiere. They stock Byron Harmon postcards and found quite a few in our stock. Then off to Calgary to end up at Motel Village for 3 days. We left a nice group of dairy tokens with a long-time good friend. The tokens are from the late Mel Reiter collection, where we won over a dozen lots of Canadian Dairy Tokens, each lot containing about 150 tokens. We also had a couple of visits from Graham O'Connor, who went over our Harmon cards and found a few better ones and some better Calgary cards. A visit to the coin shop run by Robert Kokotailo, to sell some ancient coins owned by a Vancouver friend of ours. Also had a visit from long-time friend John Humphrey, an Alberta token collector who had given us a big boost in postcards in 1994 when he traded us a large postcard stock for a box of Alberta tokens.

**April 13**, and we're off to the Crossroads Flea Market for a free breakfast from Wally and Ineke Palamaryk. We left a nice lot of shinplasters and coin/token mixtures (by weight) with Wally, who is near retirement (end of June), but is still very busy in their stall each weekend.

**April 14**, on our way to Red Deer to meet up with Dr. Robert Lampard the next morning, who showed us his manuscript on Sylvan Lake Postcards. Looks like a very interesting book with many Sylvan Lake postcards illustrated thanks to several collectors help in contributing. The book was due from the printer shortly, but unfortunately not in time for us to bring some home. \$25.00 plus shipping. We hope to have a few at our annual Post Card

Club show at the end of May. We met Bob in a small coffee shop where he went over our Byron Harmon stock over breakfast, finding a few that he needed.

**April 15**, we got to our motel in Edmonton, the Eastglen, a few blocks away from the Northlands complex where the Wild Rose show is being held. We made a few phone calls and the next morning a long-time source of ours, a stall-holder in one of the Antique Malls, brought us a nice lot of postcards including a hold-to-light Santa, a nice lot of varied postcards and a few books. One small lot is of an early Survey Party on the McKenzie River.

**April 16**, Wednesday afternoon saw us off to Jack & Dorothy McCuaig for a short visit. Jack found a few cards in our stock and would like to check against his collection. We'll square up Monday after the show. We also picked up our 3 folding chairs which they store for us each year. The show rental company wants around \$20.00 per chair for weekend rental! At that rate, our 3 Canadian Tire chairs have been paid off many times each year. I also bought a heavy Raphael Tuck toothpick holder with a Boer War reference. Jack had bought this many years ago and we doubled his cost to obtain it.

**April 17**, set-up day. Our good friend from home, David Blake, who had been on the road since April 1st to attend antique shows in Prince George and Lloydminster, drove to the show complex early and phoned us when they allowed dealer set-up. We got to the complex and signed in for wrist bands and brought in some of our stock for the front table. We saw Gillian Budd, Don Kaye, Keith Spencer during set-up.

**April 18**, we drove to the complex early to get a decent parking spot to bring in our better stock. There was a steady crowd from opening to late afternoon and we were pleased with sales and trades. Two of the Calgary dealers, who always have better postcards, forgot them this time so we'll have to wait for next year.

**April 19**, it was a little slower today as far as public goes. I had time to go over Gillian Budd's stock (she

was set up close by and I can keep an eye on our table from there in case Glenda needed my help. Gillian's prices are very fair and I managed to find some better Western Canada cards for stock. We made a good sale to a long-time Edmonton collector friend who collects Railway Stations and found quite a few in our stock to add to his collection. Well pleased with the 2-day show. Dave Blake helped us pack up and we were in our motel shortly after the show was over.

**April 20**, Glenda and I took Sunday off to unwind and rest up, watch a little golf, and start sorting our buys from the last 10 days.

**April 21**, Monday we were very slow packing up so didn't get to the McCuaig's until late morning to return our chairs for storage and have a little chat. Jack told me that a new Sylvan Lake Harmon card has shown up on eBay. Next stop is Red Deer where we met up with Robert Lampard again and had a late lunch together and wrapped up a few loose ends and left another lot of cards on approval. Stopped overnight in Calgary and left fairly early the next morning.

**April 22**, we drove from Calgary and made it to Salmon Arm before getting a motel. Next morning we visited the O'Connors, Graham & Caroline, and their summer "cottage" on Shuswap Lake. I brought a box of postcards for Graham to look over and we had a very pleasant visit for the next two hours, and left a few cards with him on approval. He's planning on attending the VPPC Club show at the end of May.

**April 24**, we set out mid-morning for Foot's store in Langley, and then a visit with his wife Barb in Surrey. We got to our motel on Kingsway about 15 minutes from Queens Park Arena where the Fraser Valley Collectibles show will take place. Set-up Friday, selling Saturday & Sunday. We found some great postcards in one antique shop earlier -- more stock!

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*Editor's note:* John & Glenda Cheramy are B.C.'s largest postcard dealers. Residents of Victoria, they can be contacted at [gcheramy@shaw](mailto:gcheramy@shaw).

# eBay Beauties

by Philip Francis

We've seen some really nice real photo postcards on eBay recently. Back in February, five collectors battled for the ownership of this fine photo postcard of the Vancouver Lacrosse Club, 1911. The winning bidder paid US \$332.31 to own the card. We showed the image to Fred Hume who commented that the high price was likely due to the presence of Newsy Lalonde from the east. This year, 1911, VLC brought out Lalonde from the east. He was a superstar lacrosse and hockey player and would have been a huge draw back then - as he seems to be with collectors today!



Another great postcard was offered in early March by a seller in Calgary. "All Aboard for Steveston" is the title of this real photo by Vancouver photographer Philip Timms, mailed from Squamish to an address in Lancashire, UK, in December 1906. The buyer paid US \$115 for this animated view of B.C. Electric's interurban service between Vancouver and Steveston.



Later in March we saw this poignant real photo offered for sale by someone in Ontario. Unsigned and undated it shows Canadian troops about to board a steamship on their way to the battlefields of Europe. A banner sends the soldiers "Best wishes from Courtenay and Comox". In this anniversary year of the start of the First World War we can't help wondering how many of these young men never returned home. The buyer of this card paid \$17.25 for this small piece of Canadian history.



Earlier this month a buyer paid \$34.51 for this fine street scene by Vancouver photographer R. Broadbridge, dated 1912, showing the corner of Hastings and Cambie Streets. The offices of Thomson Stationery Co., a Vancouver postcard publishing firm, are located on the left of the street.



## A Surprising Amount of Nudity

Club member Neil Whaley will give a talk entitled **A Surprising Amount of Nudity: The social history of English Bay beach in the 1890s and early 20th century**, 6 p.m. Thurs, July 24 at the Vancouver Maritime Museum, in conjunction with the museum's summer exhibit *Babes & Bathers*.

Vancouver in its early years was a rowdy frontier town, where not everyone had regard for Victorian morals. The beach was one place where the attitudes of local men and women were laid bare. Neil Whaley will present his original research - an informative peek at a part of Vancouver not well known.

The talk is included with admission to the museum; admission is by donation from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays.

The real photo postcard on the left of Vancouver's Jericho beach in 1913, shows shacks where campers stayed for weeks and months in the summer. (From Neil Whaley's collection.)

# Postcard Paradise - Shepton Mallet, 21/22 Feb, 2014



Shepton Mallet, Festival of Cards, Bath & West Showground, February 21st, 2014  
Photo by Philip Francis

Standing on the balcony, surveying the scene shown above, a keen postcard collector might think he'd already died and gone to heaven. Laid out before him, over several acres of the covered showground, are the tables of over 140 postcard dealers from all over the world. The cavernous showground accommodates several hundred postcard collectors browsing through an estimated 1 1/2 to 2 million postcards. A television crew ambles through the aisles. From the loud speakers, the booming voice of Barrie Rollison, one of the show organizers, greets dealers and collectors alike to the world's largest annual postcard fair.

It is a remarkably well-organized postcard fair, the fourth time your Editor has attended (conveniently falling in the same week as his mom's birthday - living a few hours drive from Shepton Mallet in the west of England). Each visit reveals new treasures. Don't expect however to find many good Canadian postcards there! It's a rather disconcerting fact of life that some dealers back home have already got sniffer dogs on the ground; by the time we arrive at Shepton Mallet they have mostly scooped up any decent Canadian material, gaining access the day before the show is opened to the public. Oh well.

But there are many other interests and in fact one of the enjoyable aspects of a show of this size is the astonishing range of collecting interests that are represented here. Anecdotally, it still seems that the main interest is topographical postcards - a common question at the dealers' tables is "Have you any postcards of small towns in Yorkshire, or Lancashire, or West Sussex or...?" Also popular are military postcards, as are ships on postcards, and art nouveau and artist-signed write-away postcards. You also get a better sense of the other "paper-based" collectibles that some folk collect - cigarette cards, old maps, travel posters, old magazines, beer mats, matchbox labels, old photographs, and other ephemera.

It is postcards, however, millions of them, that most collectors have come to see and although you hear some complaints about the high cost of getting to and from Shepton Mallet (not least from western Canada!) there is widespread agreement that Shepton Mallet is the most important fixture on the postcard collecting calendar and that each year the show gets better and

better. Barrie and Katie Rollison do a superb job of organizing the event against the background, this year, of added concerns over whether the heavy flooding in Somerset would create difficulties for those travelling to the show. In the event, the clouds lifted just in time and travel by road was no problem.

One of the highlights was a friendly meeting with Brian Lund, the hard-working editor of *Picture Postcard Monthly*, the world's finest postcard publication and essential reading for all interested in our hobby. We chatted with Brian about the postcard scene in Canada and our shared interests in producing a publication that both informs and widens the circle of postcard collectors. Imagine our surprise when we received the April issue of PPM, which includes the photo of a rather jet-lagged editor of *Postview*, with the following piece -



"One of the joys of postcard fairs (especially big international ones) is that you never know who you'll bump into next. Late morning along comes Philip Francis, who gives me the latest copy of his Vancouver Postcard Club magazine, of which he is the editor. "Toronto gets all the publicity on the Canadian postcard scene", he reckons, "but the Vancouver club is equally thriving!" Indeed, the newsletter is excellent, full of postcard chat, news and reviews about fairs, opinions about collecting styles

and trends....' From the Editor of *Picture Postcard Monthly* that's praise indeed! Keep up the good work, Brian!