



POSTVIEW

The Newsletter of the
Vancouver Postcard Club

www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca

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A Gift from Victoria

The basement of a beautiful 1912 "arts and crafts" style heritage home, close to Beacon Hill Park in Victoria, seems an unlikely location from which to operate the world's finest website devoted to old postcards. But it is from here that VPC club member Dr. Richard Moulton and his team of colleagues and assistants have launched



Raphael Tuck & Sons "Christmas" Series, No. 96.
Unknown artist.

TuckDB.org, a free online database listing antique postcards published by Raphael Tuck & Sons. Whether you're a collector of Tuck postcards or even just a little bit curious about perhaps the most important postcard publisher of the early 20th century we encourage you to visit the website. You will be in for a treat! At last count, Richard and the TuckDB team had listed 129,907 Tuck postcards

and uploaded over 267,000 postcard images. Use the TuckDB Search function to take a trip down memory lane or just enjoy browsing some of the featured images. What a wonderful gift to postcard collectors around the world!

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See you at the AGM!

We are all too well aware that an "Annual General Meeting" often involves boring committee reports, interminable "points of order" and, more often than not, someone hogging the microphone to harangue the Board of Directors. Fortunately, the AGM of the Vancouver Postcard Club is a different type of meeting - at least we hope so! Our AGM, which this year will be held from 12 noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday 16th December at the Hastings Community Centre, is an opportunity to renew postcard friendships and celebrate another good year for the Vancouver Postcard Club! We'll start off, as usual, by trading a few postcards before jumping into the "formal" part of the meeting - approving a financial report and (for the first time) a budget for the coming year, and receiving a brief report from the Club President. Members will be asked to approve a modest increase in the annual membership fee to \$15, the first increase for over 10 years. You will also be asked to elect the Club Executive Committee for 2013.

Then the fun starts - a postcard and ephemera live auction, tea, coffee and Christmas cake and the annual ritual of the Club Photograph. Please bring along your auction items - unwanted postcards, postcard-related books, BC postcard ephemera, albums and accessories - in fact anything that may be of interest to other club members! Proceeds to you or, if you choose, to the Club. Why not invite a friend to come along this year? They'll be assured of a warm welcome!



Raphael Tuck & Sons "Happy Land" Series,
No. C 2251. Artist-signed, Phyllis Cooper.

eBay Notes

There are currently over 6,000 BC postcards for sale on eBay and many more offered on other favourite internet sites. With many collectors in BC feeling starved of opportunities to buy and sell postcards at shows and fairs, it's perhaps not surprising that an increasing number of BC postcards are trading on eBay. In recent months we've seen some wonderful postcards online and many have changed hands at impressive prices.

Earlier in December, three bidders duked it out on eBay for a rare Byron Harmon real photo postcard view of the General Hospital, Vancouver, BC (#743). After 7 bids, the auction was won by a local collector for a price of \$182.50. The postcard (below) was sold by aapapercollectibles of Illinois, USA.



Also selling for high prices were several early photos of local lacrosse teams. A 1910 real photo of the New Westminster lacrosse team - "Champions of the World 1910" went for \$89.88 after 10 bids (see below). Earlier, a fine 1911 real photo postcard of the Vancouver Lacrosse Club, with players and coaches names included, was sold for \$106.50, after 3 bids.



Another local eBay buyer got a great deal on an attractive group of five Philip Timms' real photos for \$153.75. As is sometimes the case on eBay, these photos - which typically sell individually for \$75 - \$100, went for a lower price when sold as a group! There are sometimes frustrations as a postcard buyer on eBay (see page 8) but there are also some great opportunities to buy cards that you don't often see in local dealers' boxes.

Club Meetings - by Margaret Waddington & Diane Rogers

October 21, 2012. **Rein Stamm's** presentation was on the history of printers and publishers who could have made early Vancouver postcards, bringing along a selection of postcards and ephemera - cabinet photos, invoices, etc. - to illustrate his talk. Special mention was made of Helmfried Luers' website, "The Postcard Album" http://www.tpa-project.info_index.html, an excellent source of information about European (mainly German) printers and publishers.



*Rein Stamm presenting to the October Club meeting
(Photo by Don Steele)*

Don Steele reported that he had received 2,000 "Rack" cards formerly belonging to Fred Thirkell, which he will donate to the Club Boxes and two "drop-ins" with 700 postcards for sale visited the meeting. During discussions about the upcoming May 26th, 2013 show, Don recommended the purchase of 15 easels (at ca \$18 each) to better support members' displays.

Don also announced the death, September 25th, of founding member **Lee Lightfoot**, who collected Atlin views, early Detroit Photographic Co. cards, especially those of B. C., cards with metal "Add Ons", and very "odd" cards - those made of different materials, etc.

At the November meeting, **Fred Hume** gave his third presentation to the Club, featuring some of his sports related postcards. Early on he collected baseball cards, resuming in the 1970s. Soon after, he began collecting sports postcards to complement his collection, focusing on older real photo cards mainly relating to baseball and local teams and players, but lately adding modern artists' cards from the last 20 years.

Among the older postcards, many of them rare finds, were a 1914 'victory' postcard of a Nakusp BC team with friends, one of an indoor baseball team in Winnipeg, one showing the 1920 University of BC's winning rugby team, and of special interest to me, one of the 1920-21 UBC women's basketball team. The last had sparked a project to find and interview the players - Fred Hume as UBC's Athletics historian has uncovered much of the university's early sports history.



Fred Hume talks about sports postcards at the November meeting. (Photo by Don Steele)

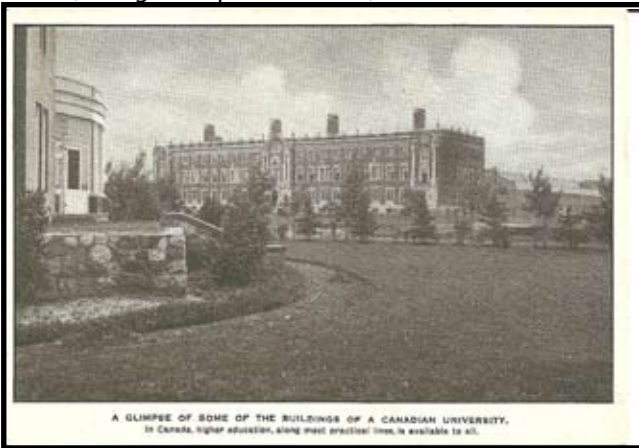
Among his artists' postcards illustrating players and stadiums was a colourful Yankee Stadium, New York card by Vincent Scilla, and one by Jennifer Ettinger of Vancouver's own Nat Bailey Stadium. Both these artists are well known for their baseball paintings. Fred appreciates both the aesthetic and, as he said, often "whimsical" qualities of these modern sport art cards.

O Come Ye, O Come Ye - to Canada! - by Philip Francis

Like many in this part of the country, your Editor and his family came to Canada as British immigrants. We were initially drawn to the bright lights of Toronto but after several cold winters we moved west. It's been a great move!

We must admit that we knew very little about old postcards before we landed in Canada. But it seems that many who came before us were already quite familiar with Canadian postcards. As Margaret Waddington wrote in her article for the Vancouver Postcard Club Newsletter, in November 2001 - "Just as the CPR used posters to lure the travelling public, so the B.C. Government issued postcards to attract investors, settlers and tourists." In 1915 the Bureau of Provincial Information printed over 5,000 illustrated postcards showing scenes of life in British Columbia. Other sets were issued in 1926 and 1929.

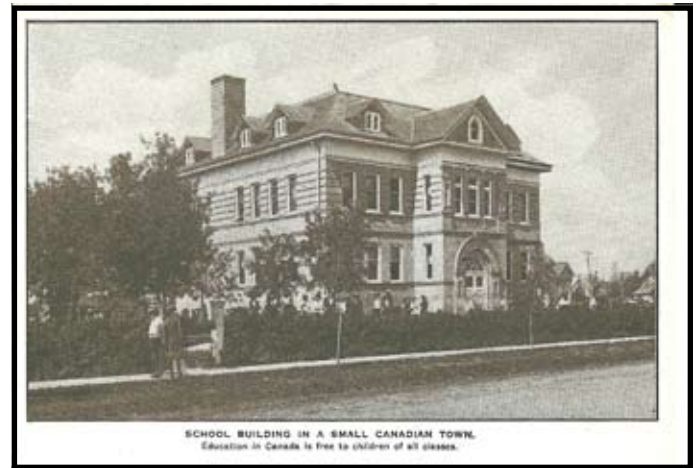
We recently came across a number of postcards that were published by the Federal Government and issued by the Canadian Department of Emigration, with the same aim of encouraging British immigration into Canada. It seems that two series of postcards were issued in or around 1924. The first was a series of at least 10 lithographic postcards showing off the attractions of a life in Canada, far from the dark Satanic mills of England. For example, the view below shows "A Glimpse of Some of the Buildings of a Canadian University" with the comment that "In Canada, higher education, along most practical lines, is available to all."



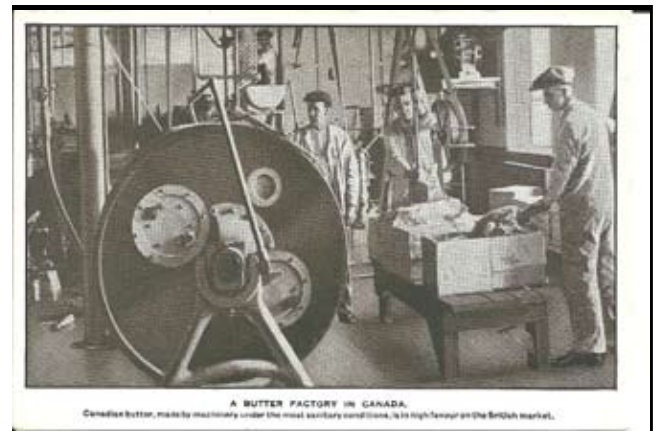
Meanwhile, a view of "An Agricultural School in Western Canada" comments that "Here young men and women learn the principles of successful agriculture and domestic science".



Also on the theme of education, a third card shows "A School Building in a Small Canadian Town" - "Education in Canada is free to children of all classes." We would love to hear from any of our readers who can identify the locations shown in these three images.



Other postcards were designed to appeal to those with specific skills to offer, particularly in agriculture. We have seen images of Beef Cattle in Canada ("Canadian livestock are much in demand on the world's markets"), An Apple Orchard in Canada ("Canadian apples are rich and luscious and are grown in great abundance") and A Prosperous Farm Home in Western Canada ("Not many years ago this spot was unbroken prairie"). And, presumably designed to attract British dairy farmers - "A Butter Factory in Canada" - "Canadian butter, made by machinery under the most sanitary conditions, is in high favour on the British market" -



A second series of postcards - this time real photo postcards - was published at about the same time. They were issued through J. Obed Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Emigration, 11-12 Charing Cross, London, S.W.. Those interested were invited to send a postcard for further information and free illustrated literature.



We can't help wondering how many British immigrants to Canada might have come here because of the images on these attractive postcards? Please let us know if you know anything more about the Emigration postcards, from either of the two series, and if you know how many different postcards were issued and their dates?

BIOGRAPHIES OF B. C. PHOTOGRAPHERS

MCRAE BROS LTD. (Greenwood & Phoenix)

MCRAE or MCRAE BROS. (Prince Rupert)

By Ron Greene



Herring Fishing in Prince Rupert Harbour - Photo by McRae Bros.

The McRae family came from Scotland, first to Montreal, then to Mooretown, Ontario. Father John McRae owned a woollen mill which he later turned into a grist mill. Four of his sons came to B. C.: Duncan Cunningham, John, James and Alex.

Duncan was a school teacher in the U. S. before coming to B. C. He first worked for the stationery firm of Wallace & Co. in Rossland, B. C. then moved to Greenwood where in association with William James Smith they opened Smith & McRae, a book, stationery, tobacco and wall-paper store in 1897.

In August 1898 it was announced that the Greenwood telephone office was to be in Smith & McRae's bookstore in Greenwood, and a later report added that they were agents for the Vernon & Nelson Telephone Co., and that the long-distance telephone was located in their store.

In mid-August 1899 it was reported that D.C. McRae had returned from a business trip to Spokane and that he was accompanied by his brother who was spending a few days in the city. A month later Smith & McRae were said to have purchased a lot in Phoenix and planned on opening a branch stationery store there. By October they were erecting a building on Dominion Avenue in Phoenix's lower town subdivision. Both John and James McRae, who had previously been engaged in trade in Idaho and Montana, arrived in Phoenix by the fall of 1899. At the end of 1899 the firm bought a two story building on Copper Street from George McKague.

In Phoenix the firm composed of the three McRae brothers and W.F. Smith became known as McRae Bros. & Smith with John and James being the resident partners. Both Duncan McRae and W.F. Smith continued to live in Greenwood and operate the Smith & McRae business.

McRae Bros. & Smith moved to a new location in the Graves-William block in October 1900. In October 1901 they moved into a new building on Knob Hill Avenue in upper town Phoenix next to Boyle's Drug Store. In November the firm added cameras and photographic supplies to their stock with James in charge of the photographic side of the business. Soon after the company offered photographic views of Phoenix and Christmas cards with views of Phoenix.

In June of 1904 Alex McRae accepted a position with Smith & McRae of Greenwood, having recently arrived from Duluth. Alex opened a stationery store in lower town Phoenix in August 1904.

The last issue of the Phoenix Pioneer before Christmas 1904 mentioned that, "James McRae has taken some of the best views lately that have ever been taken of local mines. They include views of the Granby, Brooklyn, Stemwinder, Rawhide and Skylark mines, and reproductions of these will appear in the Pioneer's Holiday-Midwinter number to appear in January."

James spent a month at Hedley in May and June 1905, taking photographs in the Similkameen district. In July McRae Bros. & Smith acquired a location in the centre of Midway to open a branch and James went over to superintend the building of their new store.

On Feb. 13, 1906, the firm of McRae Bros. & Smith Ltd. was incorporated with W.F. Smith as president, John McRae as secretary-treasurer and Alex, James, John and Duncan McRae and W.F. Smith as directors. The company had taken over the operations of McRae Bros & Smith and had stores in Phoenix and Midway.

John and Alexander McRae were living in Phoenix, James McRae in Midway and Duncan McRae and W.F. Smith in Greenwood.

At the end of August 1906 W.F. Smith sold his interests in Smith & McRae, Greenwood, and in McRae Bros. & Smith Ltd., Phoenix and Midway. Within two weeks the McRae's discontinued their Midway branch and James moved to Greenwood. At this time the firm received new souvenir postal cards printed in seven colours in Germany several of which featured scenes of Phoenix and the Granby and Dominion mines.

In April 1909 James paid a visit to Prince Rupert which was being promoted as the latest B. C. boom town. Two weeks later the company announced that it would establish a branch in Prince Rupert, followed by the news that the firm was closing its Greenwood branch and moving all its stock to Prince Rupert. In March 1910 McRae Bros sold their stationery and fancy goods stock in Phoenix to Albin Almstrom and John and Alex McRae then joined their brothers in Prince Rupert.

In Prince Rupert John did the accounting, James ran the wholesale operations while Duncan was manager and operated the store. Alex was more of a clerk than anything else. In the mid 1920s Alex left the firm and carried on, under his own name, in the printing business which had evolved out of the original stationery business.



"Slag running into pots, each of 25 tons capacity at B.C. Copper Co.'s smelter, Greenwood, B.C." - Photo by McRae Bros.

McRae Bros. (contd. from page 4)

A good many Prince Rupert postcards have been seen bearing the name of "McRae Bros." or simply "McRae".

James died on June 21, 1921 in Prince Rupert. The notice mentioned that he had been born in Mooretown, Ontario, had gone to North Dakota in 1878 and some years later moved to Bonner's Ferry. There he had become an American citizen and at one time had served as the mayor.

The company's filings show that John sold his shares January 10, 1931 and James' estate sold at the same time. Alex had left the company some time before 1928. As a result John took the building and Duncan ended up with the stock and business.

Duncan moved into selling appliances and furniture. His son Jack was in the navy for six years during WWII and upon his return his father retired to Duncan, B. C. and Jack and another son, also named Duncan, carried on the business.

Duncan (Sr.) died in Duncan on December 21, 1950. John died November 25, 1935 in Terrace. He was mentioned as having had a home there as early as 1928. Alex was listed as living at the Leeds apartments, Prince Rupert, in 1948.

According to Ron Souch the Greenwood and Phoenix cards were b&w and coloured collotypes and lithos some of which were printed by Valentine & Sons. Many of the Prince Rupert cards were real photos of northwest B. C. including Anyox, Granby Bay, Ocean Falls, Prince Rupert, Stewart, Swansons Bay, and Terrace. There were also some printed cards, some of which were printed by Valentine.

References:

Greene, Ron. "Two related tokens – Smith & McRae of Greenwood, B. C. and McRae Bros. & Smith of Phoenix, B. C."

Souch, Ron. British Columbia historical picture postcards: a guide to the publishers.

Margaret Waddington writes concerning the above article: "Ron Greene generously allowed me to reprint excerpts from his article "Two related tokens - Smith & McRae of Greenwood, B. C. and McRae Bros. & Smith of Phoenix, B. C.". I have also added Ron Souch's comments on the McRae postcards."

New Postcard Listing

Early British Columbia Postcards By Eighteen Major Publishers; a Listing of Almost 5,000 Picture Postcards; B. C. Views from 1900 to 1925. Vol. 1. Vancouver, BC: B. R. Souch, 2012.

Volume 1 of Ron's latest checklist covers views of B. C. (excluding Vancouver and Victoria which will be listed in future volumes) arranged by location. Informative background notes on the 18 publishers: James Allen, S.H. Baker, J. Howard A. Chapman, European Import, Gowen, Sutton (including F. Gowen), Heliotype, T. N. Hibben, G.T.E. Hudson, Novelty Mfg & Art Printing, Pacific Novelty (including Pacific Pub.), Harry Priest, Rumsey & Co., J. Fred Spalding, Stedman Bros., Thompson Studio, Thomson Stationery (including W.G. Thomson), Philip Timms, Valentine and Sons and Warwick Bros & Rutter are included.

Copies are available from the author, 20 – 1201 Lamey's Mill Road, Vancouver, BC V6H 3S8, email ronsouch@shaw.ca for \$50 (\$45 for VPC members).

From the President's Desk



It's been a good year for the Vancouver Postcard Club. Membership has remained fairly stable. We ended the year with a small surplus in the bank. And we survived Don Steele's decision to step down, after nearly 10 years' of heroic efforts as Club President. Along the way, there were a number of highlights - here are a few:

1. The Vancouver Postcard Club received the Award for Best Newsletter by the British Columbia Historical Federation in May 2012 - *"for their excellent publication and for bringing forward a stronger recognition and awareness of postcards as historical resources."* Thank you to all who have contributed to *Postview* over the past year - particularly Margaret Waddington, Deputy Editor, and Correspondents John & Glenda Cheramy and Buzz Kinnimont.

2. The new website, launched in 2011, has increasingly become the "go-to" location for information about the Club and its meetings. We would love to find a Club member who could help us further develop the website and act as Webmaster.

3. The annual Postcard Show held on May 27th was well attended both by dealers and visitors. This year's postcard displays were more numerous and of a higher standard than ever before - Don Steele winning the "Abe Charkow Memorial Award" for his display of postcards depicting "Coastal Indian People from about 100 years ago." Thank you to all who made the show such a success.

4. Monthly meetings were generally well-attended and we enjoyed presentations from some outstanding speakers. Postcard subjects included the Cariboo Wagon Road from Ashcroft to Barkerville, the photographers of Thunder Bay, Ontario, 1900 - 1930, Philip Timms' postcards of Bowen Island, War memorials, Savary Island, a Postcard Workshop, Britannia Beach, Vancouver printers & publishers and sports postcards. A lot of work goes into these presentations and we most sincerely thank all who came to speak to us. The quality of our monthly meetings has never been higher.

Although generally a good year for the Club, there are also some concerns. The lack of opportunities to trade postcards in Vancouver is frustrating to many members - we still greatly miss our good friend Albert Tanner. Our membership is not getting any younger and although it seems that postcard-collecting and grey hair often go together, we need to be more intentional about bringing new members to our monthly meetings and "widening the circle" to include those with historical or related collecting interests.

Particular thanks to this year's hard-working VPC Executive Committee and other volunteers. Their work is much appreciated!

Cheramy's Chatter

by John & Glenda Cheramy

Sept. 7th – Glenda and I are off on the 7AM ferry for the NSNS Coin Club show at Oakridge, Sept 8 & 9th. After stops in Richmond for a few postcards, and at Chantou on Fraser St. for supplies, we headed up the Valley to visit a couple of antique shops which usually have a good number of postcards. The first shop was great! One card stood out – a 1912 Calgary Stampede card by Marcel, depicting the Duke & Duchess of Connaught in a fancy carriage pulled by horses in front of downtown Calgary buildings. We ended up leaving with a large bag full of mostly world wide postcards, but some useful Western Canada as well. The next shop had nothing new, so no purchase there.

After lunch we drove to Langley for more supplies and a visit to Bill Foot's new store location. We've never seen Bill Foot in such neat surroundings outside of his home (thanks to his wife)! Bill didn't have much in postcards but did have a large Calgary Stampede 1928 advertising brochure. Opened up, it lists 10 different dignitaries and showmen including Inspector Jim Spalding of the RCMP and Guy Weadick, manager of the Stampede. Inside bottom is a photo of a large group of gorgeously dressed Indians on horseback. The folder is in terrible condition but I hadn't seen it before. Bill also had a few tokens he'd been saving for me, one a scarce Vancouver token, Balmoral Hotel, 12½¢ brass piece, not great shape, but only 6 known.

Sept 8 & 9 – Set the alarm for an early wake-up for a trip to Denny's for breakfast and arrived at Oakridge a few minutes before 8AM. Several dealers were already setting up. We were given our space by the entrance which helped in bringing in our stock. Saw Milt Blackburn (both days), Art Davies, Ron Souch, Rein Stamm (as a dealer set up right next to us), Don Steele, Hamish Telford, Marg Waddington, and Tim Woodland. I was surprised there were not more VPCC members show up for the show, as the wonderful quarterly bulletin had recently been issued. Our sales were not enormous but we did acquire some nice cards by some wonderful trades. A couple of unlisted BC Harmons, for example, and quite a few real photo cards of Western Canada. We were surprised to see Ron Greene on the 5PM ferry home.

Sept 11 – Got an email from Craig Bowlsby letting us know that his hockey book on early Pacific Coast hockey "EMPIRES OF ICE" was available at Munro's book store for \$25.00 plus \$1.25 GST. What a book! Almost 400 pages of in-depth detail on early West Coast Hockey teams, Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster, plus teams in Washington & Oregon, Seattle, Spokane & Portland and covers 1911-26 (the early years of Pacific Coast Hockey). The Patricks, Joe and sons Lester & Frank, figure prominently in the start of teams and building of ice arenas on the Coast – a great read for all hockey fans!

Oct. 2 – Tuesday Muffin Break day at Cedar Hill Rec. Centre. Philip Francis joined us for a brief morning visit on his way to meet with Dr. Richard Moulton. He later joined Robin & Ian Mowat and Glenda and me for lunch at the Comfort Hotel. At the Muffin Break we also had Ron Greene, the Mowats, Don Stewart Sr., Lee Dowsley, and Gray Scrimgeour in attendance. Philip dropped by our home after visiting his investment clients for most of the afternoon. We talked postcards, of course, even traded a few before it was time for him to leave to catch his 7PM ferry.

Oct. 6 – Comfort Hotel for the VICTOPICAL stamp exhibition and

sales. Per Jensen, Don Kaye and ourselves were set up as bourse dealers. Visitors included Lee Dowsley, the Mowats, Gray Scrimgeour, Richard Moulton, and Don Stewart. Our sales were sparse but good, large volume trades helped us add to our albums of better cards.

Oct. 25, Thursday evening – after a meal with Robin & Ian Mowat, we attended the monthly stamp club meeting where Tim Woodland was the guest speaker on Lumbering & Sawmills on Vancouver Island – a great power-point presentation thoroughly enjoyed by all the members! Tim has probably visited most of the mill locations personally and gave us a detailed narration of these mills. A portion of his fabulous collection of small location, local history books laid out on two 8-foot tables, plus four frames of postcards and documents was quite impressive. A few of his displayed postcards looked familiar, so could have come from the Cheramys at one point. A very entertaining evening – thanks Tim!

Oct. 26, Friday morning – we had invited Tim to a morning visit and he showed up around 8AM. After talking about Vancouver Island history and geography, we did some trading of cards. He left after an enjoyable hour or two, heading up-Island to look at a collection of Island Railway negatives. Good hunting!

Oct. 26, evening – we are due to bring some of our stock into Pearkes Arena around 7PM to begin setting up for the Oct. 27/28 Antique & Collectibles show. Oct. 27 --Glenda and I are at Denny's for breakfast at 6:30 as we are allowed into the hall at 7AM to finish setting up. We arrive at around 7:30 and it's clear sailing to bring our final load of better cards into the room. Very quiet sales today for some reason but a couple of our best sources came up with some great lots to make it a no-brainer for our attendance. Our sales for the two days were minimal but our great acquisitions make up for it. The Mowats, our neighbours, are having a great sales show and we are lagging well behind, but we enjoy listening to the banter and trading going on around us.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from John & Glenda!

Bloomsbury Fair, London

By Philip Francis



In the last issue of *Postview* we wrote, with regret, that postcard shows appear to be going the way of the dodo in the face of escalating costs, reluctant travellers, and increased competition from eBay. The good news is that some shows are still going strong - you just have to travel a long way to find them! Last month we were in England and dropped in to the monthly Bloomsbury Fair in central London. It was well attended with 40 dealers and hundreds of collectors. We were rewarded by finding this wonderful real photo postcard of the Main Street, Kamloops in 1911. See the train approaching in the middle of the street and the tobacco store and shaving parlour to the right? Definitely worth the long journey!

American Views - "OK - who has them?"

By Buzz Kinninmont

There might, or might not be a terrific collection of late-1890's small-town B.C. cancels out there... somewhere.

Postal cards (as opposed to postcards) are issued by the post offices of most countries, with the postage already printed on them. "Reply" postal cards are nearly-identical back-to-back cards, attached across their perforated top edges.

They cost the purchaser double because the postage for the rear card was also paid by the purchaser as a way of giving the recipient of the double card a prepaid way of responding... perhaps for a business survey... or for a child away at school. The originating sender could write his or her address on the reply half of the card to ensure that it couldn't be used otherwise, and businesses often had their addresses preprinted on the reply half for the same reason.

A couple of years ago one of the other postcard dealers here in the L. A. area acquired a sizable collection of old used postal cards that included a number of reply halves that had been mailed back to a Dr. Galloway in Toronto. The "Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery" website has a historical list of members of the American Orthopedic Association, in which he is listed thus, "1899. Galloway, H.P.H., M.D. Surgeon to the Toronto Orthopedic Hospital; Orthopedic Surgeon to the Toronto Western Hospital; Orthopedic Surgeon to Grace General Hospital, Toronto. 12 East Bloor Street, Toronto, Canada."

It appears that in 1897 & 1898 Dr. Galloway was attempting to compile a list of doctors who were practicing in the rural areas of Ontario, which he did by sending postal reply cards to the postmasters of small-town post offices, asking them to send back a list of the active doctors in their area. However, I'm still not able to convince myself that such a list of doctors would have been of much practical use... but I am convinced that the good doctor figured out a great way to accumulate an interesting group of postal history items, most of them with split-ring postmarks. I bought a nice handful of them back then and they sold very well on eBay.

Then, at our most recent show, that same dealer brought along some boxes of old stock, one of which held some of the Dr. Galloway cards that I'd left behind two years ago because their cancels weren't sufficiently clear, like the one from Kearney (Parry Sound District) seen here:



But the amazing thing that was also in that box was something I'd completely missed the significance of first time through – this card:



Mailed from Oakville, Ontario to Vananda, British Columbia in 1899, it's the front half of one of Dr. Galloway's reply cards that was somehow mailed back to him... probably while it was still attached to its other half... probably by a postmaster who wasn't clear on the concept that the reply half was meant to be detached for return mailing.

Its message side shows the message that Dr. Galloway handwrote – or perhaps had someone write for him – many, many times in order to conduct his survey.

But the most interesting thing about this latest find, of course, is that it appears that after he completed his Ontario survey, Dr. G. conducted a survey of doctors (or postmarks) of small towns in BC.

So where the heck are those reply cards?

C'mon... someone reading this newsletter must know where they are...!

Nominations invited!

It's that time of the year when we are all looking forward to a good rest over the holidays, particularly the hard-working members of your Executive Committee! The Club President has the lightest task of all with most of the "heavy lifting" done by the other members of the Committee and we give particular thanks to the following for their contributions during the year -

Margaret Waddington - Secretary and Treasurer, who has run the financial side of the Club and supported our work in many different ways, including her tremendous contributions to the newsletter.

Tim Woodland - Program Director - who has arranged an outstanding panel of speakers this past year at our monthly meetings.

Ron Souch - Vice President - who has assumed the responsibility for organizing the annual Vancouver Postcard Show.

M. Diane Rogers - Membership Secretary - who has offered much helpful advice, drawing on her experience as Past Chair of the BC Genealogical Society.

We are pleased to report that each of the above, including your Club President, have agreed to continue serving on the Executive Committee in 2013, should they be so nominated and elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee meets up to four times a year and at its last meeting it expressed the hope that at least two other members would be willing to serve on the Committee in 2013. If any of our members is familiar with Word-Press and website design we would be particularly interested to hear from you, to help with the further development of the Club website, including a Members Only section.

We also particularly acknowledge the ongoing support of Don Steele, Past President, for his work on the Club Roster, and Jill Charkow, who has arranged the distribution of the newsletter, roster and other club notices. We are most grateful.

More Pet Peeves on eBay

We published an article on the subject of "eBay peeves" a few issues ago and received a furious response from a Canadian postcard dealer who for some reason thought we were referring to him. So we return to the subject with some trepidation.

The fact is that most eBay sellers are wonderful - check out the extensive and well-earned, positive feedback. In most cases, postcards are well-scanned and clearly viewable online; postage and shipping costs are reasonable; and the speed of service is exemplary. But occasionally we hear of someone who fails to live up to these standards and one of our members wrote to us the other day to complain about one such seller. She had bought three postcards from the same (Canadian) dealer. They arrived together in a small, letter-sized envelope. The only protection was a crudely carved piece of flimsy cardboard from the back of a frozen pizza carton (fortunately the pizza had been removed). But the postcards were not in a polypropylene sleeve and the cardboard was behind the postcards. They all arrived badly creased. To cap it off, the seller had put the cards in the envelope and then firmly written the name and address of the buyer in ballpoint pen on the front of the envelope. No risk of losing the cards - because the buyer's name and address are now clearly imprinted on the front of the top postcard!

Mark your Calendars - 2013!

20 Jan - Oakridge Coin and Stamp Fair, 10:00 am to 1700 pm at Oakridge Auditorium, 41st & Cambie, Vancouver, BC

20 Jan - VPC Monthly Meeting - 12 - 2 p.m. Hastings Community Centre. Presenter - Philip Francis - "My top 10 Postcards, so far"

3 Feb - Victoria Stamp & Coin Fair, Comfort Hotel, Victoria, BC, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

17 Feb - VPC Monthly Meeting - 12 - 2 p.m. Hastings Community Centre. Presenter - to be announced

22 - 23 Feb - Festival of Cards, Shepton, Mallet, near Bath, England - one of the U.K.'s largest annual postcard shows

24 Feb - 32nd ANNUAL TORONTO POSTCARD CLUB SHOW

10 am to 5 pm - The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court, Toronto, M3C 1Z5 (Don Mills Road & Wynford Drive, one stoplight north of Eglinton Ave.) Admission \$7. TPC Member admission \$5. Free parking. Easily accessible by car and by public transit.

9 - 10 Mar - VICTOPICAL 2013 Stamp Show, Comfort Hotel, Victoria, Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:30 pm, Sunday: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

26 May - VANCOUVER ANNUAL POSTCARD SHOW

10 am to 4 p.m. - Hastings Community Centre. If you are interested reserving a table at the show please contact Ron Souch at ronshouch@shaw.ca or call Ron at 604-731-1481 as soon as possible.

It's certainly lively here



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Enjoy! The above postcard may be the closest you'll get to seeing competitive hockey this year....But we have to admit that an unexpected bonus of the NHL lockout is that we've had a lot more time in the evenings to work on our postcard collections. We're wondering if all that money saved on Canucks season tickets this year is the reason for those crazy prices on eBay?

Postview

Postview is the quarterly newsletter of the Vancouver Postcard Club. The views expressed herein are the views of the Editor and contributors where shown 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 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).