



POSTVIEW

The Newsletter of the
Vancouver Postcard Club

www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca

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What's New?

The Vancouver Postcard Club is now on Twitter as

@vanpostcard

If you are on Twitter, please follow us (and we will follow you).

We hope to attract new members to the Club and to postcard collecting by promoting our activities on social media.

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A Happy Christmas To You

Christmas postcard scenes aren't all the obvious winter landscapes or children putting up their stockings "*in hopes*".

Sometimes the scenes on postcards chosen for Christmas greetings may seem quite odd, as has been remarked on during a couple of Vancouver Postcard Club meetings.

This postcard with a rather bleak scene but an interesting Christmas Eve 1908 cancel, at 3 pm in Brooklyn, New York, USA, is an example.

The card, from Raphael Tuck & Sons "Christmas" Series, is courtesy Brian Grant-Duff.



Club Meetings and News

Sept. 13, 2015—The meeting opened at 11:30 with club members avidly descending on the Toronto Postcard Club's donation of their unclaimed B. C. "pay what you think it's worth" cards.



The featured speaker was **Bruce Macdonald**, author of *Salmon Bellies vs. the World: the Story of the Most Famous Team in Lacrosse and Their Greatest Rivals* who was raised in New Westminster in a house overlooking Queen's Park. His presentation "Listening to Old Photos: a Visual History of the New Westminster Salmonbellies Lacrosse Team" concentrated on images, mainly postcards of the New Westminster merchants – Con "Don't Argue" Jones, jeweller, T. Gifford, druggist Herb

Ryall, cigar maker, Fred Lynch, - who backed the team in the early days of the 20th century.

The Salmonbellies became Canada's most successful professional lacrosse team capturing 12 Minto Cup championships between 1908 and 1924.

Oct. 11, 2015—Show and Tell (aka Bring and Brag) Billed as an opportunity to display treasures found at the Show or over the summer, election, holiday cards, and/or unique and interesting cards with a story to tell.

Rein Stamm brought along a Province Publishing Co. Ltd. card entitled "Vancouver, B. C. Giant Trees in Stanley Park," mailed July 23, 1899 to Washington, D.C. Gordon Poppy who worked for Spencer's department store provided several examples of Spencer's memorabilia, including a postcard issued for the 1936 Golden Jubilee. Included in a collection of holiday cards celebrating Christmas, Easter, St. Patrick's and Valentine's Day, was a Thanksgiving card produced by Philip Francis when he was working for Macquarie Private Wealth Inc.

Bill McNulty furnished a 1908 federal election card urging voters to support "The Old Pilot" Wilfrid Laurier and the local liberal candidate W.W.B. McInnis while Neil Whaley had a portrait pc of his uncle George who served on board the HMS Edinburgh Castle in WW1. Diane Rogers produced a depression era card displaying a costume fashioned from newspapers.

Margaret Waddington displayed a previously unknown Robert Macedon Love postcard (see his profile in the May 2015 issue of *Postview*) discovered in the box of B. C. cards donated to the Club. Entitled "Vancouver B. C. CPR. Depot," it was printed in Ger-

many, and published by Raphael Tuck & Sons in its "Postcard Series No. 038: Vancouver, B.C."

According to the on-line "Tuck DB Free Database of Antique Postcards Published by Raphael Tuck & Sons" Tuck also issued Love's "Vancouver, B. C. Empress of India" image in the same series.

Nov. 8, 2015—Fashion historian and collector (he owns 600 hats), Ivan Sayers brought along a fascinating array of clothing - skirts, blouses, shirts, handbags, etc. - featuring postcard images and patriotic themes (e.g. "V for Victory" slogans).



The most striking example was a 50's Mexican black skirt, hand painted with postcard images of views of B.C. – the Vancouver waterfront, the Legislative buildings, the light standards in Victoria, etc. See skirt photos on page 7.

Ivan also helped date family photos and postcards based on the clothes worn.

Thanks to Margaret Waddington for her reporting of these recent Club talks.

OTHER NEWS:

John Cheramy has bought Don Stewart's postcard collection.

Greg Nesteroff became editor of the *Nelson Star* in February, 2015.

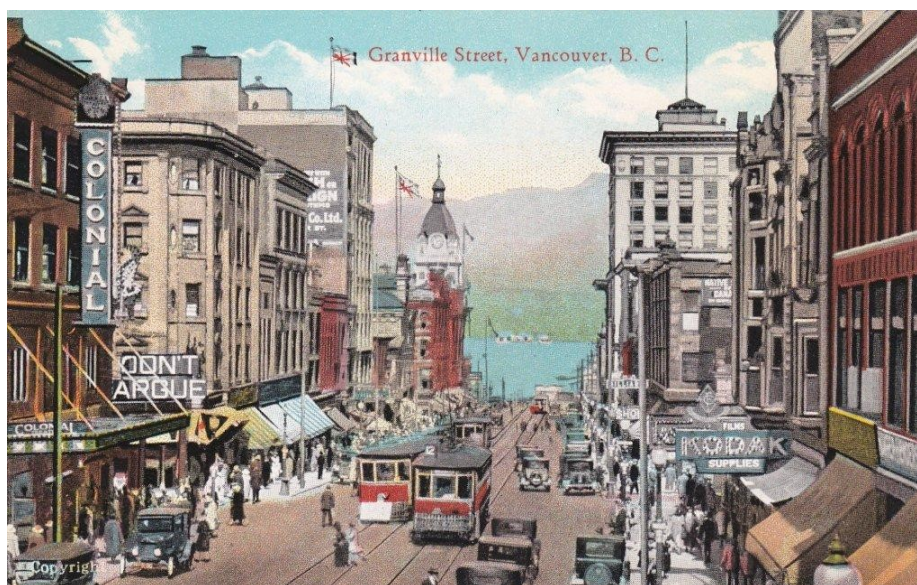
NEIL ALFRED HEHN, 1938-2015.

Neil Alfred Hehn (Hayne), died 11 December 2015 in Ontario, Canada.

As Philip Francis said, "Neil was one of the most authoritative postcard dealers in Canada and he will be very much missed not only by those who made a bee-line to his tables at postcard shows but also by the many thousands from around the world who traded with him on eBay."

He is survived by his children, Debbie, John, Robyn, Cameron and Trevor, his partner, Heather Adamson, and his brother, John. Our condolences go to them and to their families.

Biographies of B.C. Photographers and Publishers



John Henry Powell, 1886-1875

John Henry Powell was born May 10, 1886 in Dundee, Scotland to John Samuel Powell and Helen Peters.

His father, John Samuel Powell (1848-1915), was a photographer who worked for Valentine & Sons, Dundee, Scotland. By April 1892 when he arrived in Auckland, New Zealand to take pictures of the island's beauty spots, he had already spent 20 years in Great Britain, Ireland, on the continent, in Norway, Iceland, Morocco, Tunis and Spain, photographing for the firm.

Described as a photographer, John Henry first came to the U.S. on July 8, 1906 arriving at the port of New York on the S.S. "Columbia" from Glasgow. He returned to Glasgow Dec. 16, 1908 on the "Lucania" from New York.

On April 12th of the following year he was back in New York, destination Valentine & Sons Ltd,

Summer Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

It is not known exactly when he arrived in B.C. Returning to Vancouver on the "Zealandia" from Sydney, Australia on June 25, 1912, he stated that he had been in Canada before, spending two years at various times in Montreal and Vancouver.

He first appears in the 1912 and 1913 BC directories as manager of Valentine & Sons United Publishing Co. Ltd. (of Montreal), #609, 318 Homer Street, Vancouver. He was then listed as Valentine's representative from 1914 to 1916.

With the exception of 1924 when he appears as a photographer, he is described as a representative, then proprietor, of Coast Publishing Co from 1917 to 1954.

In 1929 he sailed on the S.S. "Princess Louise" on a voyage from Prince Rupert to Ketchikan, Alaska and return.

Retiring in 1956 he moved to Sechelt in 1968. He died Nov. 9, 1975 aged 89 in St. Mary's Hospital (usual residence The Boulevard, Sechelt) and was cremated

Nov. 13th at Vancouver Crematorium, Vancouver.

Don Steele, in his article on Coast Publishing Co, noted that:

"Thomas McFarlane Campbell learned that John H. Powell wanted to retire so he purchased their assets and incorporated Coast Publishing Company Ltd.

In 1960 Campbell sold Coast Publishing Company Ltd to Douglas S. Mitten. Mitten told Don that "this might have been the worst deal I ever made." The postcard business fell to the competition of the News Services and the Company lost the very important "Butchart Gardens" account because they could not compete with the new technology.

In 1963 Mitten sold Coast Publishing Company Ltd. to Joel R. Sardone. Mitten said "he would have given it away" and that is just about what he did.

Sardone changed the name of the company to Coast Consolidated Marketing Ltd. in 1965 and later to Kleen Craft Products."

Don goes on to say that

"Coast Publishing competed

well with various other photographers and publishers at that time, including Gowen & Sutton, Leonard Frank, Phillip Timms, The Valentine & Sons Publishing Co. Ltd. and others.

The early Coast Publishing Co. real photo cards were of excellent quality. The business catered to the tourist industry and produced many colour lithograph and chrome cards and pamphlets. The business provided a huge volume of materials over the years.

Popular items for the Company were view card packages 4 1/2" X 3" designed for mailing which contained real photographic snapshots (not postcards). There were various sets. The writer has seen 3 Vancouver sets, 3 Victoria sets and one featuring Harrison Hot Spring views. They also had a Canadian Rockies series that included 4 sets. A smaller pack-

age 3 3/4" X 3", also for mailing, was manufactured. The one the writer has seen contained 20 real photograph snapshots for 50 cents.

There are many collectors looking for the coloured lithograph cards with white borders, each numbered, in the V.T (Victoria), V.N. (Vancouver) and R. (Rockies) series. These cards were done in the 50's and depict scenes of that era. I don't know of anyone who has completed the full sequence of these cards."

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BC Archives death registration 1975-09-019895 Vital Stat image: 004479356901134.jpg

BC directories: (Vancouver): 1912-1968.

The Press, Auckland, New Zealand, 25 Mar. 2015, p. A19: *Picture-perfect postcards of our prominent places.*

Steele, Don. *Coast Publishing Co.* (in Vancouver Postcard Club Newsletter, 21:4 (Aug. 2003).



Photographs:

The five Coast Publishing postcards shown in this article are courtesy of Ron Souch.

Granville St. Vancouver, B.C.;

C.P.R. Hotel, Vancouver, B.C., Canada;

The Giant Dipper, Hastings Park, Vancouver, B.C., Canada;

R.M. S. Niagara;

and *C.P.R.S.S. Princess Kathleen. The Smoking Room.*



C. P. R. S. S. Princess Kathleen. The Smoking Room.

“FROM OUT IN LEFT FIELD” by Fred Hume

In 2014 Baseball celebrated the 100th birthday of one of its great “cathedrals” – Wrigley Field – resulting in this venue becoming a featured attraction. But despite Wrigley’s fame and the fact its tenants, the Chicago Cubs, continually fill its grandstands and bleachers, the team itself has suffered through unparalleled futility.

The Cubs last World Series appearance was in fall of 1945 and since then have lost more games than they won. The last World Championship won by the Cubs was in 1908 – 107 Octobers ago – and pre-Wrigley Field.

In fact, it was the first decade of the 20th century that saw the Cubs field their most dominant teams. That was when the team called West Side Grounds home, the relatively unknown precursor to the now famous Wrigley. In fact the Cubs at West Side from 1906 through 1910 had the best five season winning percentage in Major League history, highlighted by their World Series championships of 1907 and 1908. It has not gone well since.

It is the revered 1908 season that is represented on this postcard in the form of the Cubs’ West Side home and scene of their last championship. It’s true, Wrigley Field postcards are relatively common, but this card of West Side ball park and this era of Cubs history today stand as hidden gems.

As it is said, the glory years of the Cubs actually took place on the west side, not at Wrigley on the north side. West Side Grounds or Park, dated 1909 on this postcard, opened in 1893 and during its relatively short life was packed with baseball lore and ‘iconic’ players. Here the team fashioned its great five year run, its two World Series titles and featured the legendary Tinker to Evers to Chance double play combination along with pitcher Mordecai ‘Three finger’ Brown.

History, apparently, has repeated itself as just in the current Wrigley experience West Side Grounds also had spectators who sat on roof tops behind right field. Back then there were battles between the Cubs team and the rooftop owners just as there are today.

Behind left field at West Side was a mental institution (perhaps that large red building you can see on the card) where patients could be heard yelling and screaming at fans behind the left field wall. From that, the expression “*from out in left field*” was born meaning crazy or at least unexpected or unconventional.

1908 was a memorable year at West Side with one such example occurring when the Cubs’ owner placed the visiting press in the last row of the grandstand and with the front rows filled with buyers of scalped tickets.



This *West Side Ball Park [Cubs]* postcard is copyright 1909 by Geo. R. Lawrence Co of Chicago and published by V.O. Hammond Publishing Co. of Chicago.
Courtesy the author, Fred Hume.

The press as it is known to be, was so infuriated they it quickly organized the Baseball Writers Association of America which today remains influential being the voting body responsible for the MLB Awards and the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Following the Cubs' move to Wrigley, West Side Park was torn down to build a hospital. But before it met its demise it served as a venue for some intriguing events. In August 1916 just months after the Cubs left, the ballpark featured a huge "Wild West Roundup" including "Bronco Busting, Cowgirls, Wild Horse Racing and Daredevil Contests" under "Fifteen Million Candle-Power Illumination." All this supervised by the one and only Buffalo Bill Cody.

Today this same site is occupied by a flower garden at the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center, a serene and serious site, a far cry from what this intriguing location used to be.

Thanks to friend and fellow postcard collector Len Corben for if it were not for trading with him I would not have known of West Side Grounds and its short, esoteric, yet captivating life story.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THESE VIEWS?

During Ivan Sayers' recent presentation to the Club (see page 2), he showed this painted skirt from Mexico and mentioned that he believes likely the scenes of Vancouver, Victoria and Banff were painted from post-card views. He asked for help in confirming this.

One member suggested these could be from a Coast Publishing set (or sets) of BC/Rockies cards. Please contact the Editor if you have ideas about this.
We do have other photos.



Photographs courtesy Jason Vanderhill and
M. Diane Rogers. Others are available.
Contact diane_rogers@shaw.ca

Upcoming Events

Jan. 10: VANCOUVER POSTCARD CLUB: BILL MCNULTY – HISTORY OF LULU ISLAND

Jan. 17: 21st Century Flea Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

Feb. 14: VANCOUVER POSTCARD CLUB: RON HYDE – THE SOCKEYE SPECIAL

Feb. 21: Retro Design & Antiques Fair, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

Mar. 13: VANCOUVER POSTCARD CLUB: MAURICE GUIBORD: FRANCOPHONES IN B.C.

Mar. 20: 21st Century Flea Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

April 2-3, Edmonton Stamp Club 2016 Spring National Stamp Show, Saturday 10-5pm, Sunday 10-4pm, Central Lion's Recreational Centre, 13 St & 111 Ave, Edmonton. www.edmontonstampclub.com

Apr. 9-10: Kerrisdale Antiques Fair, Kerrisdale Arena, 5670 East Boulevard at 41st Ave, 10-5

Apr. 10: VANCOUVER POSTCARD CLUB: JOHN DAVIES – CPR HOTELS

May 8: VANCOUVER POSTCARD CLUB: ANDREW MARTIN– B. C. STEREO VIEWS

May 15: 21st Century Flea Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

June 12: VANCOUVER POSTCARD CLUB: MARK TRUELOVE: DIGITAL COLOURIZATION

June 12: Retro Design & Antiques Fair, Croatian Cultural Centre, 10-3

JUNE - VANCOUVER POSTCARD CLUB ANNUAL SHOW - date to be announced in January.

All Vancouver Postcard Club meetings are at the Hastings Community Centre, 3096 East Hastings, Vancouver, BC.

POSTCARDS ON THE WEB

Do you have favourite postcard related websites or have you seen a new one? The Golden Horseshow Post Card Club of South Central Ontario is one of mine. The Club's October 2015 newsletter, available on the website, offers an illustrated article, "Lesser or Forgotten Disasters on Postcards" by Lorne Smith. This includes cards from Canada, Japan and Germany. One very graphic one depicts the Hull, Quebec explosion of 1910. GHPC Club website: www.ghpcc.ca

A SUGGESTION RE POSTCARDS, 1906

from the *Manitoba Free Press*, April 3, 1906, Page 13, *Letter to the Editor*.

[cut] "*I refer to scenic postcards. As everyone knows, they are making quite a hit and becoming very popular.*

The P. O. Department certainly derives revenue therefrom and they should do what they can to encourage this. Now I have received quite a number of these postcards and practically every one has been disfigured by P. O. stamps being struck on the wrong side of the postcard. It is quite practicable that these date marks be limited to the address side only, thus preserving the souvenir side of the card. I think this action should be taken by proper authorities as it would increase considerably the volume and business done and give satisfaction to all concerned. Signed - C. F. S."

This snippet is from an article by Kathy Stokes, "Are These Your Ancestors?" in *Generations*, Manitoba Genealogical Society, Volume 40 Number 3, page 6. More and more genealogists and family historians are taking an interest in postcards, perhaps most after inheriting family collections.

Another article on French colonial postcards with photos was seen in the *Bulletin de Liaison*, Amitiés Généalogiques Bordelaises, September 2015.

Postview

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Views expressed by the Editor and contributors do not necessarily reflect the views of the Vancouver Postcard Club.