



Three Generations postcard, courtesy Rein Stamm.

BASEBALL . . . A CHIC SPORT FOR THE ELITE

by Fred Hume

Collectors shuffle through old postcards numbering in the thousands, perhaps more. Most of these, at least in my case, are offered only a cursory glance – nothing about the card jumps out or seems special. Such a card raced past my scope of vision not long ago, this one looking pretty pedestrian. However, a second or two later a light went on and the card's 'title' registered. Pulling it back I realized I knew this name, Vedato Tennis Club of Havana. Familiarity with this century-old elite institution was due to my research into Cuba's history particularly its baseball history which is my main focus. It turns out this image, despite being a tennis club, has an important connection with Cuban baseball. In fact, this club actually helped weave the sport of baseball into the fabric and culture of this island. Only if one happens to know the esoteric elements of Cuban baseball would this particular sports club and therefore postcard, resonate.

It was back in 1905 the members of the Vedato Tennis Club founded Cuba's highly esteemed Amateur Baseball League, a league that for the next 55 years would be an integral component of the island's baseball experience, a league immensely popular in pre-revolutionary Cuba. And the Club's baseball representatives, the Vedato Tennis Club Marquesses, would be referred to as the “. . . *foundation team of Cuban amateur baseball in the 20th century.*”

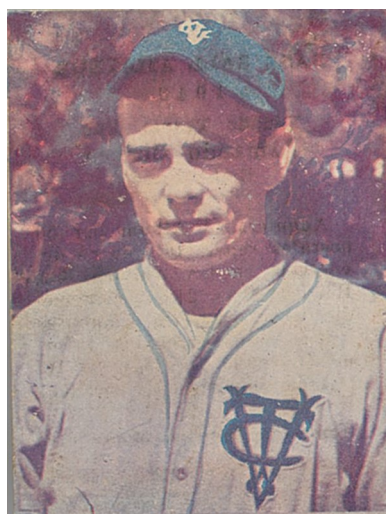


This card depicts the Club's 'headquarters', a palatial venue built in 1912 which served as home not only to baseball teams but also tennis, basketball, polo, squash and swimming.

Vedato's members were the upper class, high society, with in many cases business interests tied to the US. It also, to a large extent, implemented the British model of pure amateurism together with the elegance of the game. At the same time VTC fielded baseball teams that dominated this amateur league through the teens and into the 1920s extending into the 1940s.

Other teams during the league's early years were also represented by exclusive social/sports clubs from the Havana area exhibiting similar values and traits which included discriminatory practices. For example, for half a century blacks were prohibited from joining the clubs and therefore from playing in this league which of course included the Vedato Tennis Club. In the words of the legendary black Cuban baseball star Orestes 'Minnie' Minoso, *"In Cuba . . . they made them private clubs that people could not get into."*

It seemed that being an amateur league it would cater to those athletes who were relatively wealthy or those who were in a position to seek a baseball career as an amateur. But despite its amateur status, teams from this league could easily rival those of the Cuban professional league in terms of quality of play. This social/sports club culture however pretty well ended with the Cuban revolution and with it this Amateur League and its baseball centrepiece, the Vedato Tennis Club Marqueses.



To complement this postcard, two VTC players are presented here on authentic Cuban baseball cards issued in 1943, an era which turned out to be the last chapter of the Amateur League's "golden age."

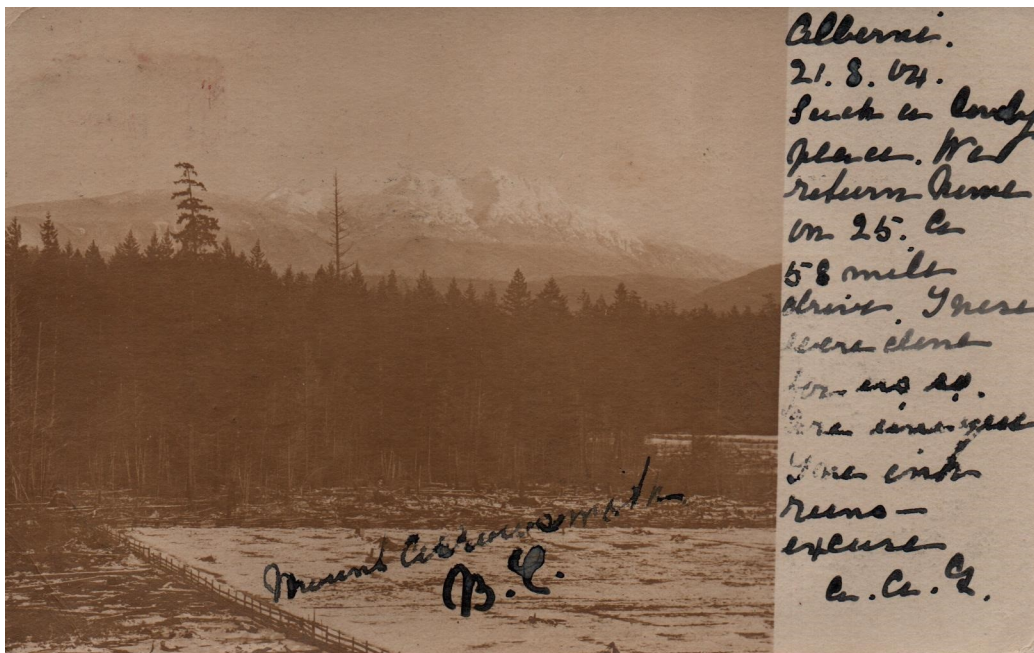
All images for this article courtesy of Fred Hume.

BC REAL PHOTO POSTCARD—EARLIEST KNOWN DATE? by Rein Stamm

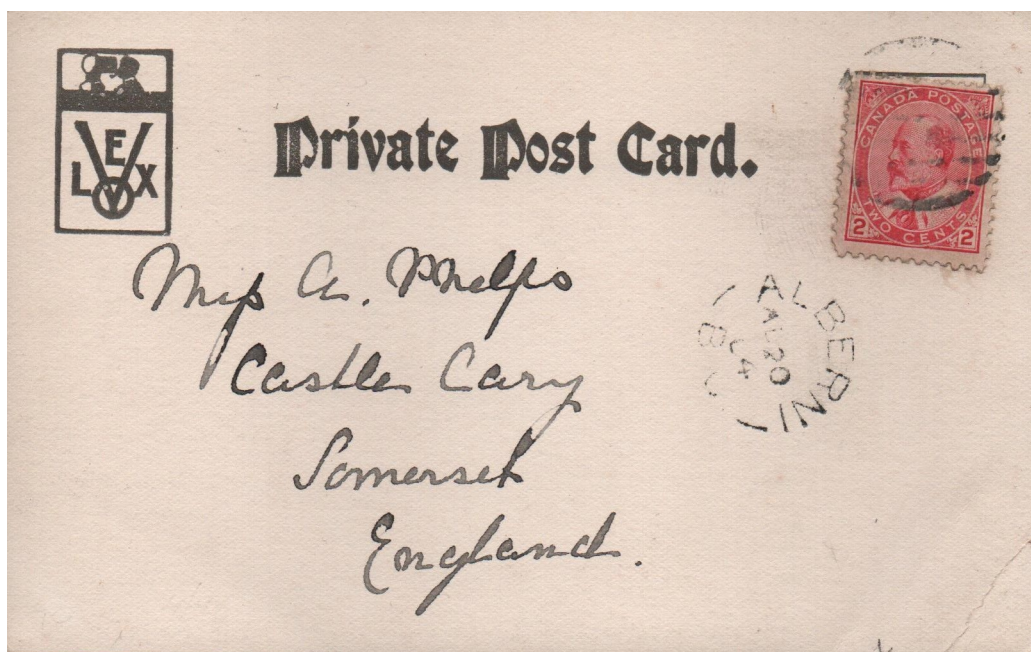
Mr. Andrew Cunningham, the Toronto Postcard Club's (TPC) newsletter editor, has, for a couple of years now, been interested in finding Canada's earliest Real Photo Postcard (RPPC). Thanks to a postcard in his personal collection, the earliest known date (EKD) for such a treasure sits at August 1903.

According to Mr. Cunningham: *"The widespread production of RPPCs in Canada seems to have begun in the spring of 1904 with only a few odd and rare examples having emerged that can be dated prior to that...."*

So, if Canada's earliest known RPPC is dated August 1903, what might the EKD for B.C. be? For now, it looks as if Mr. Drew Waveryn, a VPC member in Victoria, has the answer. Seen here is his postcard of Mount Arrowsmith; this example sets B.C.'s RPPC EKD as August 20, 1904.



If anyone can do better than this date for British Columbia, Canada, please let the VPC know.



Can you read more of the message?

Front of card—

Mt Arrowsmith BC

Alberni

21 8 04

Such a lovely place. We return home on 25th. A 58 mile drive.

These were done for us so are _____. The ink runs. Excuse. A A G

Back of card—

VELOX trademark

Private Post Card

Postmarked *Alberni, Aug 20 1904*

Mailed to *Miss A Phelps, Castle Cary, Somerset, England*

(As transcribed by M. Diane Rogers)

Postcard images courtesy of Rein Stamm; postcard from the collections of Drew Wavelyn.

CROSBY & BISSELL, PUBLISHERS OF VANCOUVER, WORLD WAR I POSTCARDS

by M. Diane Rogers

A recent query to the Club prompted me to see if I could find more out about any postcards published by Crosby and Bissell of Vancouver, BC.

Robert Avery Crosby's granddaughter had noticed his name in Ron Souch's listing of *BC Postcard Publishers* on our Club website. Crosby was a printer and involved with at least two British Columbia companies. His partner at one time was William Gordon Bissell. Bissell later emigrated to the USA.

I found that the City of Vancouver Archives had a collection of 65 of these postcards donated by Cecil Akrigg.

The Archives has allowed me to photograph the postcards and I have made some 'reference copies', You see two here, and I will have them properly photographed soon, and I've made a listing of their titles. All cards have their 'fronts and backs' but they are not all attached. Most of the card images are numbered on the front, but not all. And the numbers are not all in sequence.

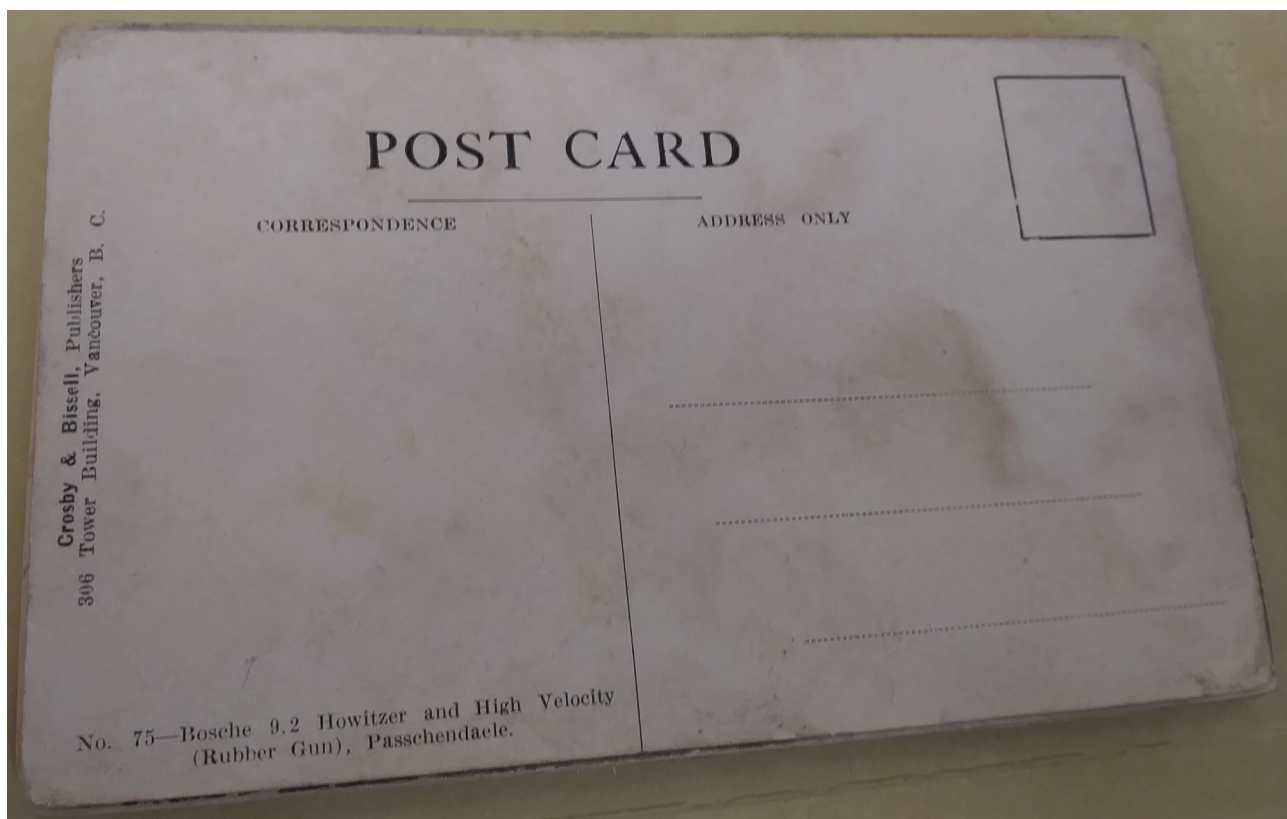
On the cards there is no indication of the photographer.

Please be in touch if you have a Crosby & Bissell postcard. I've done some research and have a 'to do' list. His granddaughter had not known Robert Crosby ever published postcards and she'd like to know more. (As would I too now.)



58 River At Marly.

Crosby & Bissell, Publishers. 306 Tower Building, Vancouver, B.C.



No. 75—Bosche 9.2 Howitzer and High Velocity (Rubber Gun), Passchendaele.

Crosby & Bissell, Publishers. 306 Tower Building, Vancouver, B.C.

All images taken by M. Diane Rogers for reference; courtesy of the City of Vancouver Archives.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 19, 2019 - VANCOUVER POSTCARD CLUB SHOW—
Hastings Community Centre, 10 am—4 pm. Admission by
donation.

May 25, 2019—Vancouver Coins, Stamps & Collectables
Show, Nikkei Centre.

June 1-2, 2019—Greater Seattle Vintage Paper Show, Kent,
Washington State.

June 9, 2019 - VANCOUVER POSTCARD CLUB MEETING—
Speaker TBA

September 8, 2019—VANCOUVER POSTCARD CLUB MEET-
ING—Speaker: M. Diane Rogers on Crosby & Bissell, Post-
card Publishers, of Vancouver.

September 14, 2019—Vancouver Coins, Stamps & Collecta-
bles Show, Nikkei Centre.

October 12-13, 2019—Vancouver Rare Book, Photograph &
Paper Show, Heritage Hall, 3102 Main St., Vancouver
www.vrbppshow.ca

Vancouver Postcard Club meetings are the second Sunday
of the month, except July/Aug, 1-3 pm at the Hastings Com-
munity Centre, Arts & Crafts Room, 3096 E. Hastings, in
Vancouver. Please check our website for updated info.

CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Vancouver Postcard Club needs volunteers as:

Treasurer - to keep the books, report monthly to the Ex-
ecutive and members.

Social Media Assistants - to help promote the Club on
social media—currently the Club is on Twitter and Insta-
gram, soon on Facebook. A long distance member is wel-
come to assist.

To volunteer, e-mail: info@vancouverpostcardclub.ca

ON THE WEB

Yucho Chow Exhibit

May 4 – 30, 2019
Chinese Cultural Centre,
Vancouver.

Learn more and offer your Yucho
Chow photos to be scanned. Ident-
ification tips at the website. [http://
www.yuchochow.ca](http://www.yuchochow.ca)

Yucho Chow ad, *Svenska Pressen*
(Swedish Press), Vancouver, BC, 23 May 1929, page 6.



Old Postcard News

POSTCARD ALARM CLOCK

*"Our postman," says a Philadelphia business man,
"always rings our door bell good and hard when he
leaves any mail. He comes along regularly as clock-
work at 8 a.m., but does not always leave mail for
me, and, consequently, the doorbell does not always
ring. When I want to get up early, I just buy a post-
card in the afternoon and mail it to myself."*

The Leader, Moyie, British Columbia, Canada, 9 March,
1907, page 3.

Postview

Postview is the newsletter of the
Vancouver Postcard Club. Published four
times a year, it is mailed free of
charge to members who wish to
receive a printed copy. Past copies
are posted to the Club Website at
www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca

Please address comments
or questions to the Editor of this issue,
M. Diane Rogers at
diane_rogers@shaw.ca

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