



POSTVIEW

The Newsletter of the
Vancouver Postcard Club

www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca

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What's New?

All postcard related submissions welcome, including articles, events, websites, queries.

Are you receiving our Club e-mail? No? Please let us know you'd like to be added. Email: info@vancouverpostcardclub.ca

We are on Twitter and Instagram as [@vanpostcard](https://twitter.com/vanpostcard) Please follow us (and we will follow you).

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Anyone interested is welcome to attend our

Zoom Video meetings. Invite a friend!

The Vancouver Postcard Club will hold its June online Zoom video chat meeting, Sunday June 14th, 2020 from 11:30 to 1:30 pm PDT, 2:30 to 4:30 EDT. To participate all you need is a computer with a camera.

The session starts with a brief business meeting, followed by a collective Show and Tell. Our theme is *Patriotics*. You are invited to bring a favourite postcard to show or talk about, or a postcard that you have questions about.

RSVP to info@vancouverpostcardclub.ca You will receive a Zoom link to join the meeting.

KG 100 Memento by Fred Hume

Yes, this is actually a postcard . . . a bit over-sized and perhaps unconventional. However, there is a bit of a story associated with this image and the card itself. The image is that of the original King George High School which until 1974 was located, as shown, on Burrard where the Wall Centre now stands. This card, a wonderful idea, was issued in 2014 honoring this high school's 100th Anniversary, a celebration of one of Vancouver 's oldest, history-rich and still operating high schools.

Even though I did not attend King George I was asked by my friend Gary Pennington – a KG grad from the 1950s – to join the 100th anniversary planning committee. This was a committed group of West Enders who whether they went to King George or not were dedicated in honoring this West End institution which had moved to Barclay and Denman in '74. Beginning in 2014 several celebratory events were planned and carried out successfully but there was one contribution made at this time which for me stands out.

Let us for the moment go back to the 1930s when King George, as seen on this card, was experiencing the glory days as far as athletics was concerned and when one of its young students, Art Willoughby, was excelling at rugby and basketball, winning several awards for his athleticism and character. Upon graduation Art entered UBC where he flourished to become a major basketball star on some of UBC's very good late 1930s teams. He teamed with fellow West Ender Jim Bardsley to lead the UBC Thunderbirds to the Canadian Basketball Championship in 1937. Shortly following graduation from UBC Art went on to star on two other Canadian champion basketball teams, the Vancouver Westerns and Vancouver Maple Leafs.

However, as many young people did during these World War II days, he joined the Royal Canadian Force preparing to serve Canada in Europe. Tragically, it was not to be as in June 1942 he lost his life in a training flight accident in Manitoba. Immediately King George High School created the Art Willoughby Memorial Trophy to commemorate its popular, respected and well-known graduate, an annual top athlete award designed to inspire students to "develop the desirable qualities exhibited by Art." This trophy was first awarded by the school in 1943 and continued until 1957 when at that point it was for some unknown reason, discontinued.

With this history in mind, we fast-forward to the anniversary committee of 2014 when committee member Gary Pennington and I share a thought. I had known of Willoughby's UBC accomplishments and Gary had actually won this award back in 1956. After an almost 60 year absence why don't the two of us resurrect this Willoughby Memorial Trophy ? Great Idea ! . . . especially on the occasion of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the school.

We wondered, does the original trophy exist ? Poking and prodding, it could not be found. It was a piece of history unknown to everyone including the current folks at King George but they were willing to go along with our idea.

I then contacted Jason Beck, Curator of the BC Sports Hall of Fame knowing the Hall has a large collection in storage of unidentified and obsolete trophies. Gary and I found one that had no identification or provenance but looked old, not too different from the original we surmised. Our request to have this rather impressive piece of hardware gifted to us was granted by the good folks at the BC Hall of Fame. Our following research provided most names of the original Willoughby trophy recipients from the 1940s and 1950s, two of whom, Gary and Bernie Fahey, are still alive. We had all these names engraved upon what we now deemed the "new" or "resurrected" Art Willoughby Memorial Trophy.

Beginning in 2015 this trophy in all its glory has been brought out under the bright lights of Queen Elizabeth Theatre to be presented to the top male and female athletes of the year at King George High School's graduation ceremonies. We have the honor of presenting it each year and it can be looked upon as a tangible anniversary committee contribution but more importantly for students and faculty a chance to showcase, remember and be inspired by the rich history of one of Vancouver's "iconic" schools seen here in its heyday on this postcard.



**KING GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION,
Oct 2014**

Old Classmates & Friends, Grad Year:

www.westendmemories.org

Images, courtesy of Fred Hume.

Vancouver Postcard Club News

John Cheramy

Here is some news about everyone's favourite retired postcard dealer.

In a recent email his daughter, Vicki, reports that John "has really slowed down over the past several months." She goes on to say, "He's very tired, but still alert enough to throw out humorous quips. I'm so thankful that he's handling his decline with such a good attitude. He recognizes that his processing skills have diminished and is resigned to the fact that it's time to dispose of his collections. He has decided to let his friend Darrell Lecorre sell all his postcards through Ebay (I think his Ebay name is Dee's Postcards). Much of this library and paper ephemera is being handled by David Blake."

Vicki closes her email with "... please say hello to the club members from him and extend his well wishes."

Idea for the Newsletter

To add a classified section "Wanted" "For Sale" "For Trade", for collectors of postcards. It could be one way like-minded collectors connect. Let us know what you think.

Vancouver Postcard Club's Zoom Video Meetings

Our first Zoom video meeting was in April after the closure of Hastings Community Centre due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Thank you to Rein Stamm for co-ordinating the technology for us.

We've had good attendance, and we were happy to see members able to attend from outside the Lower Mainland. The meeting format includes a short business meeting, then short presentations and a members collective Show and Tell.

As announced, at our Club's Spring Executive meeting, the Executive looked at the increases in newsletter printing expenses and decided that in future, those wishing paper copies of the newsletter will need to pay \$20 extra to cover those costs. Club Membership is still \$15.00.

We've seen some exciting new finds, for instance, by Rein Stamm, Neil Whaley and James Gibson. (See one of Rein Stamm's elsewhere in this newsletter.) For May, our theme was Mother's Day and several members showed 'motherly' cards from their collections—quite a variety.

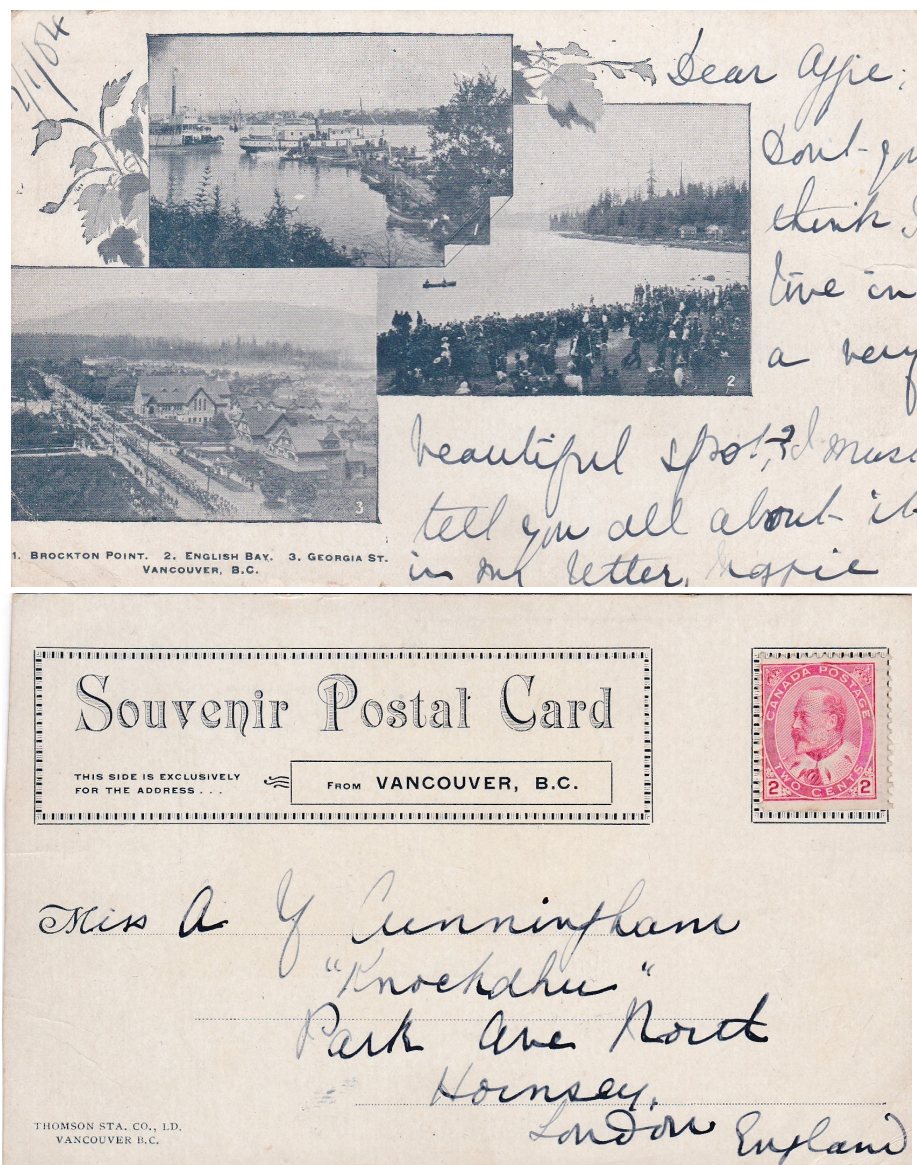
The 'Show & Tells' spark good discussions, so don't miss these meetings. Barb Henderson from Toronto showed some amazing novelty postcards. Since seeing our article on 'Tabula Scalata' postcards in *Postview*, November 2019, page 4, Barb explored these further and has written an article published in the Toronto Postcard Club's newsletter, *CardTalk*, Spring/Summer 2020, page 19-20, "Tabula Scalata" or "Lenticular": A Matter of Perspective" with information about related patents, and showing three more postcard examples, one very modern.

For our upcoming June meeting, the theme is *Patriotics*, so have a card or two to show. You don't need to create a slide show. You can show scans or just hold your postcards up to the camera for people to see.

Earliest Known Picture Postcards, Thomson Stationery Co. Vancouver, B.C. by Rein Stamm

Back in 2004, Ron Souch, the Vancouver Post Card Club's compiler extraordinaire, completed his listing of Thomson Stationery Co. picture postcards. At the time Ron wrote: "The earliest cancellation noted to date is on a Vancouver card dated January 22, 1905..."

Now, sixteen years later, we are pleased to report that the earliest known Thomson Stationery card carries a July 1, 1904 date. As always with such earliest-known-dates, the Vancouver Postcard Club would like to be proven wrong.



Images, courtesy Rein Stamm.

“Silks” Embroidered WWI Postcards by M. Diane Rogers



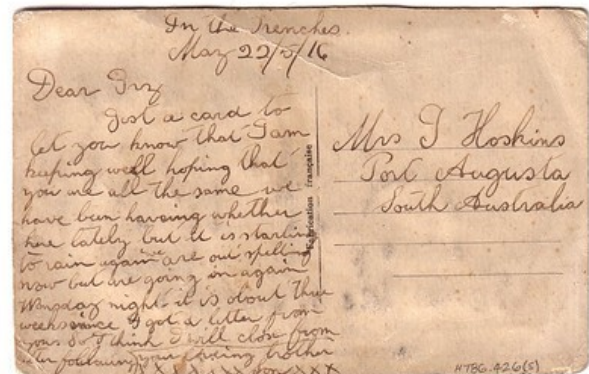
These colourful and delicate cards, usually known as “silks”, often can be clearly dated to World War I either by theme or messages. One example was recently discussed during a Club meeting. Themes were mainly patriotism, or home and family; a few are more romantic, perhaps “A Kiss from France”. Later in the war, regimental badges appeared on postcards. The quality of design and embroidery work may vary.

Embroidered cards may have started as cottage industry, but soon became factory or piece work. According to John Laffin, author of *World War I in Post-Cards* (Alan Sutton Publishing, 1988, page 100), one French woman remembered each card as 4-8 hours embroidery work.

She sold direct to soldiers, but many cards were machine embroidered or done at home, then sent back to a postcard producer for assembly, distribution and sale. Designs were embroidered on rolls of silk netting (sometimes a silk/cotton mixture or fine cotton). The rolls were then cut, and embroidered pieces or pockets glued with a thicker frame to a postcard back. Patterns might be individual. Even in factories with their

own unique patterns, there could be room for creativity in the embroidery. (See Ian Collins website, note below.)

Some postcards have ‘hidden’ pockets to hold a handkerchief, perhaps a small token, or a message card, like the example above sent to Miss Gwen Nevin, Strathalbyn, South Australia from Harold (unknown). Images courtesy Jenny Scott, (CC BY-NC 2.0 license), Flickr: https://www.flickr.com/photos/adelaide_archivist/



Above is a *Greetings From the trenches* postcard. Message: “*In the Trenches May 22/5/16*” Addressed to Mrs I Hoskins, Port Augusta, South Australia; sent by her brother. “French manufacture”. Images courtesy of migrationmuseum, Postcard HT 86.426, Migration Museum & History Trust of South Australia, Adelaide. Flickr: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/migrationmuseum/> Ian Collins on his website mentions an example of a “rare Canadian Battalion postcard” made to a soldier’s design. I wonder if this “Greetings” postcard might be a ‘bespoke’ design, given the soldier was likely an Australian and his writing about the weather turning to rain. (I believe this was Wilfred Royal Speck, writing to his sister, Ivy Maud Hoskins.) Has anyone seen a similar postcard?

Few of these embroidered postcards would have been put in the mail, unless in an envelope. John Laffin said he’d never come across one sent openly and “franked”. (Laffin, 1988, page 99.)

Ian Collins, the ‘Embroidered Silk Postcard expert’ has more details about machine embroidery with photographs on his website in his ‘Recent Research’ section. His book, *An Illustrated History of the Embroidered Silk Postcard* (Gabrian Antiques, 2001) did not include this information. Ian Collins, Embroidered Silk Postcards: <https://sites.google.com/site/embroideredsilks/postcards/home>

Digging For Black Gold in Alberta by Keith Spencer

Alberta Coal Branch

The Coal Branch lies along the eastern slopes of the Rockies, just east of Jasper National Park. A rail line was built between 1911 and 1912 by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway to gain access to high quality steam coal.

A series of coal mining, railroad and logging towns developed quickly along the 57 mile route. Famous names such as Coalspur, Diss, Sterco and others. A western branch was built in 1913 and ran 37 miles to Mountain Park, giving birth to towns such as Mercoal and others. The towns thrived until markets for steam coal diminished with the arrival of Diesel locomotives. By the 1950's, populations had declined and the mines became ghost towns. Much of the rich history of the area was captured in post cards.

Much of that history involved the trains themselves. Traffic was frequent but the rail lines weren't the best. Here's a view of the August 09, 1925 wreck on the Mountain Park Branch where the train and its crew got an unexpected bath.

I have an exhibit of Coal Branch (mining towns east of Jasper) post card views, etc. and am looking for more Post Card Views, Postal Markings, Covers, Memorabilia and Odds and Ends from these towns:

Fergie, Oliphant, Brookdale Mine, Weald, Kaydee, Greg River.

Keith R. Spencer, 96 Rehwinkel Rd. N.W., Edmonton T6R 1Z8

780-437-1787

keithrspencer41@gmail.com



Postcard Image, courtesy Keith Spencer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the Covid -19 pandemic, most in person events, including our meetings, have been cancelled or postponed till further notice.

Please watch our website for news.

June 14, 2020—VANCOUVER POSTCARD CLUB MEETING—ONLINE. E-mail: info@vancouverpostcardclub.ca for the link.

Vancouver Postcard Club meetings - second Sunday of the month, except July/Aug.

Please check our website for updated info.

OLD POSTCARD NEWS

Word was received on Monday from Hill Innis, who at the time of writing was at Halifax ready to embark for Europe at any moment. Hill says he will mail the next postcard from Berlin.

The Hedley Gazette, Thursday, 13 May 1915, page 3. I don't know if he sent a postcard from Berlin, but he sent a lovely letter to his mother from London, along with a Halifax newspaper, it seems. See the *Gazette*, Thursday 2 September 1915, page 1. UBC Historical Newspapers: <https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/bcnewspapers>

"Hill" was **John Hylard Innis**, born in Ontario; died 1946 in Hedley, BC. Awarded Military Medal, 1919.

CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Vancouver Postcard Club needs volunteers as:

Newsletter Contributors - articles, ideas, images, queries welcomed.

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

Social Media Assistants - to help promote the Club on social media—currently the Club is on Twitter and Instagram, soon on Facebook. Long distance members welcome to assist.

SEEN ON THE WEB

Postcard Memories From World War II: Finding Lost Keepsakes 70 Years Later

by John F. Schlatter

United States Army veteran John F. Schlatter started to collect WW II postcards in 2003 "*mostly on a whim*".

Some years later, he "*set out to find the soldiers, their families, and their stories*" and he started to track down senders' family members to reunite them with the cards.

He's written a book about his "*postcard people*" and his experiences.

Read a little more on The American Legion website: <https://www.legion.org/yourwords/books/212867/postcard-memories-world-war-ii-finding-lost-keepsakes-70-years-later>

Or buy his book which includes images of the postcards (and a few letters).

I have the Kindle version; very reasonably priced. Published in 2012; available on Amazon.ca in Kindle or paperback. The Editor.

Postview

Postview is the newsletter of the Vancouver Postcard Club. Published four times a year, it is e-mailed free of charge to members. Paper copies available. 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.