



POSTVIEW

The Newsletter of the
Vancouver Postcard Club

www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca

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NEWS FROM THE VANCOUVER POSTCARD CLUB!

The Vancouver Postcard Club
is on Twitter and Instagram as

@vanpostcard

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 and sharing postcard related info on social media.

Welcome Postview readers!

This is our first newsletter for 2024. Enjoy!

A very special thank you to those who sent in articles and suggestions for this newsletter.

If you have postcard news, views or would like to submit an article for our next newsletter, please do contact us.

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Our Club Meetings in Vancouver

We are now meeting in person at the Roundhouse Community Centre Board Room in Vancouver, first Sunday of the month, continuing through summer, starting at 1:30 pm—181 Roundhouse Mews at the corner of Pacific Ave. and Davie Street.

Keep an eye on our Club website:

<http://vancouverpostcardclub.ca/>

Club Meetings and News

OUR LATEST SHOW—A SUCCESS

In November 2023, we were excitedly organizing

“THE SMALLEST POSTCARD SHOW & SALE EVER!”

Sunday, November 12th, It was a bit cold outside, but not inside as all day, we discussed, viewed, swapped, traded and bought postcards.

Thanks to all those who helped and those who participated and visited, especially to

Main Street Antiques

for allowing us to use their space for the day and also for our February club meeting —

Instagram: [main.street.antiques](https://www.instagram.com/main.street.antiques)

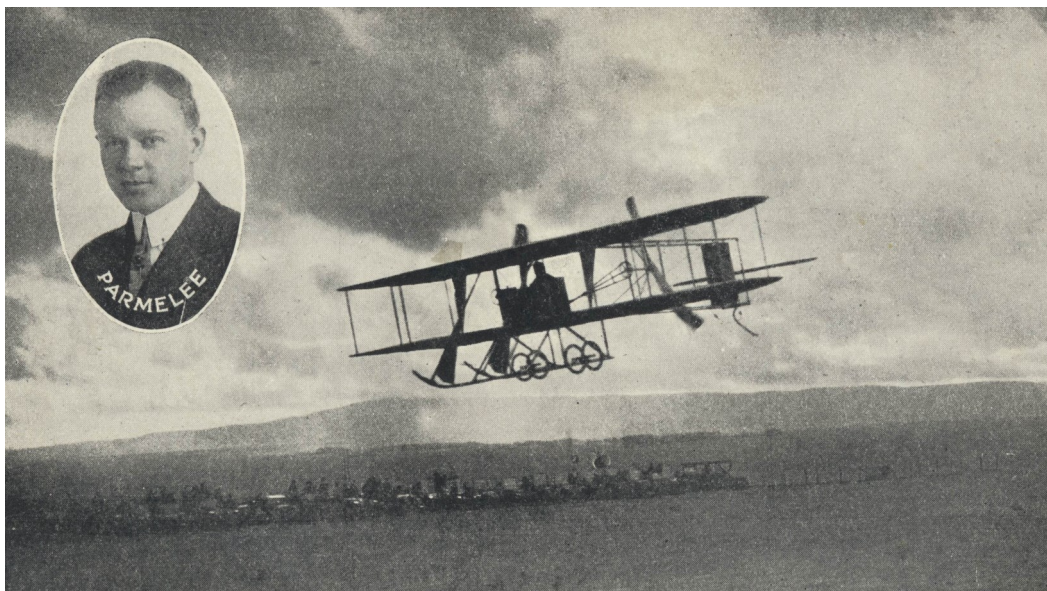
OUR NEW MEETING SPACE!

Our monthly meetings are now at the **Roundhouse Community Centre** in Vancouver in the Board Room -181 Roundhouse Mews (at the corner of Pacific Ave. and Davie Street), year round first Sunday *every month*, beginning at 1:30.

Next Meetings:

June 2nd, July 7th and August 4th, 2024.

CANADA’S FIRST PLANE PARACHUTE JUMP, VANCOUVER, 1912, BY WALTER BURTON



The first parachute jump from a plane in Canada, and the fifth in the world, occurred at Hastings Park in Vancouver on Friday, May 24, 1912. In the city were two aviators, Philip Parmalee and Clifford Turpin. They had flown for over one year as exhibition pilots for the Wright Brothers before turning freelance at the end of 1911. Philip Parmalee was the holder of many early aviation records, including the first to drop a bomb from an airplane, and as the pilot involved in the world's first parachute jump. For the two-day show, the aviators brought a 1912 Wright model biplane. Parmalee's regular parachutist, Grant Morton, was performing under the name of Professor Charles Saunders, reported in the newspapers as a late substitute from New Westminster. In those days a parachute harness had not yet been invented. The parachute was packed into a metal drum attached to the biplane. The jumper hung onto a trapeze bar!

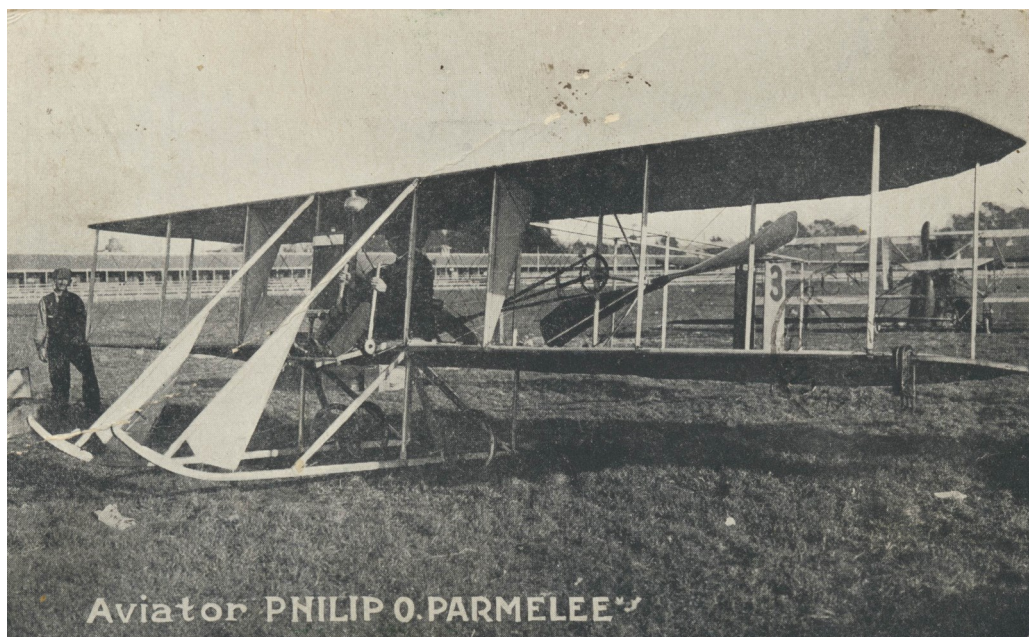
Dressed in bright red tights and wearing a leather helmet, Saunders climbed aboard the biplane ahead of the pilot, Philip Parmalee. With the added weight of a passenger, the plane barely cleared the top of a nearby tree. It circled over Burrard Inlet, as the water was the only place to make an emergency landing. After descending to a height of less than 1,000 feet (accounts vary), Saunders jumped. To the relief of the crowd of six thousand, the parachute opened above him. He landed on the drying mud flats of the north shore, and hundreds of picnickers soon surrounded him. In half an

hour, he arrived at Hastings Park to a great ovation, trailed by a proud retinue of boys carrying the rolled-up parachute. On the next day, after some exhibition flights, Saunders made a perfect bull's-eye landing in the middle of Hastings infield.

The pair of postcards depicted were sold in Vancouver. One of the cards has a message written by a spectator who described the first parachute jump. It reads, "*We all went to the aviation meet yesterday, the 24th. There were five or six flights & it just looked grand to sail up so gradually. Once he took another man up with him who fell with parashoot from 3000 feet. They certainly are great rigs. L.*"

To underscore the dangers experienced by the early flyers, five days after the Vancouver exhibition, Clifford Turpin crashed into a grandstand in Seattle, killing one person and injuring twenty-one others. He never flew again. Also tragically, two days after that event, Phillip Parmalee was killed when his plane went out of control and crashed into an apple orchard in the Moxee Valley, North Yakima, Washington.

Note: the postcards were originally collected by Ron Souch. Sources: (1) *Vancouver World* newspaper, May 25, 1912. (2) Frank Ellis, "*Pioneer Flying in British Columbia, 1910-1914*". *B.C. Historical Quarterly*, October 1939. (3) Frank Ellis, *Canada's Flying Heritage*. Toronto, 1954. (4) Paul Glenshaw. "*From Here to Obscurity*". *Smithsonian Air & Space* magazine, February/March 2016.



B. C. Postcard Publishers

EARLY B.C. POSTCARDS BY THE MAJOR PUBLISHERS

A SERIES OF ARTICLES BY RON SOUCH

This issue contains the first of a series of short articles about major publishers of B.C. postcards and the cards they published. The articles were derived from introductions in postcard listings prepared over the last 15 years. The coming articles will each cover one publisher, and contain estimates of their B.C. postcard production, along with notes about their time period, their various printings, and the parts of the province that were covered. After listing the cards in each collection, it was noted that the majority of the numbered series were substantially complete. This is the main basis for the estimates on the numbers of cards that were originally published. Many of the cards viewed over the years have different homes now, but a scan of a couple will be included with each article.

Thanks to the encouragement of Dr. Richard Moulton and the loan of many of his largest and most extensive B.C. postcard collections, Ron was started on a hobby of making postcard listings 15 years ago, and he is still working at it. Since that time, he has had the pleasure of viewing other major B.C. postcard collections including some that were put together by the late Abe Charkow and Chris McGregor, and current collections by Philip Francis and John Keenlyside. In addition, he has received input from other collectors by mail and email. The contributions of Bill Buchanan of Toronto, Ken Ellison of Vernon, and Jack McCuaig of Edmonton became a substantial parts of some of the listings. The assistance of the late Albert Tanner was also a major contribution to the making of the listings. Over the years from time to time, it was a big help being able to view the large postcard stocks of the Cheramy's and several other dealers.

THE POSTCARDS OF THE CAMERA PRODUCTS COMPANY OF VANCOUVER

A Brief Summary by Ron Souch

The Camera Products Co. was a sole proprietorship formed by J. Fred Spalding in 1930. Fred Spalding had been a well established photographer in Fernie for about 20 years from 1905 to 1925 when he came to Vancouver. His biography is included in the Biographies of B.C. Postcard Photographers published by the Postcard Club in 2006. This article will summarize cards published under the

Camera Products name.

There are sixty-eight different numbered and titled series of cards of Western Canada identified to date, and many un-numbered ones; some of which could be considered to be a series such as a twelve card set of MacKenzie River Transport. The un-numbered cards include a very small number east of Manitoba, including Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Almost all of the cards in the various series are colour tinted photographs. For some reason there are just a few that did not get coloured. However, amongst the un-numbered cards there are many uncoloured real photos. Most of these, and perhaps all of them, appear to have been issued shortly before Spalding started the numbered series. In total there are close to 3000 different images depicted on the cards of the Camera Products company. Almost half are views of British Columbia. The cards provide a very good pictorial record of Western Canada in the nineteen thirties and forties. The company's postcard production ended early in the nineteen fifties. Almost all of the photographs appear to have been taken just before the card was published; however a few of the series include views from an earlier time.

A very large number of the cards contain the notice of copyright by J. Fred Spalding. Here is an alphabetical listing of other identified photographers including companies: Allen, J.H.; Brown, R.H.; Canadian Airways Ltd.; Canadian National Railways; Clegg Studio; Cowie, J.T.; C.P.R.; Great Northern Rly. Co.; Higgs, H.; Hughes Studio; Jackman, F.A.; McDougall, J.C.; R.C.A.F.; Ribelin Studio; Robertson, J.; Russell, V.C.; Stock's Studio; Schwarze Photo; Taylor, G.M.; Wood, C.S.; and Wrathall's Studio.

The twenty largest series with the number of cards known in each are as follows: Vancouver 237; Rockies 226; Jasper 123; Victoria 108; ; Kelowna 87; Penticton 83; Winnipeg 80; Kamloops 76; Cranbrook 70; Edmonton 69; Courtenay 68; Vancouver Island 68; Waterton 68; Nanaimo 62; B.C. Coast 60; Saskatoon 56; Nelson 55; Regina 51; Cariboo Highway 50; Stocks 47.

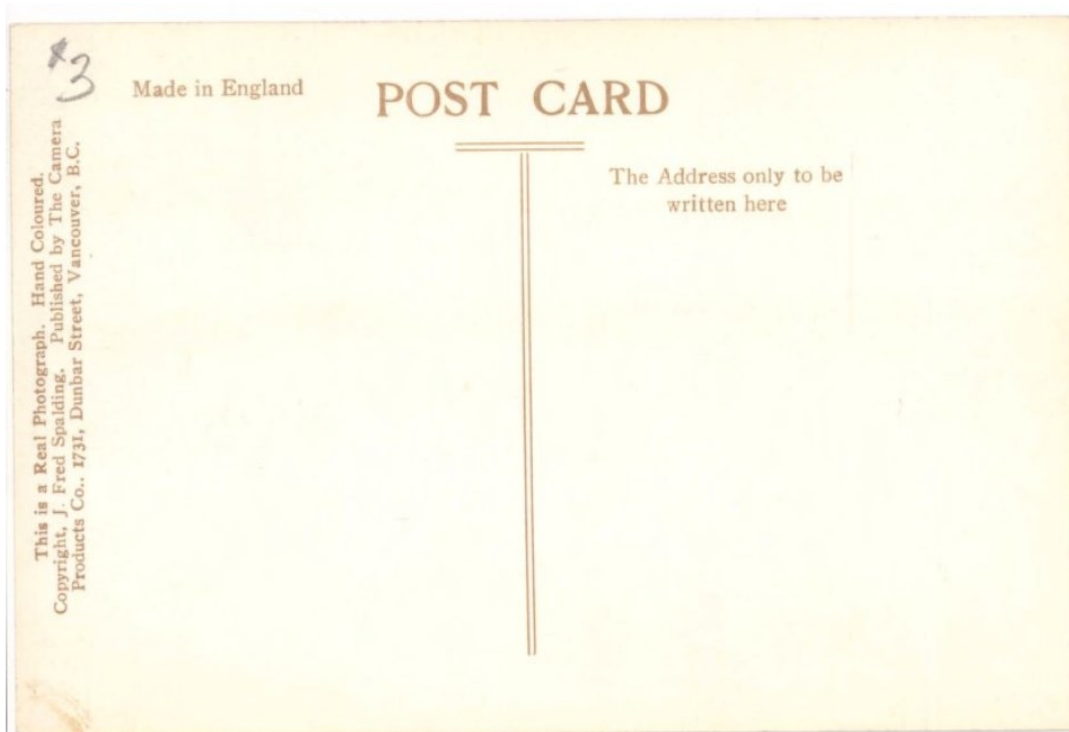
The Camera Products cards mostly sell in the range of \$5.00 to \$20.00, but there are also many better and scarcer ones that will sell for considerably more.



Front— *“The Thompson River, Kamloops, B.C. looking west from Riverside Park, Kamloops Series No. 65”*

Back —*“This is a real photograph. Hand coloured. Copyright J. Fred Spalding. Published by the Camera Products Co., 1731, Dunbar Street, Vancouver, B.C.”*

Philip Francis Postcard Collection, Simon Fraser University Collections, MSC130-07704. <https://digital.lib.sfu.ca/pfp-17979/thompson-river-kamloops-bc-looking-west-riverside-park>



Vancouver Postcard Club Members' Interests

Collector looking for postcards showing BC hockey arenas in Penticton, Kamloops, Nelson and Victoria. Images preferably from the 1950s, 60s or 70s. Contact the Vancouver Postcard Club.

Examples include these two cards:



Above: Circa 1960 Cominco Arena, 1950s and 60s home of the Trail Smoke Eaters who represented Canada internationally.



Above: Circa early 1950s Kelowna's Memorial Arena, 1950s home of the Kelowna Packers, also represented Canada internationally.

TIMM'S POSTCARD STORE INTERIOR - POSTCARD

"Timm's Cards, Vancouver, BC."



Philip Francis Postcard Collection , Simon Fraser University Collections, Timms Postcard Store Interior, MSC130-18221. <https://digital.lib.sfu.ca/pfp-24348/timms-postcard-store-interior>



Events, Postcards on the Web, Queries and Activities

EVENTS COMING UP

June 1, Saturday: Vancouver Coins, Stamps & Collectables Fair, Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre located at 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby.

Next 2024 Shows, **Sat., Sept. 21 & Sat., Nov. 23, 2024**. For more information, see the North Shore Numismatic Society website: <https://northshorennumismaticssociety.org/vancouver-coin-show/>

POSTCARDS ON THE WEB

ROYALTY is often mentioned by postcard collectors. The *Postcard History* website featured an article by George “Burt” Martin celebrating “Elizabeth II – Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor – 21 April 1926 – 8 September 2022”, Published on 11 September, 2022. :<https://postcardhistory.net/2022/09/elizabeth-ii-elizabeth-alexandra-mary-windsor-21-april-1926-8-september-2022>

CANADA-USA—Another interesting article on *Postcard History* is “On the Line: The Canada-U.S. Boundary in Postcards”. Written by Andrew Cunningham, published 28 June 2021.

None shown are specifically southern BC though. Do you know of one? : <https://postcardhistory.net/2021/01/on-the-line-the-canada>

BURNABY SOUTH - POSTCARDS?

The Community-Centred College for the Retired is looking for images of South Burnaby area postcards or photograph images for a future display.

The College is in the oldest school building in Burnaby, now the Alan Emmott Centre. Contact Diane Rogers at: diane_rogers@shaw.ca

If you have school days memories of the Centre, please share those with us too.

EXHIBITS

Club member Jim Gibson’s exhibit on E. Pauline Johnson at Roedde House in Vancouver is on this month.

And postcards from the Museum’s 2021 “*Wish You Were Here*” exhibit are still online: <https://www.roeddehouse.org/>

His art exhibit on Ben Lim and Norman Takeuchi opens in May at the Old Hastings Mill Store Museum, also in Vancouver: <https://hastingsmillmuseum.ca>

Postview

Postview is the newsletter of the Vancouver Postcard Club. Usually published four times a year in February, May, September and December.

Past copies are posted to the Club Website at www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca

Please address comments or questions to the Editor, 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.