

POSTVIEW

The Newsletter of the Vancouver Postcard Club

Oldest Known European Produced BC Postcard

Here is an interesting postcard that some lucky bidder won during the October 12, 2024 auction run by All Nation Stamp & Coin.

Unless someone has something older, for now, this is the oldest known European produced BC postcard.

It is postmarked Victoria BC, September 29, 1899.

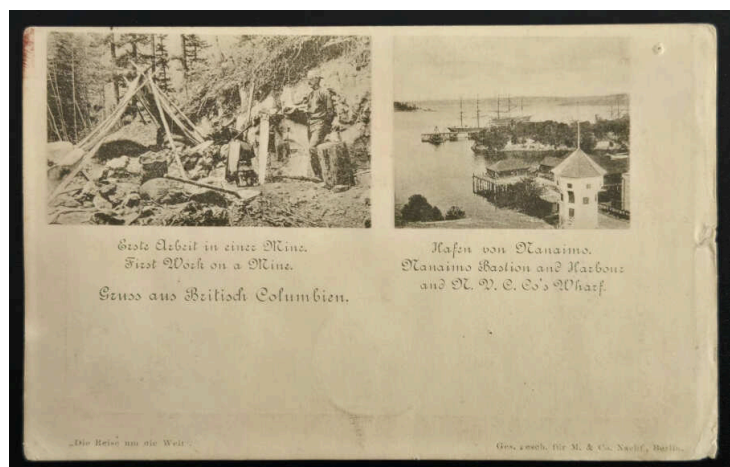
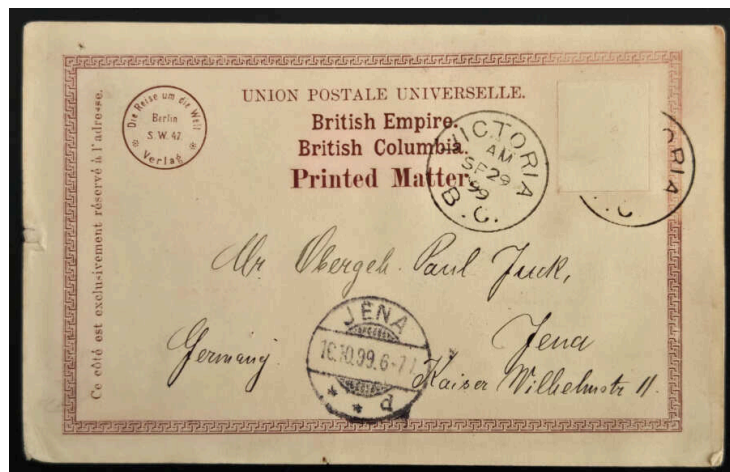
As many of you know there are a few older BC-produced postcards. The four known examples, mailed between June 12, 1899 and July 23, 1899, can be seen on the VPC website at:

https://vancouverpostcardclub.ca/?page_id=1464

The Nanaimo postcard shown here is by Maether & Company of Berlin. Information about this publisher – and this international series of postcards - can be found here:

<https://photocartoutremer.com/lithographies/m-co-nachf-berlin/>

For more information about the All Nations auction, visit: <https://allnationsstampandcoin.com/>



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A Reminder...

On December 1 2024, the Club will hold its annual Christmas Greet, Meet, and Cake Eat.

Members are asked to bring along family and friends. We'll meet in the Roundhouse Multimedia Room, 1:10PM to 1:40PM to buy/sell/trade postcards. Tea, coffee and cake will be ready at 1:40PM.

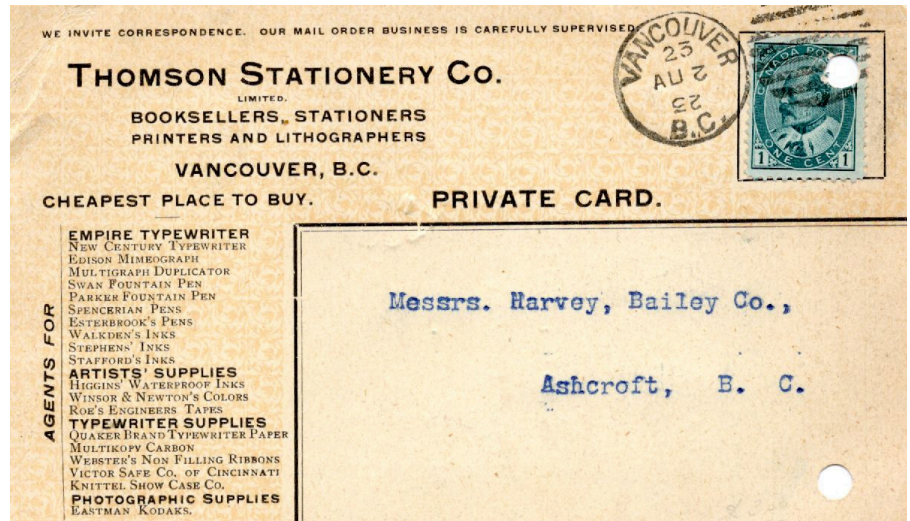
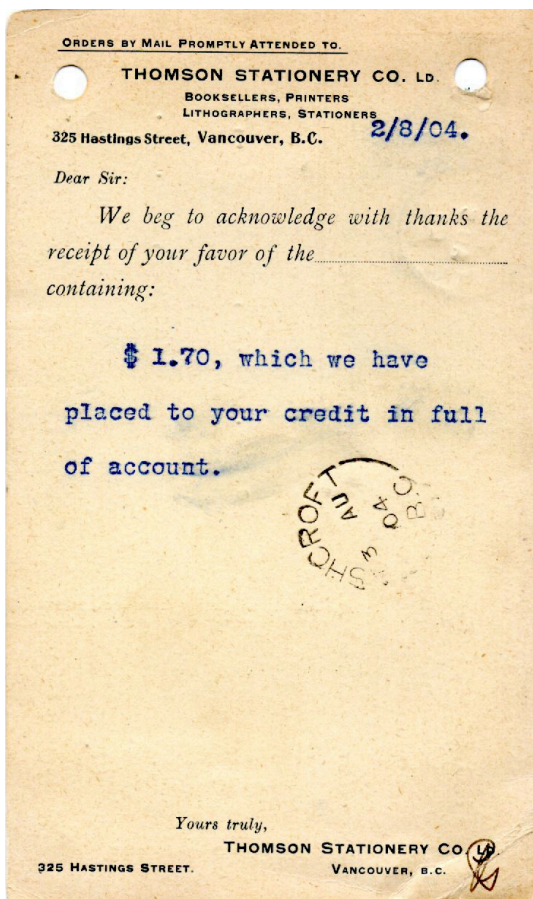
Thomson Stationery Co.

BY REIN STAMM

Most members are familiar with the picture postcards of Thomson Stationery Co. Here is something different – an informative 1904 private card of theirs, promoting the various lines they represent.

This mailing card is addressed to Messrs. [sic] Harvey, Bailey Co., a general merchandise company & forwarding agent in Ashcroft, B.C.

The card likely survived because its Vancouver cancel is a philatelic curiosity. It has the AU (August) Day Number as an inverted “2”. The “23” Time Marker is doubled, with one inverted. The Year Indice - 04 - is missing. ✂



Upcoming Shows

Coins, Stamps, and Collectables Show
 Nikkei Place,
 6688 Southoaks Crescent. Burnaby BC
 Saturday, November 22
 9:30am-3:30pm

The First Passenger Train in Penticton

BY JIM BURTON

This is one of my favourite postcards from my collection, just because I think it's an interesting image [see below]. The postcard depicts the arrival of the first passenger train in Penticton on the Kettle Valley Railway, May 31, 1915. The photographer was Wilber Wilton Handford. I bought it in an eBay auction in 2016, two years after I started collecting postcards. Since then, I have been on the lookout for more Canadian real photo panorama postcards and have managed to acquire seven more.

Most of them are by the Alberta hunting and fishing guide Bert Rigall (who I hope to write about in the future). Wilber Wilton Handford was born in Devon, Ontario, on January 13, 1880. He likely learned photography from his older brother Samuel Augustus Lewis Handford (1872-1949).

The 1901 census says Wilber Handford was a photographer apprentice in Exeter, Ontario. He practised in Lethbridge, Alberta, from 1906 to 1908, and by December 1908, he had entered into a partnership with photographer Floyd Askey as Handford and Askey. He relocated to Penticton, British Columbia, in 1910, opening a studio by the end of the year. On April 16, 1914, he married Margaret May Clarke in Penticton, and they had two sons and

one daughter. In 1919 or soon after, he moved to Renfrew, Ontario, where he worked with his brother Samuel as the Handford Bros. Studio. He transferred to Arnprior in 1921, and the brothers jointly managed a branch studio there until 1923. Wilber Handford continued with photography in Arnprior until his death on March 24, 1942. ✂

Sources: Census of Canada, 1881, 1901, and 1921; David Mattison, *Camera Workers, 1858-1950*; *The Lethbridge Herald*, 21 Jun 1906, p. 8; 11 Dec 1908, p. 6.; Floyd Askey, in *Soldiers of the South African War, Land Grant Applications, Library and Archives Canada*; *The Hosmer Times*, 5 Dec 1910, p. 1; British Columbia marriage reg. no. 1914-09-156823; *The Kingston Whig Standard*, 18 Aug 1919, p. 8; *The Ottawa Citizen*, 20 Sep 1920, p. 1; 5 Mar 1942, p. 31; *Inside the Vault: The Handford Studio Collection, Arnprior & McNab/Braeside Archives*, website. Note: Variant first name spellings are Wilbert, Wilbur, and Willier.



The above postcard (from the R. Souch collection) is likely not by Mr. Handford. It is by an anonymous photographer and would have been taken around the same time as the below panorama.



Our October 2024 Presentation

Jim Bradbury heads the King George High School Archives. During our September meeting, Jim was kind enough to present, through a series of photographs and postcards, the history of schools in early Vancouver, particularly schools in Vancouver's West End.

His talk started in the 1870s with the Hastings Mill School, and moved through the Great Fire of 1886 to the West School, built in 1888, in the remote Burrard & Barclay area. Around this time, the East School was built in Strathcona. A couple of years later, in 1890, the Central School was built near present day Victory Square. Next to the Central School, Vancouver High School was built. Then in 1892, a new West School was built at the corner of Burrard & Nelson. A wing was added and the school became known as Dawson School.

The next important date in Jim's talk is 1914 when the King Edward High School moved to a new site at 12th & Oak . As a result of this move, "West End" students were required to travel on the streetcars to the Fairview site. In 1914, the "West End" was to have its own high school when Dawson Elementary School moved into a new building adjacent to their old one and the old building became King George High School. The new school excelled at rugby and track teams at Brockton Oval, and would produce 12 consecutive provincial ice hockey championships. In 1964, King George relocated to its present location at Denman & Barclay.

Jim's presentation closed with mention of some of King George's more famous students. One being Agnes Martin (1912–2004), a famous "American" abstract artist. Ms. Martin grew up in the West End and was a well-known athlete before moving to the U.S. in 1931. Another was Elsie MacGill OC (1905–1980). This former King George student is the world's first female aeronautical engineer and she played a crucial role in developing the Hurricane aeroplane during WWII. ✂

VPC Comment: Thank you very much Jim for sharing your photographs, postcards, and knowledge.



In the background to the left is Central School on the site of present day Vancouver Community College; the first Vancouver Court House is in the foreground on the site of present day Victory Square.



Front left is Vancouver High School with the Central school at the front right.



While this is a postcard of King George High School, we must note the building was originally built for West School in 1892 and soon after the name was changed to Dawson school. In 1914, it became King George.

Our November 2024 Presentation

BY SARA HEPPER

On Nov. 3rd, I had the pleasure of attending a Vancouver Postcard Club meeting and was able to present some cards from my varied collection. Having worked in the vintage clothing industry for a decade and with that as my main focus for collecting, I am always on the lookout for postcards reflecting vintage and antique fashions. I have also enjoyed collecting cards showcasing local tourist spots as well as those in Banff or Victoria; two places I enjoy visiting. The bulk of my collection consists of cards that are humorous or odd, with most dating from the Edwardian period to the 1920s. As a horror movie enthusiast with a love of both Halloween and Valentine's Day, I've collected cards that reflect both areas separately (including cards referencing ghosts or more macabre subjects, often in humour) and also cards that combine the two, such as Valentines or romantic-themed cards with spiderweb imagery.

Most prized in my collection are my postcards with human hair styled on the woman pictured. These cards date from the 1900s-1920s and spring from the tradition of hairwork which became very popular in the Victorian period and consisted of jewelry and framed scenes intricately woven and styled using human hair. It was an accessible art form for many women as hair would be collected daily in dishes called hair receivers, and then repurposed into pieces of art or practical objects such as stuffing for pin cushions, because the oil in hair kept pins from rusting, and stuffing for small cushions, as human hair was softer than feathers. A local example of hair art can be seen at the Old Hastings Mill Store Museum which displays a framed woven hair wreath with the word "souvenir", all made from human hair from one family, as was often the case for wreaths such as this. Postcards like those in my collection capitalized on the fad for hairwork and showcase photographs or paintings of women with real hair styled in waves with small ribbons or other little adornments as decoration. I have yet to find these types of postcards locally, but have found them easily on Etsy and eBay. ✂

VPC comment: Sara, this synopsis is greatly appreciated and thank you again for the wonderful talk.



So Fantastic, So Elusive, So Forgotten

BY FRED HUME

The Denman Arena, a Vancouver “iconic” structure, pioneer in fact, is a piece of history few people know about today. Located at the corner of Georgia and Denman, this unprecedented venue was conceived of and constructed in 1911 by the Patrick Family of hockey and lumber fame to become the largest artificial ice arena in Canada and second largest in North America to only New York’s Madison Square Garden. The Denman Arena remained Canada’s largest for fifteen more years until the construction of the Montreal Forum, all of which likely seems amazing to people today.

“The Arena” in Vancouver’s West End seated 10,500 and was a sport and entertainment giant literally and figuratively. Built by the imaginative and daring Patricks to promote in a new market, hockey and their newly created league, it was the home to the Vancouver Millionaires 1915 Stanley Cup champions along with Lacrosse, boxing, curling, basketball, bike racing, winter carnivals, political rallies and even cultural performances from those such as Casals and Heifitz. The Patricks had pulled it off!

It’s hard to picture this large looming structure in what today is a serene space of grass and trees at the entrance to Stanley Park, yet for Vancouverites of one hundred plus years ago, it was the city’s place to be for both the spectator and participant. For spectators, its varied events, including the beloved Millionaires, would exceed those today of Rogers Arena and BC Place Stadium combined. Moreover, it would be another two decades (1931) before Vancouver built its second arena –the PNE Forum capacity 5008—less than half the size of Denman Arena. For participants, young people had found in the Denman Arena a place with artificial ice and had learned to skate. What resulted, for example, was a group of West End King George high school girls forming and playing for the Vancouver Amazons, a women’s hockey team who during the 1920s dominated local competition and who were recently recognized with induction into the BC Sports Hall of Fame. The ice and skating

opportunity at Denman was also a factor in the King George Boy’s hockey team winning 12 consecutive high school hockey championships, K.G. students winning BC skating race championships and the spawning of the Ex-King George Jr. hockey team, who on two occasions in the early 1930s competed for the Memorial Cup—a pioneering run for a team from Vancouver.

Such a “force” on the Vancouver scene until its untimely death—August 20, 1936, when “a great piece of Vancouver’s sports history was reduced to smoking ashes” wrote Denny Boyd. “Flames of unknown origin soon turned the arena and adjoining buildings into a raging holocaust that threatened to engulf the entire West End”. Ashes was all that was left (with little memorabilia) of this scene of championships, celebrities and local stars, the introduction of hockey innovations and its evolution and of course the art of skating.

Which leads us to postcards. Despite its significance and visibility on the city skyline, there are photographs but alas, no postcards of the Arena itself. Perhaps because it wasn’t exactly the most attractive building but still... I have been looking for that elusive Denman Arena card for quite some time but am resigned to the fact it probably doesn’t exist. Except...this aerial view of Coal Harbour and the Park entrance showing a portion of the Arena on the right side of the card. This early 1930s shot exposes only about a quarter of the building and yet in that corner of this frame, it still appears prominent within an industrious and engaged Coal Harbour.... The best I have of Denman. When its story is told, it seems almost too fantastic; ahead of its time, its size, Stanley Cup?... Heifitz? ✂



Body Building in 1913

Vancouver

BY NEIL WHALEY

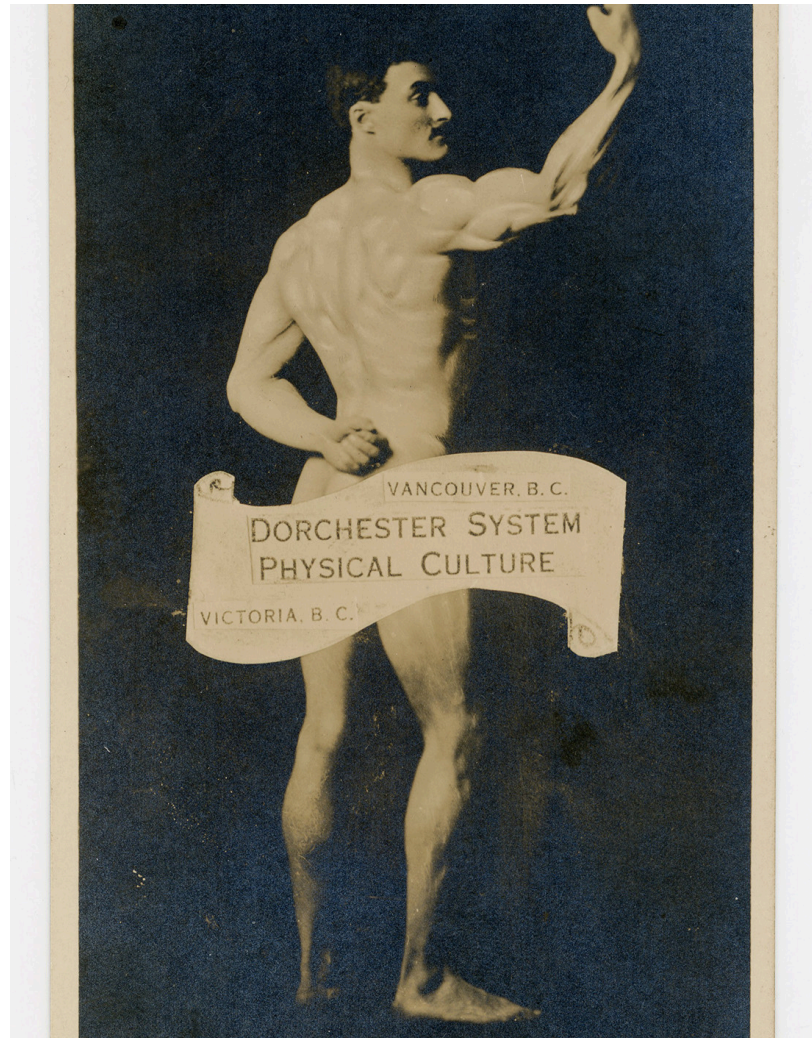
This is a real photo postcard from 1913, the only year that the Frank Dorchester of Vancouver had a Victoria branch. The image is so bold that it surprises me that Dorchester produced it as a postcard that potentially could be sent in the mail. (My copy is unsent.) The AZO stamp box on the back is known 1904-18, so this was printed at the time.

As a gay man, I look for early items with potential gay content, but I can find nothing on the record which says Frank Dorchester had a gay side. For what it's worth, he had a wife and four kids.

Frank Edwin Dorchester immigrated from England to Canada in 1907. He operated a physical culture school in Regina from 1907-09 before moving to Vancouver, where he operated a physical culture and naturopathic business from 1909 until his death in 1952 at age 71.

At the start, Dorchester's Vancouver advertising emphasized physical culture. A Boer War veteran, Dorchester enlisted in WWI and went overseas in 1917 as a member of the Canadian Corps Cyclists Battalion. Once he returned in 1919, his ads changed. Physical culture was rarely mentioned and instead, suddenly he was a naturopath. A news story on his death said he was Vancouver's first naturopath — that may or may not be accurate, but he was prominent in local, Canadian and American naturopathic organizations.

Dorchester was a Tory and ardently pro-British. When children's author Roderick Haig-Brown defended paperback pulp novels in 1949, Dorchester wrote a letter to the editor objecting that "youthful hoodlums are stimulated to emulate some of the supposed adventures they read in these very publicly displayed sex and crime books", while allowing that "sophisticated books such as by Somerset Maugham may be tolerated". ✂



Visit to Roedde House

BY FRED HUME

On Friday, September 27th, Roedde House, the 130-year-old heritage home now a cherished museum in Vancouver's West End, celebrated the local arts community with a focus on collectors and collections.

And because of the Vancouver Postcard Club and its members of collecting renown, we were invited by the Roedde House manager to participate. Three collectors agreed to show at least a part of their postcard collection; Jim Bradbury, together with myself in addition to a display provided by senior collector Ron Souch.

That afternoon, we were welcomed and set up in the House's dining room which looked just as it did over a century ago when it was the home of the Roedde family. Two other collectors were participating—one an absolute expert on cameras and photography, the other equally knowledgeable with his collection of women's Victorian fashion.

On the dining room table, Jim set up his beautifully displayed postcards depicting the early West End and the very first schools of Vancouver. It drew a fair amount of interest even though most of the visitors to the House happened to be visitors to Vancouver from other parts of the world. Although our, in some cases rare, postcard images would be intriguing it was difficult to say how much they actually resonated with many of the folks going through the House. There were two German visitors who were quite impressed with Jim's early Vancouver however.

We also provided a little signage and handouts designed to promote the Postcard Club given this being, we felt, a unique opportunity to do so. As suggested would happen, CBC Television did show up, a cameraman and interviewer (a young woman who had just moved to Canada from Hong Kong) who upon arriving came directly to us asking several good questions. Had I been better prepared I would have provided more scintillating answers, nevertheless they did spend a fair amount of time with us and hopefully viewers and guests caught a glimpse of the House, Vancouver history and the passion and joy associated with collecting. ✂

Western Canadian Photographer Listings

BY RON SOUCH

Landscape Photographers of B.C.: 1858 to 1958

[First Edition; 700 photographers listed]

Landscape Photographers of the 20th Century

[B.C. photographers. First draft available]

Postcard Photographers of the 20th Century

[Over 500 B.C. photographers listed]

Chapman, J.H.A.

[Mostly B.C. postcards; Approx. 800 cards listed]

Timms, Philip

[Mostly Vancouver and nearby; Approx. 1,000 cards listed]

Walker, J.C. - Second Edition

[B.C. from 1950 to the mid 1960s; Approx. 1,500 cards listed.]

For coil bound copies the prices range from \$15.00 to \$45.00. These titles are available from Ron Souch;

ronsouch@shaw.ca

Other listings by Ron Souch are available from All Nations Stamps <https://allnationsstampandcoin.com/> and FvH Stamps <https://www.fvhstamps.com/>

Vancouver Weekly Newspaper Article

PUBLISHED MAY 31, 1894 - PAGE 3

POST-CARD CORRESPONDENCE.

The Toronto Empire has opened a "post-card correspondence" column, contributions to which must be sent in on post-cards only. The idea is a good one. Newspaper readers don't care two-pence about the interminable letters that "ratepayer," "citizen," "justice" and all that lot write. The only person who reads them through is the author, who sticks the letter in his scrap-book after his wife and three daughters have admired it sufficiently. Life would be sweeter to many people if this post-card idea could also be applied to parliamentary speeches excepting the ministerial benches, most sermons, all life assurance agents and novels of the W. D. Howells type. Let's have more of this post-card idea—it's pleasant to take.