

GUIDE TO DATING CURT TEICH POSTCARDS

The first series of cards printed by the Teich Company used numbers only and ranged from 1 – 14989. The production dates were not recorded by the company at this time, but from copyright dates found on some of the cards, it has been determined that these cards were produced between 1900 and 1908.

Year Production Numbers

1900-1908 1 - 14989

The next card series began with either ‘A’ or ‘R’* and were numbered from 1 – 124180. From 1908 until 1913, production dates are not clear and were determined by copyright dates found on a few of the cards. These numbers and dates should be used only as a guide. After 1913, dates began to appear occasionally in the order books kept by the company, and from 1922 on, production dates were well documented. The letter ‘A’ has been used as the standard.

Year Production Numbers

1908-1910 A1

1910	A19922
1911	A22998
1912	A32000
1913	A32236 – A45599
1914	A45600 – A53999
1915	A54000 – A61999
1916	A62000 – A71999
1917	A72000 – A77320
1918	A77321 – A77481
1919	A77482 – A81999
1920	A82000 – A83599
1921	A83600 – A87975
1922	A87976 – A92873
1923	A92874 – A96826
1924	A96827 – A102410
1925	A102411 – A107826
1926	A107827 – A112867
1927	A112868 – A118311
1928	A118312 – A124180

*There are a few hundred cards ordered by the Woolworth Company that begin with a ‘W’ instead of the more typical ‘A’ or ‘R.’ It is believed that in some cases the same view was ordered from the Teich Company by another customer, and the card was printed with ‘A’ or ‘R’ preceding the number. A small number of cards also filed with this series begin with ‘BS,’ ‘DT,’ ‘RG,’ and ‘RT.’ After approximately 1924, the ‘A’ or ‘R’ may not appear on the card at all.

A ‘-N’ printed on the postcard after the production number indicates it was a reprinted card. Reports printed from the Teich Archives database may show other alpha characters after the number, which

usually indicates it has been computer cataloged under more than one subject heading. However, early Teich postcards and V.O. Hammon postcards sometimes used the same number on two different views, and the character has been added by the Archives to show this.

During the years 1929 and 1930, another new system was started. The company used the number of the card and then a ‘-’ followed by the year:

Year	Production Numbers
1929	1-29 – 6262-29
1930	1-30 – 2934-30

In the middle of the ‘-30’ series, the numbering system was again changed. A letter would denote the decade (A – 1930s, B – 1940s, C- 1950s, D – 1960s, E – 1970s), and the number before the letter would indicate the year within that decade. Thus the next card printed after 2934-30 was 0A2935.

After 1930, a new printing processes were developed, and each style is indicated by the addition of another letter after the decade letter.

An H was added denoting :

C.T. Art Colortone (Full color) – a five-color process made on linen finish stock from a black and white photo.

C.T. Colorit – like the Art Colortone, but with a deckle (ragged) edge.

‘K’ indicates CURTEICHCOLOR (full color) made from a color transparency with a four-color process, plastic coated.

‘P’ indicates C.T. Photochrom (full color) using a black and white photo with a four-color process. Most of the cards printed with this new process were reprints of cards the Teich Company had produced in other styles.

‘D’ indicates C.T. Photo Varicolor and C.T. Photo Platine

From the 1930s through the 1970s, the following numbers were used:

Year	Production Number	
1930	0A2935 – 0A5363	
1931	1A1 – 1A3637	1AH1 – 1AH565
1932	2A1 – 2A1562	2AH1 – 2AH1082
1933	3A1 – 3A552	3AH1 – 3AH1656
1934	4A1 – 4A654	4AH1 – 4AH2223
1935	5A1 – 5A650	5AH1 – 5AH2701
1936	6A1 – 6A668	6AH1 – 6AH2913
1937	7A1 – 7A710	7AH1 – 7AH3989
1938	8A1 – 8A923	8AH1 – 8AH3291
1939	9A1 – 9A982	9AH1 – 9AH2637

1940	0B1 – 0B996	0BH1 – 0BH2755		
1941	1B1 – 1B954	1BH1 – 1BH2693		
1942	2B1 – 2B545	2BH1 – 2BH1581		
1943	3B1 – 3B432	3BH1 – 3BH1722		
1944	4B1 – 4B436	4BH1 – 4BH1657		
1945	5B1 – 5B510	5BH1 – 5BH1509		
1946	6B1 – 6B721	6BH1 – 6BH2667		
1947	7B1 – 7B561	7BH1 – 7BH2149		
1948	8B1 – 8B791	8BH1 – 8BH1993		
1949	9B1 – 9B782	9BH1 – 9BH1904	9BK1 – 9BK129	
1950	0C1 – 0C700	0CH1 – 0CH2125	0CK1 – 0CK448	
1951	1C1 – 1C653	1CH1 – 1CH1937	1CK1 – 1CK305	1CP1450 – 1CP2030
1952	2C1 – 2C564	2CH1 – 2CH1680	2CK1 – 2CK401	2CP2001 – 2CP2638
1953	3C1 – 3C494	3CH1 – 3CH1433	3CK1 – 3CK1548	3CP2001 – 3CP2254
1954	4C1 – 4C420	4CH1 – 4CH909	4CK1 – 4CK2194	4CP2001 – 2CP2109
1955	5C1 – 5C230	5CH1 – 5CH705	5CK1 – 5CK3091	5CP2001 – 5CP2049
1956	6C1 – 6C100	6CH1 – 6CH228	6CK1 – 6CK3110	6CP2001 – 6CP2022
1957	7C1 – 7C8	7CH1 – 7CH92	7CK1 – 7CK3151	
1958		8CH1 – 8CH62	8CK1 – 8CK3280	
1959		9CH1 – 9CH6	9CK1 – 9CK3023	
1960	0DK1 – 0CK2443			
1961	1DK1 – 1DK2385			
1962	2DK1 – 2DK2073			
1963	3DK1 – 3DK2035			
1964	4DK1 – 4DK1936			
1965	5DK1 – 5DK2006			
1966	6DK1 – 6DK1957			
1967	7DK1 – 7DK1795			
1968	8DK1 – 8DK1477			
1969	9DK1 – 9DK1330			
1970	0EK1 – 0EK885			
1971	1EK1 – 1EK785			
1972	2EK1 – 2EK699			
1973	3EK1 – 3EK561			
1974	4EK1 – 4EK392	4ED1 – 4ED558*		
1975	5EK1 – 5EK537	5ED1 – 5ED981*		
1976	6EK1 – 6EK689	6ED1 – 6ED954*		
1977	7EK1 – 7EK454	7ED1 – 7ED368*		
1978	8EK1 – 8EK116	8ED1 – 8ED187*		

*In 1974 the Teich family sold Curt Teich and Company. It then became Curt Teich Industries under the leadership of Norm Goldman. Regensteiner Publishing Enterprises, another Chicago printing firm, purchased the business in 1976 and continued producing postcards with the Curt Teich name until 1978. The Teich Company continued to operate in the same building and continued printing Teich postcards

until 1978 when the plant closed. The ‘ED’ series postcards are Curteichcolor 3-D natural color reproduction and are international size.

In 1929 another series of cards originated referred to as the ‘D’ series. This series consists of different types of printed pieces, although many of the early numbers are postcards. Other types of materials include: blotters, brochures, pamphlets, letterheads, envelopes, souvenir booklets, foldout postcards, and oversize advertising pieces.

Year	Production Number	Year	Production Number
1929	D1- D558	1952	D9972 – D10203
1930	D559 – D1100	1953	D10204 – D10431
1931	D1101 – D1720	1954	D10432 – D10713
1932	D1721 – D2400	1955	D10714 – D11134
1933	D2401 – D3200	1956	D11135 – D11600
1934	D3201 – D3650	1957	D11601 – D11935
1935	D3651 – D4200	1958	D11936 – D12352
1936	D4201 – D4750	1959	D12353 – D12772
1937	D4751 – D5200	1960	D12773 – D13075
1938	D5201 – D5700	1961	D13076 – D13355
1939	D5701 – D6200	1962	D13356 – D13612
1940	D6201 – D6470	1963	D13613 – D13822
1941	D6471 – D6790	1964	D13823 – D14095
1942	D6791 – D7090	1965	D14096 – D14390
1943	D7091 – D7435	1966	D14391 – D14796
1944	D7436 – D7685	1967	D14797 – D15261
1945	D7686 – D8000	1968	D15262 – D15684
1946	D8001 – D8492	1969	D15685 – D16231
1947	D8493 – D8741	1970	D16232 – D17000
1948	D8742 – D9105	1971	D17001 – D17770
1949	D9106 – D9450	1972	D17771 – D18600
1950	D9451 – D9725	1973	D18601 – D19325
1951	D9726 – D9971	1974-1978	D19326 – D20363*

* The company continued printing ‘D’ cards after it was sold in 1974, but the new orders were not written in the company books. The last ‘D’ card printed before the plant closed in 1978 was D20363.

AD, AC, AH, AP, AS, RC, RD, RH, RP, RS, WC, OR WP

Several smaller series of postcards were printed at the same time as the main series of cards. One group began with two letters before the number of the card. These two letters could be AD, AC, AH, AP, AS, RC, RD, RH, RP, RS, WC, OR WP. The second letter in the code often indicates the process – the “C” usually means C.T. Colorchrome, ‘D’ – Doubletone, ‘S’ – Sepia, ‘H’ – C.T. Handcolored. The dates for this series are approximate and were derived from the company records or from copyright dates on the postcards. The letters ‘RC’ have been used as the standard.

Year	Production Numbers
1912	RC1 – RC360
1913	RC361 – RC1800
1914	RC1801 – RC4500
1915	RC4501 – RC6680
1916	RC6681 – RC8842
1917	RC8843 – RC10193
1918	RC10194 – RC10566
1919	RC10567 – RC12318
1920	
1921	RC12321
1922	
1923	RC12587 – RC14175
1924	RC14176 – RC14528
1925	RC14529 – RC14804

The series of cards known as ‘C’ cards were printed approximately between 1905 and 1926. Not much is known about this series because many numbers were not entered in the company records and few were recorded with a date. Many of the cards in the files are printer’s proofs – not finished cards. Many of the backs of the finished cards are printed in a brown (sepia) tone. There are a number of different styles in this series including: Octochrome, Commercialchrome, and Sky-tint, but there may be others. In some cases, the ‘C’ or even a ‘CC’ may follow the production number or may not be present at all.

The few dates found for these cards have been mostly from copyright dates that appear on the cards. In a few cases there were notes written by Teich employees, which indicated a date. The following dates are approximate.

Year	Production Numbers
1905	C1
1906	C4235
1907	
1908	
1909	C4644
1910	C7315 – C8060
1911	
1912	C22152
1913	C31916
1914	
1915	C37088
1916	C48476
1917	C51320 – C52372
1918	
1919	C54024
1920	
1921	C56466
1922	
1923	C58560 – C58750
1924	C59097
1925	C60515 – C61608
1926	C61609 – C63517

Other series of cards printed by the Teich Company which are not included at this time are:
 ‘L’ printed for the Hugh C. Leighton Company, Portland, Maine;
 ‘AQ’ printed mainly for Fred Harvey; and
 ‘E’, ‘B’, ‘K’ cards which are miniature views.

Dates for the V.O. Hammon postcards are not included on this list, but the V.O. Hammon Publishing Company, publisher of pictorial postcards, is listed in the Minneapolis, Minnesota city directory from 1904 until 1923.