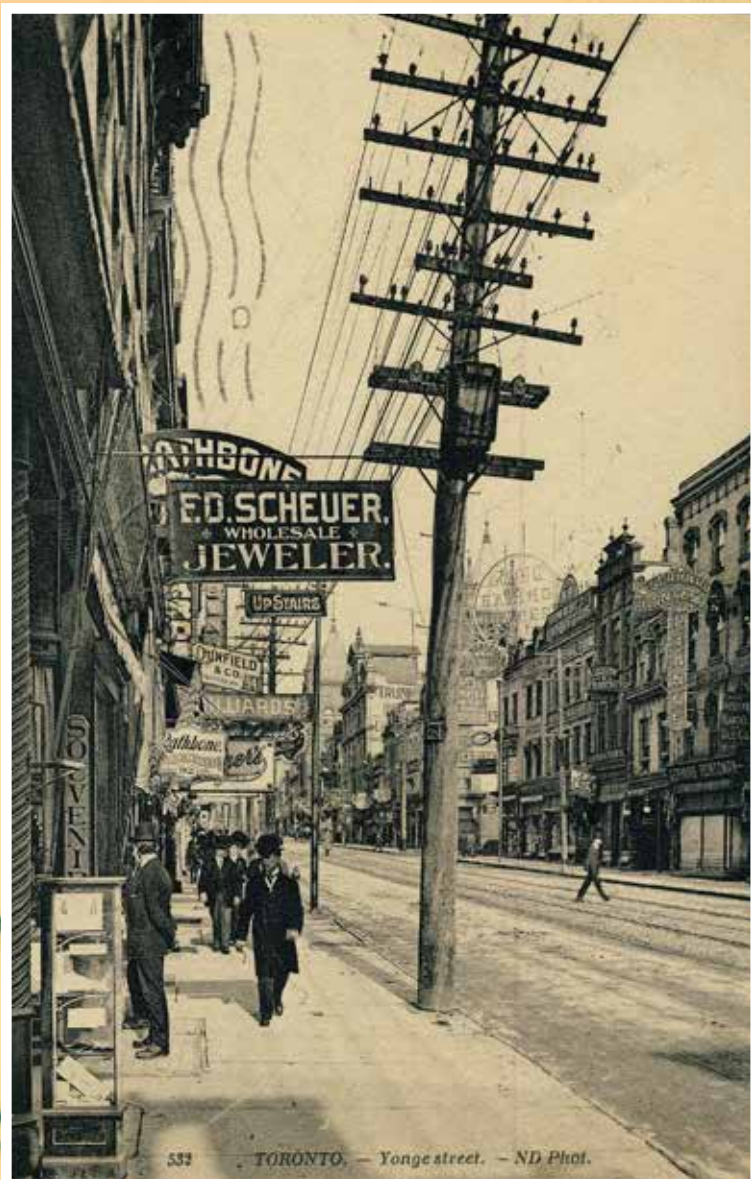


CARDtalk

The Official Newsletter Of The Toronto Postcard Club

Volume 44 Number 1

Spring/Summer 2023



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THE CORONATION:
Looking back on a century and a
quarter of celebration.

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CLUB EXECUTIVE – 2023

President: *vacant*
Vice-President: Victor Caratun (also Social Media)
Treasurer: Win Boyd
Membership Coordinator: Barb Henderson (also Website)
Card Talk Editor: Andrew Cunningham
Card Talk Assistant Editor: John Sayers
At Large: Jeri Danyleyko

Past President: George Sachs
Annual Show: TPC Executive (V. Caratun, Show Day Chair)

JOINING THE CLUB

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in postcards. Dues for the current year are \$22 in Canada, \$32 (Canadian funds) in the U.S. and \$35 (Canadian funds) elsewhere. The dues listed include all members at a single address, who will receive one copy of each edition of *Card Talk* (additional copies require an additional payment and should be requested from the Membership Coordinator). For further information, see the Membership section of the TPC website or email the Membership Coordinator at membership@torontopostcardclub.com. Enquiries may also be sent to the Club's postal address:

Toronto Postcard Club
PO Box 47538 Don Mills
Toronto, ON M3C 3S7

OUR MEETINGS

The Club generally meets monthly, other than in the summer months. Some meetings feature speakers from the TPC or invited guests, while others are more informal in nature. For the time being, all meetings are taking place via ZOOM.

OUR NEWSLETTER

Card Talk is published three times per year – generally in April, August and November. It is the official newsletter of the Toronto Postcard Club and has been published without interruption since January 1980. Contributions are welcome but should be discussed with the Editor in advance of submission. Submissions and Letters to the Editor should be emailed to editor@torontopostcardclub.com. Please ensure that images are scanned at 300 dpi or higher – they cannot be reproduced otherwise. If contributions are mailed, please send them to the Editor at the TPC's postal address as noted elsewhere on this page. Please note that we do not reproduce images of recent postcards unless the consent of the copyright holder has been obtained.

ON THE INTERNET

Our website is www.torontopostcardclub.com. The site includes features on postcard history, a blog and updated information about meetings and events. We are also on Facebook under the name Toronto Postcard Club – please stop by and give us a “like”!

AUCTION, ARCHIVES AND “POSTCARD MYSTERIES”

The 10th TPC members-only auction was a big success, with 800 postcards finding new homes. Thanks to Win and Barb, without whom none of this would be possible. They anticipate that we'll have one more auction either in late 2023 or early 2024. As for the Archives, don't forget to visit when you're on the TPC website. Barb also advises that there are several “Postcard Mysteries” on the site waiting to be solved. Members have had a lot of fun working on these, so if detective work is up your alley, have a look (see “Postcard Mysteries” under “Information on this Site” at the right side of the home page).

UPCOMING MEETINGS

All meetings are conducted via Zoom and are held on Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. Eastern Time.

28 May 2023

Advertising Postcards

Whether older or newer, with an ad message or visual or both, we want to see what you have in your collection. Scan your card and share it with us in our ZOOM meeting.

25 June 2023

All Aboard! A Presentation on Model Railroads

A presentation by the Model Railroad Club of Toronto, which was founded in 1938. Their “Central Ontario Railway” layout is impressive and innovative. Using postcards and other media, Model Railroad Club members will introduce us to the Central Ontario in a ZOOM presentation.

10 September 2023

Show and Tell

As Summer draws to a close, it's time to share the latest and greatest additions to your collection. Choose one or a few and tell us all about what you've found.

15 October 2023

Summer Exhibitions and Fall Fairs

As the seasons change, a look at outdoor pastimes that have entertained – then and now. What's in your postcard collection to illustrate this theme? Show us a scan and tell us the story!

19 November 2023

The Postcards of Ottmar Zieher

A presentation by TPC member (and accomplished philatelist) David McLaughlin (TPC #1594) about this early German postcard publisher. We've likely all seen Zieher's beautiful postcards illustrating the countries of the world through their stamps and coins – now we can learn the story behind them from David.



**Ottmar Zieher
“Italy” stamp
postcard, embossed.
Posted in 1904.**

EDITORIAL

Building on Success: Shaping the TPC's Second Half Century

By Barb Henderson (TPC #920)

In this issue's Editorial, Barb Henderson looks at the Club's past and present and asks how we can keep the TPC in the same great shape for the future.

It was great to see many of our postcard buddies again – IN PERSON! – at the February show. Welcome to the dozen or so new and returned TPC members. Member #1, our founder Bob McEvilla, came to say “Hi” and remarked that he was more than surprised that the Club was still around so many years after its creation in 1977. And here we are in our 47th year. Membership renewals have been strong with around 245 members from across Canada and the U.S. at the time of writing. Ninety-seven of these members have been with us for at least 20 years! And of that group, 37 have supported the Club for 35 years or more. Thank you! The most encouraging news of all might be the 15 new members who have joined in 2023 alone! Welcome!

We're still around because our community shares their postcard experiences and knowledge. ZOOM has allowed us to reach across the miles to our away members. A postcard friend of ours

often remarks that postcard people are some of the nicest, most interesting and sharing people among those who collect and appreciate old stuff.

Through the years, many TPC members have contributed their time and energy to keep the Club going. But the number of active TPC volunteers is getting very thin – and older! The Executive needs understudies to learn about and support the activities that keep us going; the Show, ZOOM meetings, our website. We could undertake new initiatives such as updating the website, being more apparent on social media, maybe having additional, smaller shows, outreach to attract new collectors and followers of the hobby and so on. There are any number of opportunities. We just need more helping hands! Connect with any of the Executive and let them know your thoughts on what volunteer support you could offer to the Toronto Postcard Club.

Editor's Notes

By Andrew Cunningham (TPC #1424)

This issue, I thought we should highlight milestones involving three of our illustrious members.

First off – congratulations to **Cheryl Ganz** (TPC #1661) on recently taking the reins as President of the American Philatelic Society. Let's hope that, in upcoming years, the philatelic and deltiological communities can continue on a converging path, as we work out how best to ensure that future generations continue to enjoy these wonderful intertwined pursuits.

Secondly, our friend and member **Donald R. Brown** (TPC #1251), founder of the Institute of American Deltiology in Myerstown, Pennsylvania, joined **Hal Ottaway** (TPC #1645) at a recent meeting of the Wichita Postcard Club to discuss Don's 80 (not a typo!) years of collecting postcards, with particular attention to the organized aspects of the hobby over that time (such as this and other postcard clubs). To see the interview, which I highly recommend you do, just type “A Lifetime of Picture Postcards” into your search bar and click on the YouTube link. If you can't find it, email me and I'll send you the coordinates.



Figure 1. Postcard from Bob Hendricks' Post Card Collectors Club of America, sent to a new member on 23 May 1949. Don Brown discusses this organization, and others, in his conversation with Hal Ottaway.

Finally, **Mike Smith** (TPC #940) brought copies of his brand-new guidebook to Atkinson Bros. postcards to the TPC show

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Editor's Notes Cont'd

in February. This first edition includes a valuable history of the company with research by **Roger Miller** (TPC #1480). I've been enjoying my copy – if you don't have yours yet, they're available for \$60 postpaid from Mike at his usual address in

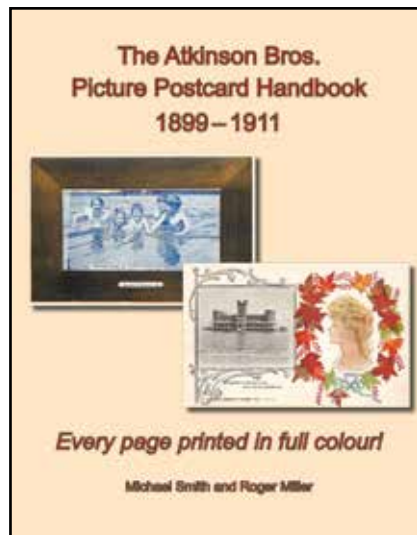


Figure 2. Mike's Atkinson Bros. book: hot off the press.

Goderich (see the TPC Membership Roster for particulars). If you're in Canada, the \$60 is Canadian funds, of course, and if you're in the U.S., it's \$60 U.S.

From the mailbag, **Barb Henderson's** article on Kawandag, the Eaton family estate (Card Talk 139) triggered some interesting memories for **Doreen Jones** (TPC #618). Doreen writes: "As I perused the recent copy of Card Talk,

imagine my surprise when Kawandag popped up. My former in-laws had a cottage on Lake Rousseau...a couple of bays around from the Eaton Estate and from 1948 to 1964 I enjoyed weekends and summer vacations there. We would often see the beautiful Eaton classic boat putt-putting about. But the 'grey matter' kicked in as I read your article, Barb, and I began to picture the four corners of the hamlet of Rosseau at that time – the Shell station, Einarson's General Store and the Monteith Inn, which was known as the Monteith House until it was purchased by Harry and Jenny Shopsyowitz (of Shopsy's deli fame) who immediately changed it to 'Inn'. Sadly, it was one of the Einarson teenage boys who noticed smoke billowing out from behind the hotel and, on Nov. 15, 1950, it was destroyed."

Lastly, on a sadder note, we record the passing of TPC member John Bucci in Edmonton, Alberta. See "The Last Post" on page 11 for details.

Please see Page 6 of this issue for details of the **Eastern Ontario (Merrickville)** and **Golden Horseshoe (Hamilton)** postcard shows, upcoming in September!

A Modern "Special Date" Postcard That You Can Own!

By Barb Henderson (TPC #920)



At our January ZOOM meeting, Dr. Clarissa Ferraris (TPC #1649), who lives in Maryland, told us about her postcard/philatelic project, **DATE=ZIP CODE**, celebrating a very rare occurrence when a U.S. postal code matches the calendar date. ZIP code 21623 is a small town in Maryland called Church Hill. Clarissa engaged an artist to design commemorative postcards and then drove the postcards to USPS 21623 to work with the postmaster to hand-cancel them on February 16, 2023 (2-16-23). And Clarissa kindly sent one to the TPC.



She had 47 "customer orders", many of which were for more than one postcard. She has some extras that she mailed to herself, so if anyone wants to order one of these quite rare "covers", get in touch with Clarissa at clarissa19cartoline@gmail.com. There is a small cost to cover the postage and the postcard will be mailed to you in an envelope.

Cataloguing Corner:

123 W.J. Gage & Co. View Cards from the Hugh C. Leighton Catalogue

By Andrew Cunningham (TPC #1424)

W. J. Gage & Co. is familiar to most of us as a publisher of “Golden Age” Canadian view cards. But, to my knowledge at least, it has not been the subject of much deltiological investigation. That fact is a little ironic given that Gage may be the only early Canadian postcard publisher that’s still in the publishing business – as a division of Scarborough-based Nelson Inc. Some of us will recall the Gage imprint from the title pages of the many Canadian school textbooks that the company published (the title pages being about as far as many kids ever got!)

The most obvious reason that W. J. Gage has become a postcard afterthought is that the company’s output just wasn’t that big. To get a very approximate idea, a Saturday-afternoon trip into eBay’s postcard section yields the following numbers of cards for each publisher name searched (adjusting for a few “false positives”):

- Valentine – over 2,500
- Warwick Bros. and Stedman Bros. – each around 180
- Pugh Manufacturing – around 60
- W.J. Gage – around 10

Another reason for the limited interest in Gage’s postcards could be that they look a lot like everyone else’s, with no particularly memorable design qualities, front or back. The lone – and very significant – exception is the company’s South African War Officer series. Published in 1900, this might be the scarcest and most sought-after of all Canadian patriotic postcard sets. Its 10 cards (each published in both “khaki” and “white” cardstock versions) are the only Gage postcards to appear in Mike Smith’s voluminous *Canadian Patriotic & Heraldic Postcard Handbook 1897-1945*.

With that prologue out of the way, I’ll come to the point. Recently Logan Thompson, a friend of mine who collects cards from the Kansas City area – acquired an early brochure from a prolific U.S. publisher, the Hugh C. Leighton Co. of Portland, Maine. Dated 15 January 1907, the little booklet lists hundreds of postcards that were then in the company’s inventory, including 123 from Canada that, it turns out, were distributed north of the border under the W. J. Gage & Co. name. Logan has kindly made this Gage listing available for inclusion in *Card Talk*.

The Canadian cards in the listing turn out to be from a series of Leighton cards that resemble certain Valentine & Sons cards.

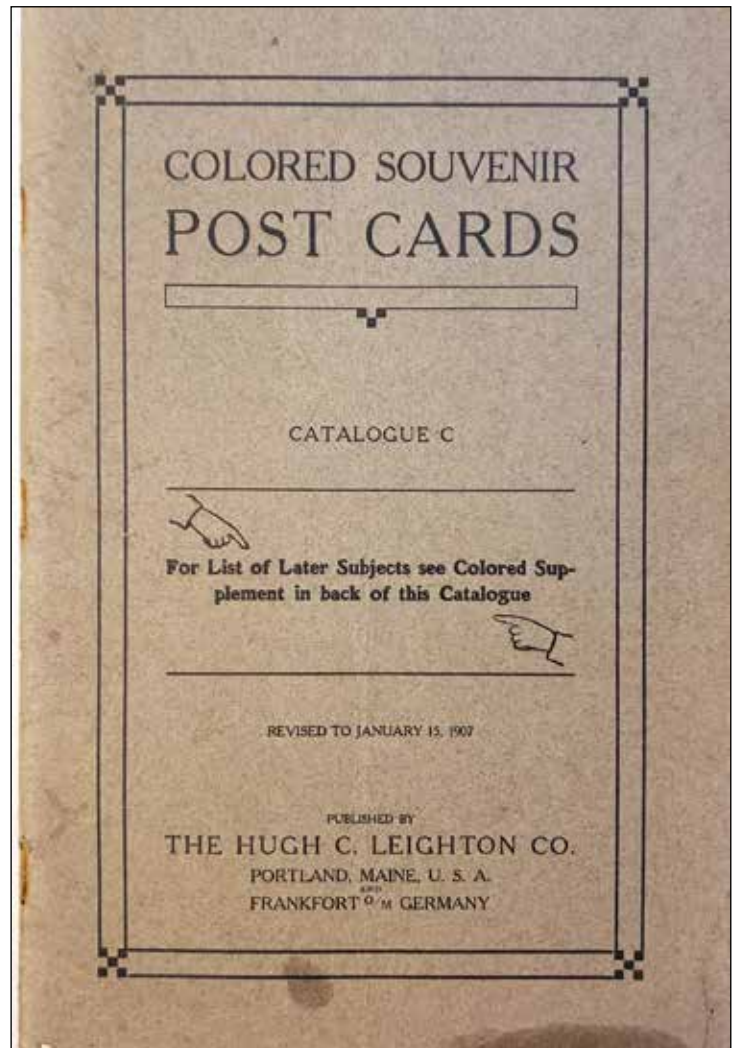


Figure 1. Cover of the 1907 booklet.



Figure 2. Toronto, St. George Street (no. 1784; Galbraith photo).

Figures 2, 3 and 4 show the fronts of three cards – all of those that I have seen from this series have a similar general appearance.

The complete list of 123 Leighton/Gage postcards in this series follows. Please note the following:

- I have re-ordered the listings numerically, rather than leaving them by city as they actually appear (with some inaccuracies) in the pamphlet itself. This makes it easier to follow the order in which the cards might have been issued and to determine whether some series were issued of multiple places.
- I have silently corrected a few major spelling mistakes that could not have been intentional – including repeated spellings of “Banff” as “Bauff” and “Assiniboine” as “Assineboine”. I have not made any more subjective changes to Leighton’s spelling or punctuation. Cards listed under the wrong city have been silently relocated to their correct locations.
- Postcard numbers followed by asterisks are noted in the pamphlet as being special series, likely special orders by a local seller that were not stocked for wider distribution.
- Note that these numbers appear to be Leighton’s rather than part of a larger Gage numbering. They are similar to, and seem to fit in with, the numbers given to U.S. cards elsewhere in the pamphlet.

728-730 NONDESCRIPT [3]

728 – The Chief’s Squaws
729 – Cree Indian with Travois Calgary
730 – Old Sioux

732-750 – MONTREAL [19]

732 – Place Viger C.P.R. Hotel and Station
733 – Jacques Cartier Square
734 – Victoria Square
735 – City Hall
736 – Chateau de Ramezay
737 – Montreal Tandem Club Drive
738 – Canadian Pacific Railway Station – Windsor Street
739 – Tobogganing, “The Race”
740 – Tobogganing, “The Spill”
741 – The Toboggan Slide
742 – Dominion Square
743 – Hockey Match, Victoria Rink
744 – Court House
745 – Ice Shove, Commissioners Street
746 – Notre Dame Church, Interior
747 – McGill University
748 – Mount Royal Elevator
749 – Stormy Day, Morgan’s Corner
750 – Notre Dame Church

849-853 – QUEBEC [5]

849 – Dufferin Terrace
850 – Quebec, from Levis
851 – Caleche
852 – Break Neck Steps
853 – Chateau Frontenac, from Laval University

854-857 – OTTAWA [4]

854 – Rideau Hall, from Garden
855 – Ottawa, from Parliament Building, looking up River
856 – Post Office and Parliament Buildings
857 – Parliament Buildings, from Lower Town

SEPTEMBER 2023 POSTCARD SHOWS

26th Annual

Eastern Ontario Postcard Club ‘MERRICKVILLE’

9am to 4pm Saturday, Sept. 23rd
includes paper ephemera & postal history

Community Centre, 106 Read St. Merrickville
Free Admission & Free Parking

Inquiries to:

savery611@gmail.com 613-345-7598
lrksprline@aol.com 613-868-0289

36th Annual

Golden Horseshoe Postcard Club in HAMILTON

10am to 4pm Sunday, Sept. 24th
Free Admission & Free Parking

Ukrainian Catholic Church Parish Hall
821 Upper Wentworth St. south of Mohawk
Hamilton L8V 2H7

Inquiries to:

Jon Soyka jon@soyka.ca
905-388-5480

861-866 – MONTREAL [6]

- 861 – Victoria Bridge
- 862 – Windsor Hotel
- 863 – Montreal, from Mt. Royal
- 864 – Royal Victoria Hotel
- 865 – St. James Cathedral
- 866 – St. James Street

1000-1007 – VARIOUS CANADIAN VIEWS [7]

- 1000 – St. Anne de Beaupre Church, 16 Miles from Quebec
- 1001 – Halifax, from Citadel
- 1002 – Corsican in Lachine Rapids, St. Lawrence River
- 1003 – [no listing]
- 1004 – Tadousac, from Golf Links
- 1005 – Manoir-Richelieu [Murray Bay]
- 1006 – Grand Trunk Station [Montreal]
- 1007 – Cape Eternity and Trinity

1779-1799 – TORONTO [21]

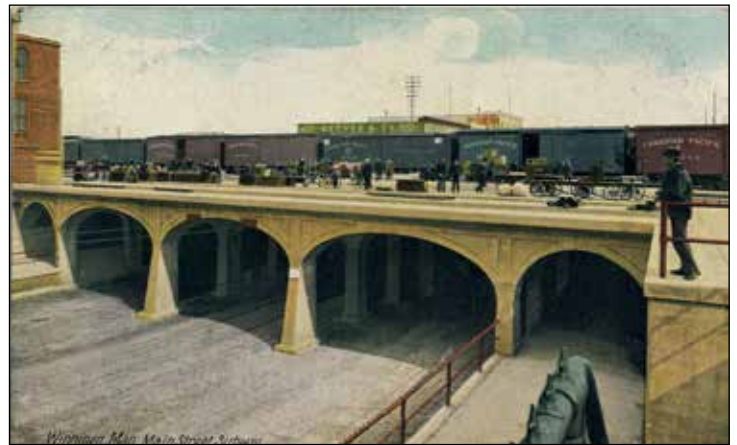
- 1779 – Queens Avenue, from Parliament Building
- 1780 – Yonge Street
- 1781 – House of Parliament
- 1782 – Toronto University
- 1783 – King Street
- 1784 – St. George Street
- 1785 – View in Rosedale
- 1786 – On Humber River
- 1787 – View in High Park
- 1788 – Reservoir Park
- 1789 – St. James Cathedral
- 1790 – Queens Park
- 1791 – Trinity University
- 1792 – Parliament Buildings
- 1793 – Toronto University
- 1794 – King Edward Hotel
- 1795 – City Hall
- 1796 – Steamer “Toronto”
- 1797 – Toronto Harbor
- 1798 – Steamer “Chippewa”
- 1799 – Steamer “Kingston”

1800-1812 – SAINT JOHN, N.B. [13]

- 1800 – Suspension Bridge over Reversible Falls
- 1801 – Union Depot
- 1802 – King Square
- 1803 – Sand Point in Winter
- 1804 – Market Slip, Low Water
- 1805 – Water Front
- 1806 – Market Slip, High Water
- 1807 – Queen Square
- 1808 – Rockwood Square
- 1809 – Beatty's Beach
- 1810 – Breakwater and Partridge Island, from Fort Dufferin
- 1811 – Martello Tower
- 1812 – Beacon Light in Harbor

2746-2749 – TORONTO [4]

- 2746 – Union Station
- 2747 – Old Mill, Humber River
- 2748 – The Armories
- 2749 – Centre Island Park

**Figure 3. Main Street Subway, Winnipeg (no. 2761)****2750-2764 – WINNIPEG [15]**

- 2750 – Carnegie Library
- 2751 – McDermott Avenue
- 2752 – Roslyn Road, Fort Rouge
- 2753 – Corner Kennedy and Assiniboine Sts.
- 2754 – Augustine Church, Fort Rouge
- 2755 – Stock Yards
- 2756 – Main Street, looking South from Portage Avenue
- 2757 – Armstrong's Point
- 2758 – River Avenue
- 2759 – Old Fort Garry Gate
- 2760 – View from Top of Merchants Bank
- 2761 – Main Street Subway
- 2762 – Main Street
- 2763 – Assiniboine River
- 2764 – Broadway

3295-3299 – NONDESCRIPT [5]

- 3295 – Harvesting Grain in the Northwest
- 3296 – Group of Indians
- 3297 – Indian Encampment
- 3298 – “Bull Bear” and Squaw, Blackfeet Indians
- 3299 – “Setukkomuccon” Sarcee Indian

**Figure 4. Selkirk Range, B.C., Marion Lake on Mt. Abbot (No. 3312)**

3300-3309 – BANFF, Alta. [10]

- 3300* - Sanitorium Hotel and Sulphur Mountain
- 3301* - Banff Springs Hotel and Sulphur Mountain
- 3302* - Bow Valley, from Banff Springs Hotel
- 3303* - Buffalo National Park
- 3304* - Mt. Rundle
- 3305* - Goat Mountain and Spray Valley
- 3306* - Stoney Indian and Tepee
- 3307* - Mt. Rundle, from Bow River
- 3308* - Mt. Edith
- 3309* - Mt. Assiniboine and Camp

3310-3311 – NONDESCRIPT [2]

- 3310 – Cattle Yard
- 3311 – Threshing Grain in the Northwest

3312-3313 – BANFF, Alta. [2]

- 3312* - Marion Lake on Mt. Abbot [Glacier Nat'l Park, B.C.]
- 3313* - Lake Louise Laggan

3314-3315 – MOOSE JAW, Sask. [2]

- 3314* - City Hall
- 3315* - Main Street

3316-3319 – NORTH BAY, Ont. [4]

- 3316* - North Bay Hotel
- 3317* - McIntyre Street, looking East
- 3318* - McIntyre Street,
- 3319* - Main Street, looking East

3687 – STANSTEAD, Que. [1]

- 3687 – Stanstead Wesleyan College

Hugh C. Leighton's list of cards includes many of Canada's most popular postcard subjects. The company's approach seems to have been to churn out cards of major cities and tourist hotspots and sell a lot of each. In other words, unlike many cards sold by Stedman or Warwick Bros., the Leighton/Gage cards are not primarily "local views" to be stocked by a small-town druggist and sold off slowly over a period of years. The "nondescript" cards (Leighton's terminology) could have been put out for sale just about anywhere.

Supposing that the numbering is chronological, it is unsurprising that the earliest cards are from some of the places in which

postcards seem to have become commonplace at an early date (early for Canada, at least): Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa. In addition, the series from 1000-1007, featuring famous sights from Halifax, up the St. Lawrence to Quebec and Montreal, looks like a set that might have been packaged for sale aboard a train or steamer. I also own copies of nos. 1006 (Montreal), 1800, 1803 and 1809 (all Saint John) that are attributed to "The H. C. Leighton Co. St. John N.B." and not to Gage, although other copies may well sport the Gage branding.

Finally, with respect to backs, there is at least some variety – the examples in my collection include the backs in Figures 5 and 6.

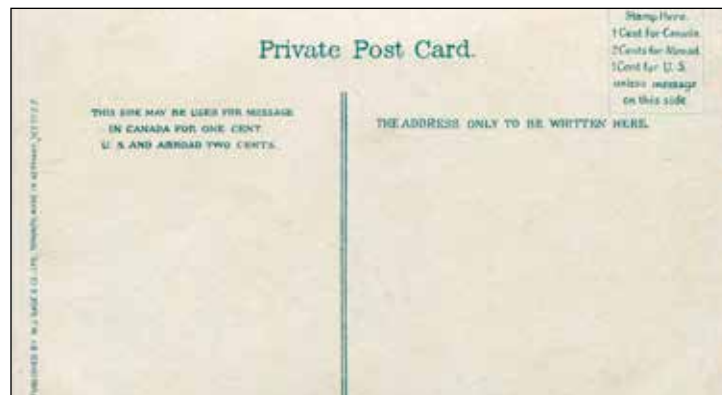


Figure 5. Back of card 1787.



Figure 6. Back of card 3312.

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- Acid-free sleeves of all sizes to protect your paper items.
- Post cards, comics, magazines, newspapers, etc. etc.
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Displaying at Southworks Antiques in Cambridge, Ont.

Postcards of Chinese Restaurants in Canada and the United States

By Kyle Jolliffe (TPC #1187)

On 20 November 2022, Kyle Jolliffe gave a presentation highlighting his wonderful collection of cards of North American Chinese restaurants. In case you missed it, a recorded version of his talk is available on the Wichita Postcard Club's YouTube channel. The cards below illustrate some of the themes of the presentation.

Chinese restaurants are ubiquitous in Canada and the United States, so it is hardly surprising to find postcards of many of them dating from about 1900 when postcards started being mass produced. Such postcards have been good advertising vehicles for these restaurants, since they can show the décor, location and food such as chop suey in these restaurants. Getting these three things right is the key to any restaurant's success.



Figure 1. Port Arthur Main Dining Room

In the 19th century racial discrimination helped pushed Chinese emigrants into ghettos or cultural enclaves called Chinatowns in such cities as San Francisco, Chicago, New York City and Vancouver. By 1900 Chinatowns were attracting many tourists who came to enjoy delicious Chinese food served in elegant settings, with inlaid pearl mahogany tables, lanterns, chandeliers and imported Cantonese teakwood furniture. These visitors also shopped in curio shops and experienced the exoticness of these Chinatowns. The Port Arthur restaurant in New York City's Chinatown shown in this card opened in 1897 and was in business for over eighty years.



Figure 2. Bun Jan Nightclub

After 1900 Chinese restaurants, with Chop Suey as their signature dish, greatly expanded in cities. The Bun Jan restaurant was a circa 1915 nightclub in the Times Square area of New York City.



Figure 3. Chas. S. Low Restaurant

Masses of office workers in places like New York ate economical meals at such 2nd floor restaurants as the Chas S. Low Restaurant on Sixth Avenue. There a regular Chinese dinner started at thirty-five cents.

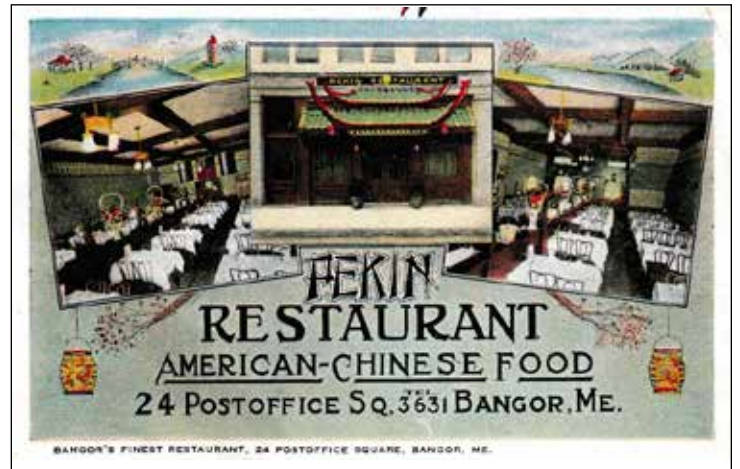


Figure 4. Pekin Restaurant card

By the 1920s Chinese restaurants were common in small towns and cities, such as the Pekin Restaurant in Bangor, Maine with its fare of both American and Chinese food.



CASINO ROYAL
Washington's Smartest Chinese-American Restaurant
14th and M Streets, N.W. • National 7700
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Figure 6. Casino Royal card

Gang Suet's Tea Garden
1200 No. Main St., Porterville, Calif.

Figure 7. Gang Sue Tea Garden

A vibrant night scene of a busy street in Nanjing, China. The street is lined with multi-story buildings, many of which are covered in brightly lit neon signs and advertisements. On the left, a large sign for '25' is prominent, along with signs for 'ML', 'RE', and 'NT'. Further down, a sign for 'MIN CHINESE RESTAURANT' is visible. On the right, a large sign for 'Loos' is illuminated. The street is filled with cars, and the overall atmosphere is one of a bustling, modern urban environment.

Figure 8. Boston Chinatown at Night

*Air-Conditioned
For Your Comfort*

MEI YIN RESTAURANT

1660 COLLINS AVE
MIAMI BEACH, FLA.

Figure 9. Mei Yin Restaurant

As tourists flocked to Florida after WW2, so did Chinese restaurants to cater to their tastebuds. This 1960s card is for the Mei Yin Restaurant in Miami Beach.



Figure 10. Lichee Gardens Restaurant

Lichee Gardens was a Toronto favourite for many years, typical of many large post-World War II urban Chinese restaurants which can seat hundreds of patrons at any time. They are popular with Jewish diners as Chinese food is acceptable under Jewish dietary laws.

Buzzing Queen's Park

By Paul MacDonald (TPC #1436)



Figure 1. There's a lot going on at the Ontario Legislature in this circa 1911 RPPC.

Here's another in our occasional series of RPPCs with superimposed aircraft, thanks to member Paul MacDonald of Warkworth, Ontario, who writes:

I remember reading Dave Moore's article in Card Talk 136, about those new-fangled things called aeroplanes being superimposed on early RPPCs. I recently found this gem (attached) in a box of cards at my local stamp club. Postmarked 1911, It features an early Model T Ford in front of the Provincial Legislature buildings at Queen's Park with a (superimposed) monoplane flying above.

At the southern end of the Ontario Legislature grounds, Sir John A. Macdonald surveys the scene, although he'd been dead for 20 years by the time this postcard was posted. That was on 15 March 1911, and I guess Sir John needs to "beware the Ides of March" since he – or at least his statue – is currently boxed in due to concerns about possible attacks.

It's a really great example of this genre – a little more realistic looking than most! As Paul adds: "My only problem now, is deciding where in my collection to include this card ... early Toronto, airplanes or automobile?"

The Last Post

John Lewis Bucci (1 August 1948 – 31 March 2023)



We were saddened to hear of the recent passing of long-time TPC member John Bucci (#968), a well-known postcard dealer and pillar of Alberta's philatelic community. John created an independent online sales site for his company, MJR Postcards and Covers, that many of us have used and enjoyed, not least for its proprietor's humorous tales of his experiences in the stamp and postcard business. John was

a fine athlete who in his younger days had won a hockey

scholarship to Northern Arizona University. A Calgary native, he eventually made his way north to Edmonton and a career with the city government, but his later years were increasingly devoted to stamps and postcards. In fact, the latest edition of *Canadian Stamp News* sports a front-page photo of the organizing committee of the Edmonton Spring National Stamp Show with John front and centre, continuing to promote the hobby only days before his passing. Overseeing the return of this event after a prolonged pandemic pause marked a fitting, if far too early, conclusion to John's time with us.

The best wishes of all TPC members are extended to his wife Simone and sons Jeff and Mark and their families at this difficult time.

Preserved in Postcards:

An English Family's Memories of Toronto, 1910-1923

By Andrew Cunningham (TPC #1424)

Last November, the TPC received an email, as it sometimes does, from a non-member in search of advice about what to do with some old postcards. In this case, the request came from England, from Mrs. Maggie Baker, who is now in her 80s and living in Hoveton in Norfolk. The story of her postcards struck me as of possible interest to Card Talk readers, so here it is.

The tale is best begun by Mrs. Baker herself, who wrote to us (in part) as follows:

My mother, who lived in Toronto until the 1920s (when she returned [at age 16] to the U.K. after her father died) brought back lots of memorabilia, including postcards, which I have always treasured. When I was a small child, she would tell me about them. Unfortunately, no [one else in the family has] the same interest or affection for these and I wondered if you could advise me where I could possibly sell them. They range from historic buildings, the great exhibition, the government's marching guards, all have "V & Sons" as makers – also my favourite, Old Mill on the Humber. I have no idea which are more valuable, and do not know where to get expert advice.

As the message suggests, Maggie's mother's postcards were mainly



Figure 1. Canadian Pacific's "Lake Manitoba".

Valentine & Sons views of Toronto and as such unlikely to have any great monetary value. After some further discussion, we came upon the idea of having her send the cards across to me, so that I could keep the group intact – and its story alive by telling it here.

What struck me is that, however modest the value of these cards might be, for a century they have helped shape a family's impression of a distant place that played a part in its history and have been kept and treasured for that reason. In other words, these objects that might in one sense be considered

"valueless" and "ephemeral" are simultaneously "invaluable" and "enduring" – a conceptual tension that (I think) generates much of the appeal of this hobby of ours.

With Maggie's notes, and armed with information found at Ancestry.com, I was able to reconstruct some of the family's Canadian story, which I'll recount briefly here. Her grandfather, Maurice William Martin, was born at Norwich on 11 July 1860, son of a boot manufacturer. In 1902, rather late in life, Maurice married Matilda Maude Hubbard (1872-1944). After their first son, and apparently also a daughter, died in infancy between 1903 and 1905, Maggie's mother Edith Ethel (1907-2006) was born. The family of three left England in 1910 aboard the *Lake Manitoba*, landing at Saint John, New Brunswick, headed for the Toronto area.

In England, Maurice seems to have maintained his connection to the boot and shoe trade. For example, in the 1901 census of Norwich, he appears as a "leather commission agent". If he anticipated exciting new opportunities in Canada, they don't seem to have materialized: on arrival, he found a labourer's job with one of the railways and in later records continues to be described simply as a "general labourer" working in a freight shed.

Like many other families of the time, the Martins moved frequently from one rental accommodation to another, lodging initially at 411 King St. W. (just east of Spadina) before moving on to (among others, I'm sure): 145A Simcoe St. (1914), 139 John Street (1916), 357 Adelaide St. W. (1921) and, finally, 171 1/2 Simcoe (1923), which would have been at the rear of the present-day federal government building at Queen and University. It is hard for us to picture this as a neighbourhood of single-family homes: as early as the 1920s, dwellings in the area were disappearing as factory buildings sprang up to house the city's garment industry. In a "sign of the times" for the 2020s, two of the Martin family's addresses – 411 King West



Figure 2. York Street School and its Scholars of 1923 (Toronto Public Library collections).

and 357 Adelaide West – are currently being proposed as sites for 45-50 storey condominium towers.

As Maggie recalls, her mother Edith attended York Street Public School (at York and Richmond, site of today's Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts) and then the collegiate division of Ogden School, which has stood in one form or another at 33 Phoebe St. since 1855. In Figure 2, we see (from the Toronto Public Library photo archive) a multicultural class of "14 nationalities" at the York Street school, as well as the school itself. As the sign visible on the front of the school indicates, the school doubled as a Penny Bank – a "thrift" institution established in Ontario to encourage young people and the working classes to save.

Even though Maurice was past 50 and Matilda over 40, their family continued to grow during its years in Canada. In 1914, a son named John William was born, but sadly he was premature and passed away after 19 days. The family's second surviving child, Maurice Gué Martin, was born in 1916. While the frequent moves, Maurice Sr.'s tough labouring jobs and the loss of John William might have made this a difficult period, Maggie's recollection is that her mother Edith loved her time in Toronto, where she had many friends, and was deeply disappointed when, in 1923, the family's story took an unexpected turn that led to their departure from Canada. On 27 April of that year – 100 years ago this month – 62-year-old Maurice died at the Toronto General Hospital after a brief bout with pneumonia.

Reflecting on the circumstances of her grandfather's death, Maggie had one question that we can most likely clear up:

My mother always said he died during a blizzard and was taken to hospital on a sleigh. [I don't know] just how much of this was fact – did Canada have snow in April?

Snow in late April is possible, if uncommon, in Toronto. In this case, however, almost the opposite was true. The latter half of April 1923 was actually exceptionally warm. In fact, the high temperature on 20 April 1923 – 27.2 degrees Celsius – remains the highest ever recorded in Toronto on that date. The city cooled off a little in the ensuing week, but highs were still in the mid-teens during the time that Maurice was at the Toronto General, and it was a pleasant 18 degrees on the day he died. So the blizzard story might have been the result of confusing one hospital visit with another. I should add, for the sake of completeness, that there was a modest snowfall on 14 April, of 3.6 cm – perhaps if there was also a strong wind that day, it might possibly have felt like a "blizzard" – but this doesn't fit the facts as we know them all that well, I don't think.

In any case, as Maggie tells us, Matilda decided to take the family home to England and soon all that was left of the Martins' 13 years in Canada were memories and the souvenirs Edith brought back with her – including the postcards, post folders and a few silk-weave items that were included in the bundle that Maggie kindly sent. Seeing these fascinating items had the effect, happily, of increasing Maggie's interest in her mother's and uncle's "home town". She was able to pay Toronto a visit some years ago, during

which time she went to Mount Pleasant Cemetery where her grandfather, Maurice, is interred. The following are just a few of the postcards and souvenir items from the collection:



Figure 3. Prince George Hotel – this hotel stood at King and York, just down from Edith's school.



Figure 4. Yonge Street, looking North – one of the best Valentine & Sons images of turn-of-the-century Yonge Street.



Figure 5. The Western Hospital – one of the less common V&S cards in the set. The Western would have been the local hospital when the Martins lived out on Adelaide Street West.



Figure 6. CNE and Toronto folders – typical souvenir items of the day.



Figure 7. The Old Mill – full of mystery, this famous image of the old ruin on the Humber was Maggie's favourite card as a girl.



Figure 8. CNE silk weave – a beautiful souvenir showing off the capabilities of the Canada Label & Webbing Co.



Figure 9. Seaforth Highlanders – Edith's collection included silks featuring military figures.



Figure 10. Canada, the Land of Plenty – it might not always have felt that way to the Martins and others who had to struggle through the difficult years of the Great War, but it's clear that to a young girl like Edith Martin, the Toronto of that era was a wonderful place to grow up.

Coronation Postcards: Celebrating Kings and Queens

By Andrew Cunningham (TPC #1424)

On 6 May 2023 we will have the opportunity to witness the crowning of Charles III as King of the United Kingdom, of Canada, and of his other realms. Thanks to the extraordinarily long reign of Elizabeth II, this will be the first Coronation that most of us will remember. In the early days of postcards, however, sovereigns came and went a little more routinely. Indeed, if we sometimes think of the Golden Age of postcards as an “Edwardian” phenomenon, it is because the brief heyday of cards in the English-speaking countries was bracketed by two of these great spectacles: the 1902 coronation of Edward VII, and then – following Edward’s death in 1910 – the 1911 coronation of George V, grandfather of our late Queen.

One consequence of this is that there are plenty of Coronation cards to collect from the Golden Age, including many highly attractive examples. Fewer cards (but still quite a few in absolute terms) were produced for the coronations of 1937 (George VI) and 1953 (Elizabeth II). To commemorate the occasion, I have selected some Coronation cards in my own collection, with an emphasis on those with Canadian connections.



Figure 1. “Coronation Souvenir 1902”, by Raphael Tuck & Sons, Coronation Series 608 II.

The Empire was gaining not only a King but a Queen, in this case the former Princess Alexandra of Denmark, who is pictured on the very different Tuck postcard shown in Figure 2. As is often the case with postcards, the message on the card is a world away from the card’s dignified subject – the sender, fresh off the Bay of Fundy ferry at Digby, Nova Scotia, tells of an unenjoyable visit to Saint John.



Figure 2. “The Queen, God Bless Her”, by Raphael Tuck & Sons, posted 25 July 1902 in Nova Scotia.

Interestingly the card was written on 23 July 1902 – more than two weeks *before* the Coronation. If we stop and think about it, it’s rather impressive that a “Coronation Souvenir” produced by a British company would have been on sale on the other side of the Atlantic, in small-town Nova Scotia, so far in advance of the actual event. There’s an interesting, if speculative, explanation for this. While it did eventually take place in August, that was not the original plan: Edward VII’s Coronation was meant to take place on 26 June 1902. However, just before the big day, Edward was diagnosed with appendicitis – at the time a potentially fatal disease. Thanks to some experimental surgery, he survived, but the ceremony had to be put off until August. Thus, the reason that this card went on sale at such an early date might have been that Tuck had shipped their Coronation Souvenir cards to retailers in time for the event’s original June date, and, despite the postponement, those dealers went ahead and sold them a month or more in advance of the event that they “commemorated”.



Figure 3. “Canadian Arch”, posted 15 July 1902 in London, to Wilmington in Kent.

In Figure 3, we see the “Canadian Arch”, which enjoyed a prominent place along the parade route in London. This postcard is a “real

photo” posted 15 July 1902 – thanks to the postponement from June to August, the Coronation installations had turned into a months-long tourist attraction. As an aside, the 1902 date of this postcard is a full year older than the earliest Canadian RPPC in my collection – or that I’ve heard of anywhere else – so it might be the earliest known RPPC on a Canadian theme!



Figure 4. “The State Coach as Seen from the Canadian Arch”, by Raphael Tuck & Sons, posted 21 October 1902 in England.

Figure 4 suggests the publicity value of the Canadian Arch, which proved to be a great place for photographers to get pictures of the procession. This one is rather plain compared to the other Tuck Coronation postcards, no doubt because the company was trying to get cards that showed the Coronation itself out the door as soon as possible after the photographs of the events of 9 August were taken.



Figure 5. “Coronation Souvenir, June 22nd, 1911”, by Raphael Tuck & Sons, unused.

The reign of Edward VII was to last just nine years. On his death on 6 May 1910, King Edward was succeeded by his son, George V. As a second son (the “spare” as we’ve recently heard it called), George had not appeared destined for the throne until the sudden death of his elder brother Albert Victor in 1892. That brought the naval career on which George had embarked – and which is clearly referenced in Figure 5 – to a close.

A second Tuck card emphasizes the event in the context of the Empire, with flag-bearers from many of the King’s realms arranged in a circle around his portrait.



Figure 6. “Coronation Souvenir, June 22nd, 1911”, by Raphael Tuck & Sons, posted 4 July 1911.

By 1911, Canadian postcard publishers were producing elegant commemorative cards of their own. Figure 7, one of several published by European Post Card Co. of Montreal, is not quite of the first quality but is still an attractive keepsake, with the inclusion of a French flag being a rather unique choice (quite possibly directed to the French-Canadian market). Figure 8 is an especially interesting example, having been printed in Canada by Thomson Stationery Co. of Vancouver and coming much closer to the Tuck cards in its lithographic quality.



Figure 7. “Souvenir. Coronation 22 June 1911”, by European Post Card Co., posted 9 September 1914.

The Coronation of King George V was marked across Canada, of course, and as it occurred in 1911 it was recorded by many of the RPPC photographers who were active at that time. Figures 9 and 10 are from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and show the city’s own “Coronation Arch” as well as a patriotic “living flag” display by what appear to be local schoolchildren. The cards were the work of photographer Alfred Sutton (later of Vancouver’s Gowen Sutton, a major producer of postcards in western Canada).



Figure 8. "Coronation Souvenir", by the Lux Co., printed by Thomson Stationery Co. Ltd., Vancouver, B.C., unused.



Figure 9. "Coronation Day, Moose Jaw", Alfred Sutton RPPC, unused.



Figure 10. "Coronation Day, Moose Jaw - Living Flag", Alfred Sutton RPPC, unused.

No Canadian company was more patriotic than the T. Eaton Co., proprietor of the country's largest department stores. Figure 11 shows the festive façade of Eaton's Winnipeg store in an image by Maurice Lyall. Note the larger-than-life figures of King and Queen at the bottom centre of the giant "fan".



Figure 11. "T. Eaton Co. Store, Winnipeg, Coronation, 1911", Maurice Lyall RPPC, unused.

The most lasting tribute to the Coronation of 1911 may have been that accorded by a small town of 900 residents in east-central Alberta. The arrival of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1910 led to the creation of the town, which took the name "Coronation" in 1911 and patriotically named its streets "Victoria", "Edward", "George", "Royal", "Imperial" and, as we see in Figure 12, "Windsor". The patriotic and political theme is also seen along the CPR line itself – nearby communities were given names like "Loyalist", "Consul", "Veteran", "Federal" and even "Throne". But the town of Coronation was intended to become the grand metropolitan centre of the entire region, and the sender of the card clearly expects her friend back East to be impressed by its progress to date: "What do you think of this avenue in our Western town? Where there was just one small building when we passed through last year."



Figure 12. "Windsor Ave., Coronation Alta.", unattributed RPPC, used circa 1912.

After presenting a wealth of 1911 cards, I'll be more parsimonious with those for 1937 and 1953, since – consistently with what we find generally in the postcard market – there just aren't as many cards from those years. Having said that, as Figure 13 demonstrates, the Tuck company continued to turn out masterpieces of the genre. Here we see George VI, thrown unexpectedly into the fray upon his brother Edward VIII's dramatic abdication in 1936.



Figure 13. “Coronation Souvenir: His Majesty King George VI”, Raphael Tuck & Sons, unused.

In Figure 14, the commercial use of the Coronation we saw in the Eaton’s postcard from 1911 is taken up by Chapple’s, a department store in Fort William, Ontario (now part of Thunder Bay). The card was produced by Valentine-Black and comes complete with a pre-written “message” purporting to be from a U.S. traveller, emphasizing the ready availability in Canada of coveted English household goods that cost much more in the U.S. due to American tariffs. In part, it reads: *“Shopping at Chapple’s is a pleasure. They sell the lovely imported linens, woolens, china and Peek Freans biscuits – prices are much cheaper”*. The images of the King and Queen would only have strengthened that message.



Figure 14. “Chapples Ltd. – Fort William. Coronation Year”, Valentine-Black, no. 115,590, unused but dated 1937.

Finally, we come to the memorable Coronation of 2 June 1953, when Elizabeth II was barely a year into what became a 70-year reign. In this case I can show just one Canadian card, Figure 15, the “Standard of Canada”, which those many Canadians who had watched the Coronation on their TV sets or as newsreels would have recognized, much as Canada’s Coronation Arch had

been a popular symbol of our involvement in the monarchy a half century before.

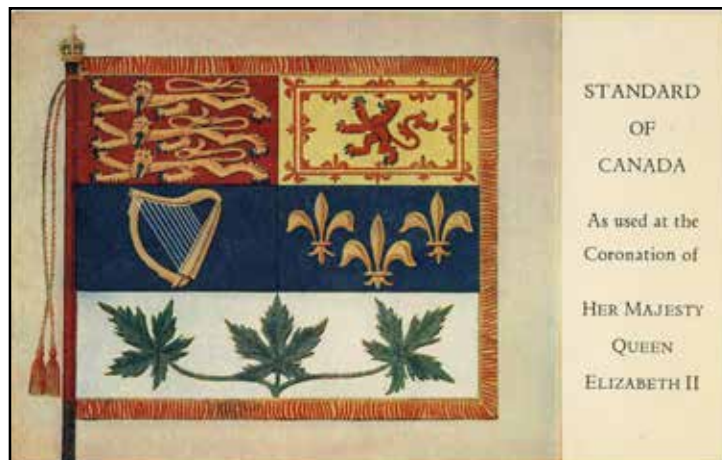


Figure 15. “Standard of Canada”, publisher unknown, unused.

To ensure some Tuck representation while adding a personal touch, I’ll conclude with the card below, showing an iconic London scene, the Changing of the Guard. It was sent to my father from his grandmother, a native of Buckinghamshire who had emigrated to Winnipeg in 1900 and made her one and only trip home in 1953 to attend the Coronation. The reinforcement of the bond between Canada and Great Britain during wartime, combined with postwar optimism and prosperity, led many Canadians to make the trip over for Elizabeth’s big day, and (no doubt) many such postcard images were mailed home to fascinate children and grandchildren.



Figure 16. “Guardsmen Marching Back to Barracks After Guard Duty at Buckingham Palace”, Raphael Tuck & Sons, posted 4 July 1953.

We will have to be on the lookout for any new Coronation cards for 2023 – sadly the Tuck company can no longer be relied on as it was bought out in 1959 and has long since vanished as a brand, to the best of my knowledge.

When Yonge Was Young

By John G. Sayers (TPC #560)

Life in Toronto would have been less confusing if, in the 1790s, Governor John Graves Simcoe had named Toronto's main street after anyone other than his friend Sir George Yonge, who reportedly had a strong interest in Roman roads. But Simcoe did, and a couple of centuries of telling visitors how to spell and pronounce the name followed – but fortunately we have early postcard views that show just how dynamic Yonge Street was in its earlier years.

A confession – the images are from an archive created by the late Gary Mauthé, a dealer with impeccable taste in postcards and a penchant for making fine copies of every card that came through his hands. Thank you, Gary, from we dedicated historians.

So, what do they tell us about our fair city of Toronto? Signs are everything. The delivery carriage with the address 43 Yonge St. painted on the back immediately sends us to Google and Insurance Maps of Toronto. Number 43 was in the block between Front and Wellington, on the east side of Yonge. Nothing to learn other than that the Public Utilities Building anchored the block, and it was right in the heart of an apparently vibrant area with many financial institutions located nearby.



Figure 1. Signs of the times.

More Googling. The City Directory of 1911 isn't by street but instead by business categories. I was not prepared to skate through many hundreds of pages to look for a business at 43 Yonge St. Instead, I focused on Restaurants, of which there were many. Tea Rooms Ltd at 97 Yonge St. was close. At 83 Yonge St. was a restaurant run by Albert Williams, who had three restaurants.

Closer still, at 39 Yonge St., was a restaurant operated by J. R. Fowler. My conclusion is that whatever was at 43 Yonge Street required public advertising for part of its trade, and the name of the establishment



Figure 2. J.A. Neal (c. 1916).

was probably on the side of the carriage. A further observation, heightened by today's sensitivity to diversity (and Kyle Jolliffe's article elsewhere in this issue!) is that at the end of the Restaurant category is a list headed as "Chinese" which lists only the streets and address numbers, such as "Church, 108, 130-132". Nothing more.

I love Real Photo cards and Figure 2 is no exception. J. A. Neal's address and phone number are prominently displayed on the vehicle. A modest advertisement by Neal in the "Women's Tribute to First War Veterans" program of November 1916 gives us a ballpark idea of the date.



Figure 3. That old time religion.

Figure 3 is another nice Real Photo card, but even though it pictures a Yonge Street bus, it is not necessarily Yonge Street. Close examination discloses that the bus carries the sign "Behold I Come Quickly", augmented by a series of religious-themed placards mounted further down on the sides. The complete story is probably that the couple are part of an evangelical tour well known in the 1920s and 1930s, as portrayed in the film *Elmer Gantry*, and they have rented a bus for their Toronto events.



Figure 4. The Governor General's bodyguards (c. 1909).

Figure 4, picturing The Governor General's Bodyguards and dated by Gary Mauthé as 1909, illustrates a number of signs of contemporary Canadian businesses for the ardent researcher. It also presages the 1910 trip, paid for entirely by Sir Henry Pellatt, the Commanding Officer of the Queen's Own Rifles, to George V's coronation ceremonies. What a different world!

Figure 5 shows the massive crowds at the Orangemen's Day Parade in 1909, a reminder of the once strong Orange supporters at the time. The pubs would have been busy.



Figure 5. Orangemen's Day, 12 July 1909.

Figure 6 is a researcher's delight. Located just south of Steeles Avenue it's in the outermost reaches of the city. Maybe even "the outer boonies". I recall once riding with my parents in the 1940s on the Radial Car, whose tracks you can see, running north from a terminal at Hogg's Hollow. For all three of us it was the experience comparable to an excursion to another planet. This photo was earlier and is dated as 1913. The road is unpaved, and a researcher will have fun tracking down the name "Cullett's" on the building on the right.



Figure 6. Yonge Street near Steeles Avenue (1913).

Figure 7, looking "North from Wilton Avenue" will challenge you if you look for the street on a current map. That's because it became part of Dundas Street as Dundas was extended east from its early military framework. And we can see Wilson Sporting Goods, Sellers-

Gough Furs, Russel's Shoe Store and Dominion Pianos (a staple for every middle-class home). It's a fascinating business record, and I wish that there were also images of the store interiors!



Figure 7. Wilton Avenue shops.

And last but not least, a photo in Figure 8 of some of the participants in the 1917 Orangemen's Day parade, posing on Bloor Street. I can't place the buildings in the background, but I am sure that with effort they can be identified. You will note that in both the Figure 5 images of the Orange parade, and this one, the participants are male. In 1917 some of the members of this group should have been in uniform unless seriously wounded (not evident) or on leave and not in uniform.



Figure 8. The 1917 Orangemen's Day parade.

These are only a few of the Toronto Yonge Street postcards in the Mauthé group of images. As with many postcards, they answer some of our questions and add to our knowledge, but they can create as many puzzles as they solve. I hope that these have given you some of those puzzles while putting the pieces in place to solve others. Happy hunting!

CNE Postcards by Zaitchick: Where Are The Other Eight?

By John G. Sayers (TPC #560)

For many years I had a love affair with the Canadian National Exhibition ('the Ex'). The Ex has changed substantially over the years, but I maintain my love affair with period postcards, such as these ones, that remind me of the fair's earlier days.

For example, there's the Transportation Building. By the time that I went to the Ex it had evolved into the Automotive Building, and I have fond memories of going there to see the "new" models from Detroit (and nowhere else at that time).



Figure 1. The Transportation Building

Recollections include the new 1954 Packard Caribbean Convertible and earlier the wondrous new Tucker, billed as a revolution in automobiles. (The "revolution" lasted only for the production of a total of 51 cars.)

This image is somewhat earlier than my days at the Ex. I can discern a sign that advertises the REO. It ceased production in 1936. And in the distance, I can make out "CCM". Google research tells me that CCM was the Canadian distributor for the Russell automobile, which had a production life from 1905 to 1916.

So, that all makes sense because it dates the card from the period during which postcards remained in popular demand. And the other card that I have come across, the interior showing the Boot & Shoe Exhibit in the West Annex, would be out of place today because almost all of our footwear is manufactured in other countries.

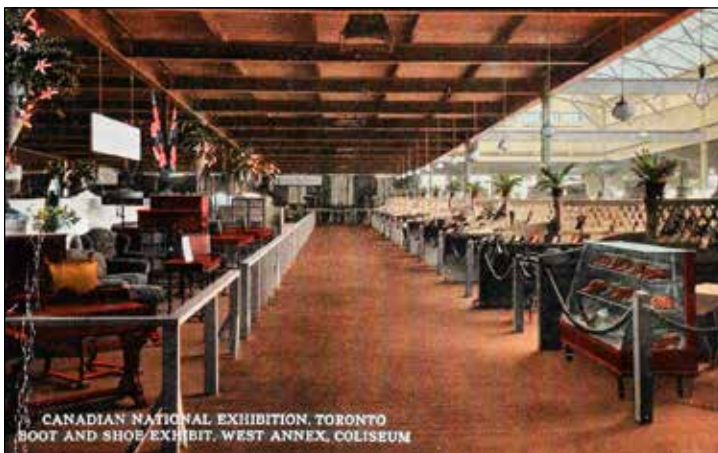


Figure 2. Boots and shoes

I remember the closing of the Greb Shoe plant which, according (again) to a Google site, completely ceased operations in 2000.

Another search showed that there are still some small manufacturers in Canada, but their production is unlikely to ever equal the extent suggested by the images in this picture.

Another confession – I love interiors. Both these images are ones I have not encountered before, so how many others are there? First, I should disclose that the postcards were both purchased from the same dealer at the Covent Garden Market in London, England. Second, they were priced at only 2 pounds and 25 pence each – under 5 dollars Canadian. As you might gather, Canadian postcards don't carry a big price tag in England.

But even more exciting is the fact that...wait for it...wait for it...they have each come from a book of postcards, judging by the perforations down the left side. So, many questions arise. How many cards were in the original booklet? Were there any other interiors or were they all prosaic views of buildings at the Ex? And were they sold only at the Ex, or at other places? These examples are postally unused so somehow got detached from the booklet – perhaps they are the only ones that weren't used by a British visitor to the Ex, who brought them home.

You've been waiting to hear about the backs. The illustration tells us that they were published by E. Zaitchick, Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto as a "C.T. Photochrom" and printed in the U.S.A.



Figure 3. The back design.

If I had to guess, I'd postulate that these were only offered at the Ex during the two weeks of its operation but could have been marketed over a few Ex seasons.

I'm speculating that there were perhaps ten cards in the booklet. If so, I'm missing eight cards. My plea to Canadian National Exhibition collectors – do YOU have any other cards in this fascinating set? Please let us know. Happy hunting!

Journey to Pennsylvania

By Andrew Cunningham (TPC #1424)

A new occasional feature for Card Talk is to visit a place outside Canada via postcards – a U.S. state (or part of one) or a country or region of another country that you know well – or just know through some postcards you've always liked. I don't have a lot of cards of U.S. states – with a few exceptions – but I do have a few dozen of most, and a lot of them are really interesting. So here then is a tour of Pennsylvania, the Keystone State, which I have to admit I've hardly been to at all. But the postcards are telling the tale ... I'm just the typist.



Figure 1. National Memorial Arch, Valley Forge, Pa. (Curt Teich, unused)

The place to start is Valley Forge, where this Curt Teich Art Colortone linen illustrates the National Memorial Arch, dedicated in 1917 to the memory of the soldiers of George Washington's Continental Army who spent a very difficult winter of 1777-78 in this spot on the Schuylkill River, just outside Philadelphia, which had fallen to the British. Over 2,000 died of disease and exposure but the soldiers also spent time preparing for the successes that were soon to come.



Figure 2. Soldiers Monument, Harrisburg, Pa. (Rotograph, posted 1906)

Another great war touched this part of the country, as the second postcard reminds us. This is the Civil War memorial in Harrisburg, the state capital. Built from 600 tons of stone taken from the shores of the Susquehanna River, the obelisk is 110 feet in height, almost exactly one-fifth the height of the Washington

Monument, which it resembles. This card was mailed from the Keystone State to the Keystone Province (Manitoba) as part of a postcard exchange. The sender, a teenager named Ross Hamsher, advises addressee Gertrude Hastey that he is a member of "Each and All", presumably a pen-pal or postcard exchange society to which she, a resident of the farming village of Holmfield, also belongs.



Figure 3. Shooting Oil Well, Oil City, Pa. (Farrell & Wuller, unused)

This wonderful image reminds us that the American oil industry began not in Texas or Oklahoma but in northwestern Pennsylvania. The first viable well was drilled just north of here, at Titusville in 1859. This reflects the Canadian story almost exactly: our first producing well was drilled in 1858 near Oil City, Ontario, which is just 100 miles, as the crow flies, from its Pennsylvania counterpart.



Figure 4. Horse Shoe Curve, Altoona, Pa. (Illustrated Post Card Co. (N.Y.), unused)

The Horseshoe Curve on the Norfolk Southern Railroad, west of Altoona, is one of the state's oldest tourist attractions. Completed in 1854, the curve allowed trains of the (then) Pennsylvania Railroad to cross the Allegheny Mountains at an easy and consistent grade. By the 1870s the sight of trains

sweeping around the massive curve had become so popular with tourists that a park and observation area were built – possibly the first such accommodation designed specifically for “railfans” anywhere. The postcard image appears to show only two tracks – if so, it may have been somewhat dated as a third track was added in 1898. The Horseshoe Curve is still in service today and remains a popular destination for train watchers.

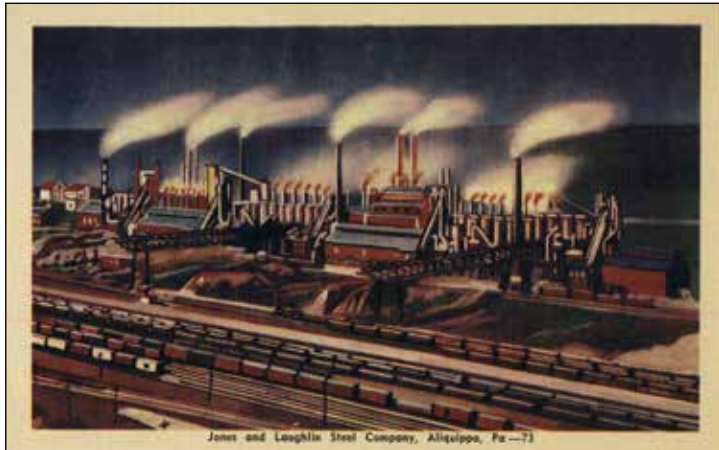


Figure 5. Jones and Laughlin Steel Company, Aliquippa, Pa. (Dexter Press, unused)

This Dexter linen card captures an image of America’s industrial heartland – the Jones and Laughlin (J&L) Steel plant at Aliquippa, on the Ohio River just north of Pittsburgh. The plant opened in 1905 and closed in 1984, by which time it was part of LTV. Mirroring the situation in many similar “Rust Belt” towns, the economy has been depressed ever since. In its heyday, Aliquippa produced not only steel but famous pro sports figures, including Pete Maravich, Mike Ditka, Tony Dorsett and the wonderfully named Frank Gnupek, quarterback of the Toronto Argonauts in 1950 and later the long-serving head coach of the UBC Thunderbirds. Henry Mancini is another American legend who grew up in the shadow of the J&L plant.



Figure 6. Parade at Reading, Pa. (RPPC, unattributed, posted 1908)

This wonderfully detailed card depicts a parade in an unidentified spot that turned out, after a little detective work, to be Penn Street in Reading, Pa., a city of about 100,000 that is halfway between Philadelphia and Harrisburg. It was sent from Rochester, N.Y. by the family of a student who had just travelled to Wisconsin to begin college there – he had evidently promised to send postcards along the way, since his sister is asking whether they would receive one from Milwaukee to go with the Chicago card that had arrived earlier.



Figure 7. Patriotic Decorations, Galeton, Pa. (RPPC, unattributed and unused)

The impressive decorations we see here may have been for the Fourth of July, although the “Welcome” sign suggests that the occasion could also have been the visit of an important person, or perhaps a convention. Like many towns in this region, including some here in Ontario, the loss of traditional industries has been a challenge and the population of Galeton today is less than 1,000. The town peaked at 4,000 in 1910, which would have been right around the time of this postcard – the 48-star U.S. flags show that the image must date from 1912 at the earliest – that being the year that Arizona and New Mexico joined the Union. (Continued next page)



Figure 8. United States Post Office, Bedford, Pa. (Curt Teich, unused)

And we'll conclude as we began, with a Curt Teich "Art Colortone" card on an appropriately "postal" theme – the handsome United States Post Office at Bedford, which is halfway between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. It is a long time since towns of 3,000, in either the U.S. or Canada, could boast of public buildings of such fine quality – no drugstore-counter post offices for postcard-era Pennsylvanians!

Hope you've enjoyed this trip around Pennsylvania – in future issues, as we said, we'll take some quick tours of other U.S. and foreign regions. Anyone with an idea for a journey of that kind – about the same length as this one, ideally – is welcome to get in touch with the Editor.

There's Always Another One!

By Barb Henderson (TPC #920)

There are many, many "Tuck", that is to say Raphael Tuck & Sons, postcards. In the 1970s era of postcard collecting, the deltiological (is that a word?) printed media of the time included many Tuck resources; lists, pricing guides, history books, and so on. Today, the most comprehensive resource about this U.K. publisher is the **TuckDB Postcards** website which, as you can read in the "TuckDB start" section, had its roots in 1998.



This database has a strong Canadian connection through TPC and Vancouver Postcard Club member Dr. Richard Moulton (1928-2022), who was one of the collaborators compiling the early lists. Today, Richard's daughter Alison Milling and computer programmer Justin Tanner keep the site going and growing. You can read Justin's 2020 retrospective on how it all progressed, "Ten Years of TuckDB" (just enter that title into your browser). At that time, he reported some 300,000 Tuck postcard entries in the database.

Figure 1. Never before seen!

So imagine my surprise when I found that a recent \$3 purchase (see Figure 1) was a Tuck – never seen a celluloid Tuck – and was not in the TuckDB database!! Neither the design nor the series number. It's from the "Hand-painted Celluloid Series No. 751", manufactured in Berlin, and noted in the stamp box, is part of the "artistic series". It's a celluloid panel affixed to a typical Tuck paper postcard back. The four known "Hand painted Celluloids" are now five! There's a forum

on the TuckDB website on which you can report such things, or send an inquiry about a Tuck puzzle, or a comment – which I did. Justin's reply was: "thanks for the new card, looking for a spot for this new card and possible new set."

New set???? I may have a million-dollar postcard! Well maybe to a Tuck collector; that is. Now that I know there are Tuck celluloids, I'll keep an eye out for others. As Justin implies, maybe there are more than 5. In any case, it's in my celluloid postcard binder. It's nice, but apart from the apparent scarcity, compared to others I've acquired, it's not particularly special. Now – by contrast! – the recently acquired "poisson d'Avril" celluloid in Figure 2 is a million-dollar postcard in my book! Attached, ruched ribbon on a celluloid panel, no postcard markings on the back, an applied fish and tiny envelope that opens, with airbrushed corners and glitter trim. Welcome, Spring!



Figure 2. Barb's magnificent "April Fish" card checks pretty much every box for the "novelty" collector.



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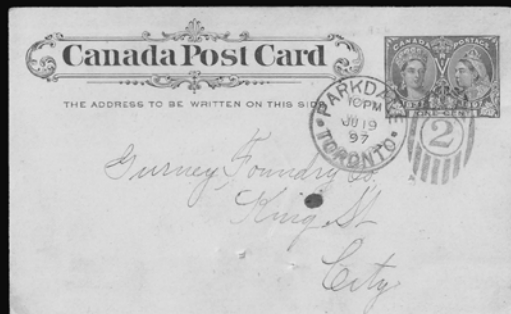
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