



POSTVIEW

The Newsletter of the
Vancouver Postcard Club

www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca

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Tally-Ho!

The postcard in our masthead this issue shows the Tally-Ho operated by the Stanley Park Livery Stables, pictured at the Hollow Tree. The postcard is #45 is the Copperprint series published by Vancouver-based European Import Co., from around 1911. The owners of the European Import Co., George Fricke and George Schenck, were the first official Stanley Park photographers and you can see some of their images displayed for sale at the left of the Hollow Tree.

The Tally-Ho was a large "four-in-hand" that carried up to 20 tourists from the major hotels in downtown Vancouver for a drive around the perimeter of Stanley Park.

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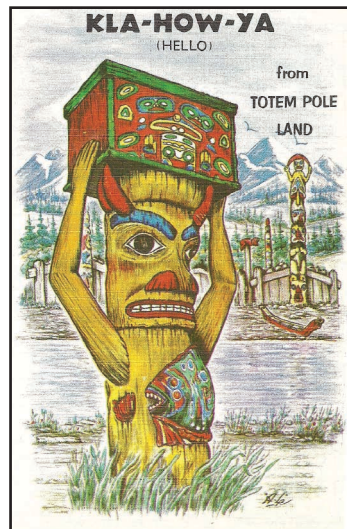
The Value of Postcards

Have you ever scratched your head at an unusually high price that a postcard has sold for on eBay? Sometimes you see a rather mundane view of a ship or a church or a downtown building sell for many times what a comparable view might be offered at from a postcard dealer's box. It's possible of course that some serious postcard collectors are duking it out for a particular numbered view to complete a series. Or that a couple of family historians coincidentally both want the same image of the church in which their grandparents were married or a ship that a distant relative arrived on from Europe early in the 20th century. More likely than not, however, the price is being driven up by what's on the back of the card, not by the image on front.

That's because an increasing number of collectors with different backgrounds and interests see value in postcards. Postal historians may attach value to a cancellation from a post office that was closed over 100 years ago. Social historians may be interested in an unusual message on the reverse side of the card (count yourself lucky if you have a postcard sent by a passenger on the Titanic for example). We have seen postcards sell at bewilderingly high premiums on eBay

that appeal to military historians (depicting Canadian forces in action for example); art historians (where a scarce artist-signed postcard may almost be as valuable as the original painting); and to those interested in early modes of transportation - aircraft, railways or shipping. Whatever the subject there's likely to be a postcard image of it; its value will reflect the scarcity (supply) and number of collectors interested in it (demand). This explains why a "book mark postcard" depicting a military inspection by General Otter in 1909, published by Vancouver photographer Philip Timms, recently sold for over \$300 - it was a scarce card (perhaps one of only 10 or 15 published by Timms) and it appealed to a wide range of collecting interests.

The value of postcards to historians and other researchers is recognized by the W.A.C. Bennett Library of Simon Fraser University. Eric Swanick, Head of SFU Library Special Collections and Rare Books, recently let us know that its website consisting of approximately 6,000 British Columbia postcards is now accessible at <http://www.lib.sfu.ca/special-collections/bc-postcards>. The project was made possible with the financial support of BC History Digitization Program and SFU's Scholarly Digitization Fund. We encourage our readers to visit this historically significant collection online and send Eric any comments.



"The Eagle-Halibut Totem" by G.M. Abrams-Lytton - see article on page 3

Club News

by Margaret Waddington

Congratulations to Club Members Ron Hyde and Lou Beaubien!

On May 4th **Ron Hyde** received the City of Richmond 2013 Heritage award for continual heritage volunteer work and for preserving the history of the Steveston tram in his book *The Sockeye Special: the Story of the Steveston tram and early Lulu Island*. On May 6th he received the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Heritage Preservation Recognition Award for excellent volunteer work in Historic Preservation (This was the first Historic Preservation Award presented to someone outside of the U.S.) At the BCHF Conference in Kamloops on May 11th he received an Honorary Life Membership from the BCHF.

On May 24th **Lou Beaubien** received the Kushiuro Cup 2012 Burnaby Citizen of the Year award for being a "tireless volunteer and enthusiast" according to a city report. Beaubien is being recognized for volunteering for the Burnaby Amateur Radio Club and played a major role with radio equipment and antenna work in the planning of both the old and new Edmonds Community Centres, works with the BRACES radio emergency group, and the Burnaby area Radio-sport Fox Hunt. He also established an active emergency amateur radio station at Burnaby Red Cross and is an active member of the Knights of Columbus Council 5423 in Burnaby. He was the chair of the Courtesy Car Division for the 2012 BC Seniors Games and also set up radio communications for all the vehicles. Lou is one of the longest serving volunteers of the Vancouver Sun Run and has sat on its committee for 21 of its 25 years.

Club Meetings

On **May 19th Peter Jacobi** displayed some of his extensive collection of Mining in Southern B. C. cards. A retired metallurgist who worked many years for Cominco and has exhibited numerous award winning postal history displays across Canada, Peter has recently been acquiring postcards and other mining-related collectibles to supplement his displays and to illustrate and better tell stories of B. C.'s mining history.

Peter showed views of the mines at Anyox, Hedley, and Rossland, smelters at Anyox, Crofton, and Greenwood, a flotation mill at Allenby, the coke ovens at Fernie, row housing in Michael, the general store at Roosville, the Kootenay hotel in Moyie, Creston's 4th Avenue and the townsite of Sandon. Human interest cards included slag being dumped at Greenwood, the afternoon shift at COMINCO' Sullivan Mine, the afternoon crew at the Trail smelter, the miners train back to Ladysmith from Extension and Spalding's shots of feeding refugees after the great fire at Fernie.

Among the ephemera were a Bralorne stock certificate, a Cominco-cancelled cheque, a Hedley tramway pass, baggage checks and pay slips.

On June 16th **Diane Rogers** showed an eclectic assortment of the modern (80s +) postcards which she collects. Included were a Molly's Reach card ("A UFO saw me"), a family tree card ("My deah, he has no family tree!"), a political protest card ("Windy Bay, essential part of the proposed South Moresby National Park Reserve on the Queen Charlotte Islands"), advertising cards ("Authentic Cowichan Indian knits"), a map card ("British Columbia's historic highways"), a Go Green Choices card ("Great ways to get around in greater Vancouver"), QSL cards, and a "Hug coupon, good for a hug" card.

Vancouver Postcard Show - May 26th, 2013

The 2013 Vancouver Postcard Club show held as usual at the Hastings Community Centre on May 26th attracted 95 collectors and 11 dealers at 25 tables. Feedback from those attending - both collectors and dealers - was generally positive although one or two dealers thought the numbers were down this year (few visitors from Victoria for example).

Winners of the People's Choice for best postcard displays were

1. **Tim Woodland** - "Cooksley's 1906-1910 New Westminster real photos" (\$50)

2. **Lance Arnett** - "Trail of '98" (Gold Rush cards) (\$30)

3. **Ron Souch** - "Some Early Motor Vehicles in B. C." (\$20)

Thank-you to Jill Charkow for donating \$50 for the Abe Charkow Memorial Trophy for the most popular People's Choice display.

Special thanks are also due to the VPCC members who helped make the show a success - **Ron Souch** (show convenor and publicity), **Maurice Guibord** (doorman), **Margaret Waddington** (ticket sales), **Lance Arnett** (MC), and **Tim Mustart** (refreshments). There were several excellent postcard displays this year and thanks to all who displayed their postcards. There were many close runners up to this year's three prize-winners.



First prize - Abe Charkow Memorial Trophy -Tim Woodland (\$50).

Second Prize- Lance Arnett(\$30). Third Prize -Ron Souch (\$20).

Thanks to Don Steele for the photo.

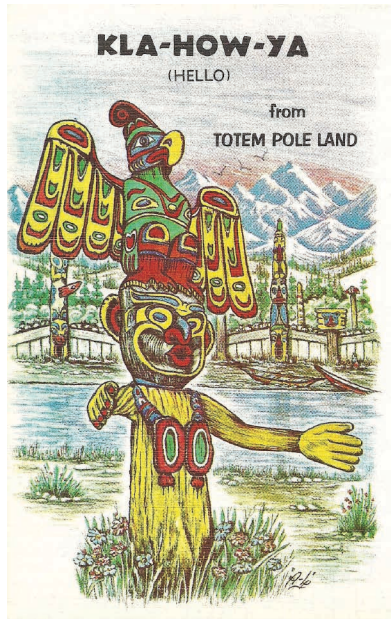
Kla How Ya - Coloured Totem Poles

By Philip Francis

British Columbia (named by Queen Victoria) became a British colony in 1858 and Canada's sixth Province in 1871. Centennial celebrations were held in 1958, organized by the B.C. Centennial Committee in Victoria. Several series of postcards were published for the Centennial, perhaps the best known of which is a series of 15 postcards "from Totem Pole Land" published by Kla How Ya Crafts of Nanaimo.

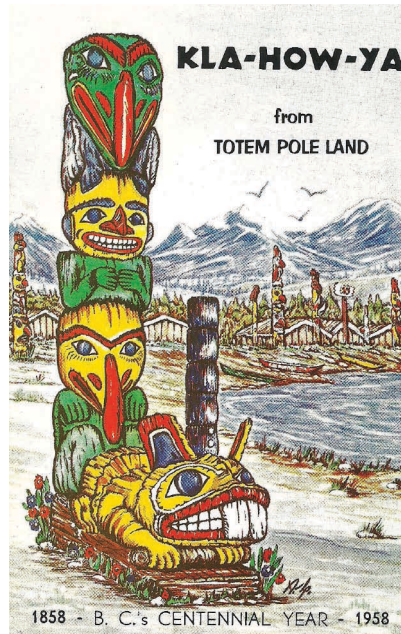
The brightly-coloured cards were "specially created" by Georgina M. Abrams-Lytton, a Nanaimo artist who specialized in paintings of First Nations subjects in British Columbia. Each image is signed with the artist's initials "A-L" and comes with background details of each of the subjects on the reverse side.

Wayne Curtis and Mike Smith have identified 3 different series of the postcards, containing the same images but published in different printings. The first is overprinted "Kla-How-Ya (Hello) from Totem Pole Land" - an example of which is shown below -



(On reverse of postcard) "D'Sonoqoa" (Kwakiutl Tribe of B.C.). Mythical monster cannibal woman who scoured the woods with a large basket slung over her back in search of children. The top figure is the mighty Thunderbird that lived only on the top of high mountains. The Coastal Indians believed that when its eyes flashed, lightning shot forth. When its wings flapped, thunder rolled and rain poured down. This pole originated in Alert Bay. B.C."

A second series of the postcards is overprinted at the bottom of the card "1858 - B.C.'s Centennial Year - 1958", see example below:



(On reverse of postcard) "Beaver Pole" (Bella Coola Tribe). This totem is a memorial to a high ranking Bella Coola chief. The top figure is a raven perched on top of a human being, which in turn is on another raven. At the bottom is the Beaver or the Housebuilder with the traditional "Knawing stick".

A third series has "British Columbia - Canada" overprinted in silver band at the bottom of the card.

We are most grateful to Wayne for sending us information about these Centennial postcards. He and Mike have so far identified the following 15 images:

1. Bear Mother and Cubs
2. Beaver Pole (shown above)
3. D'Sonoqoa (shown at left)
4. Eagle Grave Box
5. Masked Cannibal Dance
6. Strong Man of North Island
7. The Eagle-Halibut Totem (shown of front page)
8. The Legend of Wasco
9. The Thunderbird
10. The Thunderbird Totem Pole
11. Thunderbird House Pole
12. Totem of Tanu
13. Totem Pole
14. War Canoe
15. Witch of Saxman

You can find these postcards in dealers boxes priced around \$2-\$3 each!

Upcoming Events

Sept. 7-8: Oakridge Coin and Stamp Fair, Oakridge Auditorium, 10-5

Sept. 15: Vancouver Postcard Club meeting, 11:30-2

Sept. 20-21: VANPEX, including Ron Leith Auction, West Burnaby United Church, 6050 Sussex Ave., Burnaby, Fri: 10-5; Sat: 10-4

Sept. 22: 21st Century Flea Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

Sept. 28-29: VICPEX, Comfort Hotel, Victoria, Sat: 10-5:30, Sun: 9:30-4

Oct. 5-6: Greater Seattle Postcard, Stamp & Paper Collectible Show, Kent Commons, 525 - 4th Ave. North, Kent, WA, Sat: 10-6, Sun: 10-4

Oct. 12-13: Greater Portland Postcard, Stamp & Paper Collectible Show. New Location: Double Tree Hotel, 1000 NE 33rd Multnomah Drive, Portland, OR, Sat: 10-6, Sun: 10-5

Oct. 20: Vancouver Postcard Club meeting, 11:30-2

Oct. 20: Retro Design & Antiques Fair, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

Oct. 26-27: All Collectibles Show, Pearkes Arena, Victoria

Nov. 10: Victoria Stamp & Coin Fair, Comfort Hotel, Victoria, 9:30-4

Nov. 17: Vancouver Postcard Club meeting, 11:30-2

Nov. 17: Oakridge Coin and Stamp Fair, Oakridge Auditorium, 10-5

Nov. 17: 21st Century Flea Market, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

Dec. 1: Retro Design & Antiques Fair, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive at 16th, 10-3

Dec. 15: Vancouver Postcard Club Annual General Meeting and Christmas Party. 11.30-2

Look for details of the speakers at upcoming club monthly meetings at www.vancouverpostcardclub.ca.

“A Force To Be Reckoned With” by Fred Hume

A few years ago I was the recipient of a gift of a postcard, which for my friend Jennifer Ettinger holds a certain significance. For Jennifer, who is an accomplished artist and a keen sports fan, this particular card sends messages, reveals histories.

This card produced in the early 1990s in accordance with Vaughan's Stationery in Windsor, Nova Scotia, is designed to promote through the information on the back, Windsor's unique place in Canadian history.

One of the country's oldest towns, the card explains how Windsor is the birthplace of hockey. Apparently it began in 1800 when the field game of hurley was played on ice at Windsor's Long Pond.

Over the next 50 years hurley developed into ice hockey, a game whose reputation spread to Boston in 1859 then introduced to Montreal in 1875 and Ottawa in 1884. Pucks, skates, sticks, goalie nets and “Halifax Rules” are gleefully reported on this card as originating “here in Nova Scotia.”

It is no secret Jennifer is proud of her Nova Scotia roots along with Long Pond and “Halifax Rules.” But what for Jennifer has more significance is the image on the face of this card – “The 1941/42 Windsor Academy Hockey Team, Nova Scotia Provincial Intermediate Champions.” When Jennifer first viewed this card she was surprised to see, fifth from right, back row, her father, Alvin “Ab” Ettinger.

I am not privy to all details but I do know Jennifer was very close to her father who passed away relatively early in her life and who in her words, “was a force to be reckoned with” as a hockey and baseball player. When she was young and perhaps even today,

“Ab” was and is an essential ingredient in her life, someone who elicits fond memories and whose legacy lives on. She recalls joyful experiences such as how she used to skate with him and how he taught her the art of raising the puck and the slap shot. “It was neat growing up there. I still miss him a lot,” she says.

It is safe to say her relationship with her father during her childhood in Nova Scotia initiated her interest, kinship if you will, with sports.



WINDSOR ACADEMY HOCKEY TEAM - 1941-'42
N.S. Provincial Intermediate Champions
Back Row: Carl Bruhm, J.A. "Jack" Williams, Paul Stron, Fred Johns, Harold "Hip" Brown, Alvin "Ab" Ettinger, George Howard, Gordon "Snook" Hughes, Dan Fillmore, L.P. Edwards
Front Row: Harry Ettinger, Ralph Lawrence, Bill McCann, Bruce Dunlop, Laurie Burbridge, George Crowe, Murray "Moe" Smith

It can also be said she retains her father and his memory through not just her following and playing sports but through her art. She is now one of North America's premier artists in sport related subjects, an artist with tremendous versatility specializing in portraits, all sports, all eras. She is constantly receiving commissions from all over the continent as well as art for the city, book covers, even the large images of iconic baseball players one sees adorning the outside walls of Nat Bailey Stadium. Jennifer's first public show was in fact a tribute to her father, paintings of those major league baseball stars she imagined her father would loved to have had as teammates.

The passion and the expertise she demonstrates could be said to be traced back to her father, who as it happens is pictured on this postcard. Through her gift of this card, I can witness, perhaps in a small way live vicariously, this legacy, father to daughter.
Fred Hume

Fred Hume

Fred is a member of the Vancouver Postcard Club and contributes a regular feature to *Postview*. Born and raised in Vancouver, Fred has lived here for most of his life and since 1989 has worked at UBC as a historian, mainly in the Athletics Dept., but also providing research to other departments. He is a collector of sports-related postcards, memorabilia and related items and particularly enjoys old photographs that tell a story.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Francis:

I was very excited to see my father, James Shingo Murakami's name among other articles listed in the home page for my brother, Dr. Ernest Murakami of Hope, B.C. yesterday. I was able to find Page 6 and was astonished to see his article under Biographies of B.C. Photographers, which outlined our family history.

I tried to find it today but I am not too familiar with computers therefore was unsuccessful. I had sent your Vancouver postcard club web site address to my brother last night so I was able to find your site again through the email address I'd written in the email to him. I just pressed and there it was!

Your e-mail address was there in the article page so I've taken the liberty to write to you to thank you. I am wondering if it would be possible to purchase some copies of *Postview* – December 2011, if available. I'd like to keep the copies for my grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Please let me know!

Thank you very much for taking an interest and writing about my father. Also to all the members of the club who've participated in the research.

Wonderful job!

In appreciation, yours sincerely,
Martha Masako Nakamura
(nee-Murakami)

P.S. Hope this reaches you!

Rocky Heights No. 101, Miyachiyo
2-2-5, Miyagino-Ku, Sendai, Japan
983-004

Biographies of B.C. Photographers

Albert Henry "Harry" Priest, 1881 - 1955

Compiled by M. Waddington

The photographer chronicler of Merritt, Albert Henry Priest, was born January 28, 1881 in Halesowen Road, Registration district Dudley, sub-registration district Rowley Regis, Staffordshire, England to Joseph Jordan Priest, a tailor, and Mary Jane Pearson.

A designer and draughtsman, Harry, as he was usually called, and his wife, the former Lily Sydonia [Sidonia] Emery, whom he had married in Holy Trinity Church in the parish of Old Hill, Staffordshire on August 5, 1901, sailed from Liverpool February 20, 1908 on the SS Kensington, docking at Halifax on March 1st.

They arrived in Merritt planning to fruit farm in Quilchena. (Apparently Harry suffered from TB and was advised to move to a drier climate.) Instead Harry became a photographer and the first city clerk.

Lily was hired to teach in a tent school, in a clearing where City Furniture now stands. On March 16, 1908, Lily and her pupils moved to Hayland Hall at 1776 Nicola Avenue. Two more classrooms were added in December and by April (or January, sources vary) of the following year Ernest Fraser replaced Mrs. Priest as principal and teacher.

She subsequently taught at other schools and became a much sought after substitute teacher.

In 1909 Harry and Lily built a home and studio at Coldwater and Voght. "It had a barn-like roof with huge windows under the eaves that provided wonderful reflective light for his portrait studio," recalls photographer Alex Bukkos.

Harry was appointed Merritt's first city clerk in 1911, a position he

held until September 27, 1918 when he resigned because a pay raise was not granted. In 1911 and 1912, Harry was also secretary of the Merritt School Board.

Interested in politics, Harry was appointed returning officer for the



"City Band", Merritt, B.C. - Photo: H. Priest

Yale constituency in the October 1941 B. C. election.

He was a keen fisherman, a curler who, with Bill Cramma, Jim Ellis and Bill Innes, won a trophy in 1918, and was awarded first prize on September 9, 1932 in the Merritt Herald's Spelling Club contest by coming up with 464 words formed out of the letters in



"Diamond Jubilee, July 1st, 1927, Merritt, B.C." - H. Priest

the word "neighbour."

He died November 27, 1955 in the Nicola Valley General Hospital, Merritt on the street which bears his name. He was survived by his wife Lily, who died October 11, 1975 at Hycroft Rest Home, Vancouver, a brother, Ben, three nephews, Joe,

John and Harry Priest, and a niece, Mrs. Don Drope at Vancouver.

Harry made many real photo cards of Merritt, Princeton and the Nicola Valley. He also provided photographs to other publishers.

In the 1920s when photographic film became more popular and available, Harry discarded many of his glass negatives. "They were piled up like cordwood behind his house," recalled Arthur Smith. "I used to visit a boy next door to Priest's house and we'd stand them up and shoot them with a BB gun."

Fortunately Lily kept a lot of the old negatives which she later donated to Ron Sherwood, who in his turn gave them to the Nicola Valley Museum

Archives.

Many thanks to Barb Watson, manager, Nicola Valley Museum, for assistance with this profile

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B. C. Archives death registrations 1955-09-012093 (in mfm B13226) (GSU 2032987): Harry; 1975-09-015528 (in mfm B13346) (GSU 2050528): Lily

British Columbia directories: Merritt: 1910, 1918-32, 1934-48

Carroll, Elizabeth.

"When Harry and Lily met the Valley," pp. 3-6 (in Nicola Valley Historical Quarterly, Merritt, B.C., v. 18, no.3, Spring 2004: "Harry & Lily Priest" [This article first appeared in the Merritt Herald on July 3, 2002]

GRO (U.K.) birth registration March quarter 1879 in Dudley registration dist., vol. 6c, p. 5 (Lily Sidonia Emery)

GRO (U.K.) birth registration March quarter 1881 in Dudley registration dist., vol. 6c, p. 24 (Albert Henry Priest)

GRO (U.K.) marriage registration Sept. quarter 1901 in Dudley registration dist., vol. 6c, p. 98 Lily Sydonia Emery and Albert Henry Priest)

Merritt and the Nicola Valley / Nicola Valley Museum Archives Association. Merritt, B.C.: Sonotek Pub. Ltd., c. 1989, 1998

Cheramy's Chatter - By John & Glenda Cheramy

May 24, Friday – As usual, Glenda and I are off on the first ferry to Vancouver. A stop in Richmond to pick up a few postcards and then to the Kerrisdale area to look at a postcard album a lady had written to us about. It wasn't a large album, maybe 100 cards and most were not that exciting – Humour, Greetings, Actresses – but here and there were eye-popping cards. One was a 1915 Vancouver Lacrosse postcard, full team roster all named, including Coley Hall. Hall was the coach or Manager of the Vancouver Canucks, which we had watched playing against the New Westminster Royals (Babe Pratt era) around the late 1950's and mid-60's. Hall also had an encased advertising cent in an aluminum collar dated around 1959, if I remember correctly. We made the lady an offer but she responded "Oh, they're not for sale. I just thought you'd like to see them, but you can take them with you for photocopying." It was a pleasure to photocopy the scarcer cards even though we couldn't own them. We'll probably never see these cards again.

On to Chantou for our usual supplies and then up the valley, stopping in New West'r to drop off some cards with John Davies, as he wanted to go over them a day or so before meeting us at the Postcard Club show on Sunday. We then delivered Chantou's order of supplies to Bill Foot in Langley. Our Kelowna friend, Dave Byard (BC tokens fame) opened the door for us. He'd been visiting his son in Langley and had shopped for tokens at coin shops on the Lower Mainland. He showed us an R-10 of Steveston, Wilford Dairy.

As we'd had a full day and were getting tired, we went looking for a motel on Kingsway and found a Best Western a few blocks away from MetroTown.

May 25 – Dropped in to visit with Jim Richardson at Sears and then over to the nearby Holiday Inn Express to meet up with Albert Tanner's brother Fred who had driven across the US and arrived that morning. We traded some of our better US cards and hope that Fred does well with them on eBay. Got into our motel mid-afternoon and spent some time processing some of our recent acquisitions. Dave Blake, who had ordered a table for the Postcard show, showed up mid-afternoon and kept us company. Had supper at the neighbouring Chinese Restaurant for whole rock cod, etc, watched hockey and played with postcards until bedtime.

May 26, Sunday – Because our motel offered a free hot breakfast, we ate there instead of our usual Tom & Jerry breakfast on Hastings, so we missed having a meal with Lance Arnett and Per Jensen. Got to the bourse a little before 8:00 and had almost

an hour wait until our doors were open. We stood around chatting with several dealers and member: Lance Arnett, Dave Blake, Jill Charkow, Don Kaye, Art Davies, Klaus & Renee Goedecke, Per Jensen, Carl Klenk, Ron Souch, Rein Stamm, Don Steele and Tim Woodland. Tim had two boards of a display of New Westminster cards that his dad had given him a few months ago. Many of the cards I had never seen before and what a wonderful, eye-appealing collection!

Our doors finally opened at 8:35. Four dolly trips in with help from Dave, and we were set up a little after 9:00. During the show we saw Joyce Beaubien, Jeff Dufour, Sharon Ellis, Philip Francis, Maurice Guibord, Bill McNulty, Dave Morris, Tim Mustart (looking after the kitchen), Gordon Poppy, Harold & Mrs. Steeves, Stan Stewardson, Hamish Telford, Marg Waddington (looking after the club table at the door), Mike Wagner, and Neil Whaley. Tom Watson and Firmin Wyndel's wife Reaye (sp?) came in to set up around 9:30 after taking the first ferry from Victoria.

We were busy right through until 4:00PM. Had some cards for the Ellisons, Ken & daughter Christine. Nice to see Sharon Ellis after a couple of years in the north, as she looked over our Gowen-Suttons and Byron Harmon cards. Although quite advanced in both publishers, she managed to find a few she needed from our stock. She searched until the 4PM closing time and then helped us load our stock. Thanks Sharon! Hope to see you more often. The displays were wonderful as always; Tim Woodland 1st. Lance Arnett 2nd, and Ron Souch 3rd. Between sales I managed to go over some of our neighbour's stock and bought and traded for some very nice cards.

Ken Ellison gave me a copy of early Yukon Post Office information with large illustrations to pass on to Gray Scrimgeour. I didn't have time to read much of it, but hope to later.

May 29 – Tuesday morning Muffin Break at the Cedar Hill Rec. Centre. Glenda and I arrived a little after 9AM to find Don Stewart and Dave Blake already there. Don was going through David's Dollar Postcard box. Then it was my turn and I found 70 cards which David kindly let me have for \$50 in trade. Later the following members showed up – Lee Dowsley, Ian and Robin Mowat, Michael Rice, and Gray Scrimgeour. Ken Ellison had asked us to deliver several pages of early Dawson, Yukon post office for future issues of The Northerner by Gray. Michael Rice had brought a small bag of foreign coins and a small handful of postcards which I managed to acquire. After a few hours of pleasant conversation, the Mowats along with David Blake and

ourselves, carried on to the Comfort Inn for lunch. A great way to spend a morning!

July 4th – Two back-to-back afternoons of sheer pleasure and joy. On USA Day Glenda and I and Dave Blake had been invited to Ian and Robin Mowat's home on Triangle Mtn to enjoy their hospitality and their million-dollar view. David, although still recovering from gall bladder surgery, offered to drive. Fantastic! Glenda and I could enjoy an extra glass of wine! Robin had mentioned nibbles but the table was covered with whole meal goodies, including a ring of prawns, one of my favourites. After a great afternoon, ending on their deck to take in a different angle of the view, Dave drove us home.

July 5th – The next day we were invited to Darren Rieberger's home in the Brentwood Bay area for bbq steak and wine. We were greeted at the door by Darren and wife Pauline plus their five toy Italian greyhounds. A very noisy reception indeed until we sat in the back yard and the dogs settled down a bit. After a bit of postcard talk, Darren fed us a delicious steak and sides! More postcard talk and then looked at some of Darren's ship collection. I had brought a couple of albums of ship postcards, so we had a bit of a swap, trading for a large lot of Darren's duplicates.

July 8th – I wonder – what are the odds of making two house calls for postcards at neighbouring houses, 10 years apart? A billion to one? Years ago we had visited with a former China missionary who had retired and lived on Bethune Ave. She had many stamps and regularly traded with local stamp dealers. She had obtained our name because of her postcards. At first our visits were not that fruitful in acquiring better cards, but we enjoyed visiting her. However, one time she surprised us with some very scarce Saskatchewan postcards. She was very pleased with the amount we paid her. She passed away about seven years ago, near the age of 100 years.

A week or two ago, we got a call from Juliet, one of Lee Lightfoot's daughters. Lee was an active member of the Van. PCC for years until passing away a year ago. We had viewed her collection at her daughter Marianne's home in Burnaby a few months ago and left an offer which she said she'd talk over with her sister Juliet who lived in Victoria. When Juliet gave us her address, we realized it was on the same street as the missionary had lived but when we got there, we realized it was exactly next door! I asked Juliet how long she'd been in her home and she said 10 years. So I said she'd probably known her missionary neighbour and she replied yes, of course. They were good neighbours. Small world!

Editor's Note: John & Glenda Cheramy are BC's largest postcard dealers and live in Victoria BC.

American Views - by Buzz Kinninmont

Postcard Roadshow: Vintage California

Just over a year ago, the U.S. version of the Antiques Roadshow television series, which debuted in 1997, began airing its new "Vintage" series of shows (e.g. Antiques Roadshow: Vintage Phoenix) in which the appraisals from their earliest shows are rerun, followed by a caption being added at the bottom of the screen to show today's estimated value for the same item.

It's a great concept, because it highlights the fact that some collecting trends wax and wane, some soar to a peak and then collapse, and others remain steady. The mix of prices that have risen, those that have stayed the same, and those that have dropped seems to be about equal, though of course anything that has merely held its \$ value over the last 15 years has really lost quite a bit to inflation.

High end paintings and jewelry, for example, have fared well. Many toys and other mid-range collectibles, like glass and pottery, have not. In the narrower realm of postcard collecting, various categories have also had their ups and downs over that period, some of them very much fueled by the effect of eBay.

In terms of California postcards, in 1997 a few dealers down here still had boxes filled with numerically-filed printed views issued by San Francisco publisher Edward Mitchell... many of them being dreadfully dull brown & sepia toned images, but considered highly collectible for a couple of decades prior to that. Now those cards are found in their appropriate geographic categories, generally for much lower prices.

Also at that time, cards from Santa Catalina Island were very saleable, and

when eBay came along they really took off for a few years (I once sold a terrific RPPC of three Catalina photographers for \$700...!), but now most of the average Catalina views linger and linger in dealers' boxes.



Back then it was also more or less compulsory to have a copy of at least one of J. L. Mashburn's postcard price guides to help identify and

price artist-signed cards, especially all of the "pretty women" cards, created a century or so ago by a wide range of illustrators, that regularly sold in the \$8-\$25 range. To some extent a lot of those cards have held their value if their condition is good, but the number of regular buyers for them at shows has dwindled significantly.

Always-popular Halloween cards had a huge spike online in the early 2000's when there were about 6 or 8 buyers who seemed intent on owning every one of them that was ever published. It

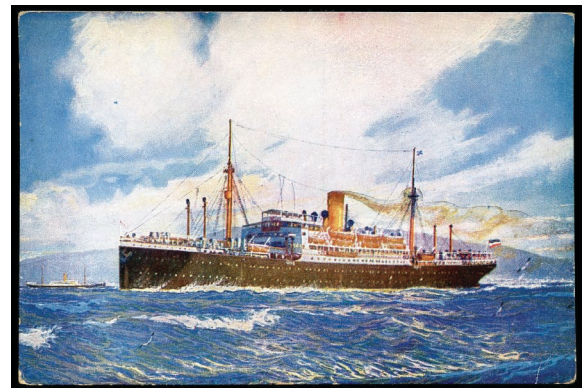
wasn't unusual to look on eBay in, say, 2007 and see that a number of them had sold in the \$500-\$700 range with a few topping \$1,000. A quick look just now showed the highest recent sale to be \$270, with only about 40 single cards selling for more than \$100.

And those 2007 prices pulled the selling prices of even the dullest and most damaged Halloween cards up into the \$10 range, with practically every one that was listed for sale on eBay selling to somebody. But now, a lot of the more common ones can be bought, in nice condition, for \$10 or less... and many of them don't sell at all.

Real photo views have probably held their values better than most postcards over that time. eBay fueled some real price hikes in that genre, too, but those values haven't dropped off as dramatically as prices of a lot of printed cards, because most RPPC's were either produced in small batches or they were one-of-a-kind.

So... suppose you wanted to approach postcard collecting as an investment today, what would you buy?

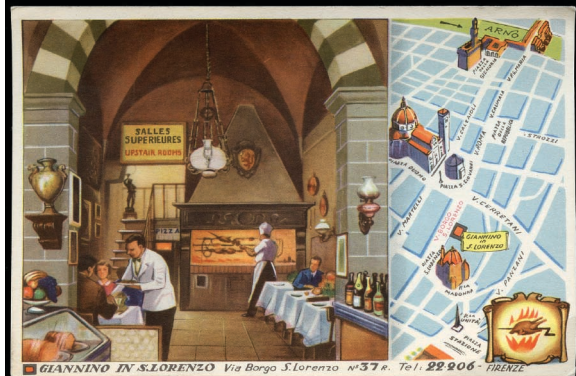
Imagine yourself as a modern day Abe Charkow or Fred Thirkell, quietly buying up fabulous real photos for 10 cents apiece in the 1960's and 1970's while everyone else was passing them by as being boring old "black & whites." What postcards would you buy right now if you wanted them to be worth, let's say, 10 times what you paid for them 30 years from now? (Or a few 1,000 times, like some of Fred and Abe's 10-cen-



ters...!) And what postcards would you buy now that might be worthy, 30 years from now, of being featured in books as so many of Fred's cards have been?

Think about it – it's a fun challenge. And if you happen to see me at a show trying to catch up with savvy European collectors by combing through boxes and boxes of 25 cents modern-size postcards... just ignore me...!

Go get 'em, everyone!



A much travelled totem-pole by Clifford Thornton

One day in 1884, the residents of the quiet village of Cobham, Surrey, UK, awoke to find a huge wooden obelisk had been erected by one of their neighbours. The location was in Fox Warren Park, the country estate of Mrs. Charles Buxton. In the years that followed, the obelisk or “Indian Idol” as it was nicknamed, became such an attraction that it was featured on local postcards.

The “idol” was actually a 41 ft. tall totem pole whose origins can be traced back to the Haida village of Masset in Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia. A photograph of Masset, taken in 1881 by Edward Dossetter, shows a forest of totem-poles. The Cobham pole can be seen in one of Dossetter’s photograph. It can be identified by the three “watchmen” at the top. They wear the tall hats of chiefs. The hat of the tallest figure is marked with 8 rings, said to indicate the number of potlatches or feasts that had been hosted by the chief. The pole stood in front of the house which had belonged to the chief known as “Things roasted on a fire”.



In 1882, the 30 year old Bertram Buxton visited Masset and found some of the village falling into decay. He is said to have purchased a pole for \$36 (1). The pole was sawn off at ground level (leaving about 10ft. in the ground), and shipped to England. It is said that Bertram presented the totem-pole to his mother, Mrs Charles Buxton, as a birthday present (2). It was erected at the family home at Fox Warren, standing on a concrete plinth and supported at the rear by an iron frame.

A detailed description of this totem-pole was published in 1899, written by Edward Taylor, Professor of Anthropology at Oxford University (3).

The totem pole was photographed by Francis Frith in 1903 and appears on several postcards. Sometimes the photographer included a figure standing next to the pole to emphasise its great height. It was the tallest totem-pole in the UK.

This much travelled pole had one final journey to make. In 1977 it travelled to Quebec and the National Museum of Canada. There the museum stripped away the layers of tar which had been painted onto the pole. It was found that the tar had preserved the wood and the pole was in good condition. It can now be seen standing in The Grand Hall at the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

In a strange reversal of names, the pole that was once known in Cobham as “The Indian Idol” is now known in Canada as “Fox Warren”!

1. *Haida Monumental Art: Villages of the Queen Charlotte Islands.* George F Mac-Donald. 1983.
2. *Window on the Past: the photographic ethnohistory of the Northern and Kaigani Haida.* Margaret B. Blackman. Published by the National Museums of Canada (1981).
3. *On the totem-post from the Haida village of Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands, now erected in the grounds of Fox Warren, near Weybridge.* By Edward B. Taylor. *Journal of the Anthropological Institute* Vol. I (1899),



Captain Cook Society

We received a request from Cliff Thornton of the Captain Cook Society, in Essex, England, to reproduce Leona Taylor’s article on the pageant of Captain Cook’s landing from our last issue in “Cook’s Log”, the quarterly newsletter of the Captain Cook Society. The Society has an international membership of over 400 members and is open to anyone interested in Captain James Cook. www.captaincooksociety.com

Leona kindly agreed to the use of her article and Cliff has in turn written the above article for *Postview*.



Action was brisk at the annual Vancouver Postcard Club Show on May 26th. Over 90 collectors visited the 25 tables operated by 11 postcard dealers. Thanks to Sharon Ellis for the photo.

Postview

Postview is the quarterly newsletter of the Vancouver Postcard Club. The views expressed herein are the views of the Editor and contributors where shown and may not reflect the views of the Club as a whole.

We welcome letters and articles from members but reserve the right to edit. Send material by email to the Editor, Philip Francis, philipfrancis@shaw.ca and postcard images as a .jpg file, scanned at 300 dpi.