

**WASHINGTONIANA DIVISION
D.C. COMMUNITY ARCHIVES**

Guide to the Washington, D.C. Postcard Collection, ca. 1898-1940s

**Collection No. P30
3 Linear Feet**

Compiled by Jerry A. McCoy, Librarian, March 2007



**D.C. Public Library
Washingtoniana Division
D.C. Community Archives
901 G Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
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GUIDE TO THE WASHINGTON, D.C. POSTCARD COLLECTION, 1898-1940s

Collection No. P30

PROVENANCE: The postcards in this collection have been donated ongoing to the Washingtoniana Division since circa 1934.

HISTORY: As common as American society considers the postcard today, it was not until the 1893 *World's Columbian Exposition* in Chicago that the first souvenir "post cards" were available for purchase in the United States. These cards featured illustrations of the various fair buildings printed on government-issued postal cards and privately printed souvenir cards. The government postal cards were imprinted with one-cent indicia while the privately printed souvenir cards required two-cents postage to be applied. Writing was not permitted on the address side of these cards.

Five years passed before private printers were granted, by an act of Congress on May 19, 1898, permission to print and sell post cards that bore the inscription *Private Mailing Card*. These cards could now be mailed at the same one-cent rate as the government issued cards.

The Federal government granted use of the word Post Card to private printers on December 24, 1901. Writing was still not permitted on the address side. Use of post cards with "divided backs," allowing both the address and a message on one side, was permitted on March 1, 1907. Thus marked the beginning in which millions, if not billions, of Washington, D.C. post cards have been printed and sold.

Besides depicting images of places that may no longer exist, postcards often contain messages offering documentation representative of a time and place. From observations of historic events to matters of personnel concern, insights are given into the life and times of the postcard's sender.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: The collection consists of three linear feet, consisting of about 2000 postcards and 24 postcard folders. The earliest postcards in the collection date from circa 1898. Due to Washington, D.C.'s continual focus as a tourist destination, contemporary postcards continue to be added to the collection. The greatest percentage of material dates from the 1920s to the 1940s.

The collection consists almost exclusively of imprinted (ink) postcards with less than a dozen being of the "real-photo" (gelatin silver) variety. The collection leans heavily towards images of tourist Washington but many images of "hometown" Washington are included as well (Businesses, Churches, Organizations, Restaurants, Schools – Private/Public, Stores, and Streets).

Postcards are arranged by specific subject headings. Please use the marker provided in each box to assure that postcards are returned to their proper place.

BOX INVENTORY

Box 1

Aerial Views

Agriculture, Dept. of

Airports – National

American Red Cross

Archives Building

Arlington Cemetery

Army War College

Art Galleries

 Corcoran

 Freer

 National

 Phillips

Auditoriums – Washington

Banks – American Security and Trust Co.

Baseball

Botanical Gardens

Bridges

 Arlington Memorial

 Cabin John

 Connecticut Avenue

 Key

Businesses

 Acacia Mutual Life Insurance Building

 Arcade

 Draughon's Practical Business College

 Evening Star

 Greyhound

 Realty Title Insurance Co. Inc.

 Smith, F.G. Piano Co.

 Southern Railway

 Taylor's Drugstore

 Towles Studio, Photographer

 Velatis

 Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Electrical Railway Co.

 White Cross Milk Co.

 Wilson Line Steamer

Canals

 C & O

 Great Falls

Capitol

 Art

- Bronze Doors
- Dome
- East Elevation
- House Chamber
- Old Supreme Court Chamber
- President's Room
- Senate Chamber
- Statuary Hall
- West Elevation
- Cherry Trees
- Churches
 - Baptist
 - Calvary
 - Catholic
 - Franciscan Monastery
 - Holy Trinity
 - National Shrine
 - Sacred Heart
 - St. Matthew's
 - St. Patrick's
 - St. Stephen Martyr

Box 2

- Churches (cont.)
 - Christian
 - National
 - Christian Science
 - First Church
 - Fourth Church of Christ
 - Episcopal
 - St. Alban's
 - St John's (Lafayette Square)
 - St. Thomas
 - Washington Cathedral
 - Exterior
 - Grounds
 - Interior
 - Lutheran
 - First Trinity
 - Georgetown
 - Luther Place Memorial
 - Methodist
 - Foundry
 - Metropolitan

- Mount Vernon
- Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)
- Presbyterian
 - Central
 - Church of the Covenant
 - First
 - New York Avenue
 - Sixth
- Unitarian
 - All Souls
- United Church of Christ
 - First Congregational
 - Graced Reformed
- Circles
 - Dupont
 - Thomas
- City Hall
- Colleges and Universities
 - American
 - Catholic
 - Georgetown
 - Howard
 - Trinity
 - War College
- Commerce, Dept. of.
- Constitution Hall
- Continental Memorial Hall
 - Exterior
 - Interior
- District Building
- Embassies
 - China
 - Germany
 - Great Britain
 - Japan
 - Russian
- Engraving and Printing, Bureau of
- Events
 - Bonus Expeditionary Force, 1932
 - Misc.
- Exhibits
 - Santa Maria on Washington Waterfront, Maine Ave., & M St., SW
- Federal Reserve
- Federal Trade Commission
- Federal Triangle
- Folger Shakespeare Library

- Exterior
- Interior
- Food Administration Building, U.S.
- Fountains
 - Bartholdi
 - Capitol Plaza
 - Columbus
 - Court of Neptune (Library of Congress)
- Georgetown
- Government Printing Office (GPO)
- “Greetings From Washington”
- Hospitals – Walter Reed
- Hotels
 - Annapolis
 - Great Falls (MD side)
 - Hamilton
 - Madison
 - Quality Inn (Pentagon City)
 - Shoreham
 - Washington
- House Office Building – Exterior
- Houses
 - Dolly Madison
 - Dumbarton Oaks (Georgetown)
 - Girl Scouts “Little House” (1750 NY Ave.)
 - Key Mansion (Georgetown)
 - “Little White House” (21 Madison Pl., NW, Congressional Union Headquarters)
 - Mount Vernon
 - Octagon
 - Old Stone (Georgetown)
 - Petersen (House Where Lincoln Died)
 - Rhode Island Ave. (Scott Statue in Background; 1700 Block, North Side of R.I. Ave.?)
 - White House
 - Blue Room
 - Corridor
 - East Elevation
 - East Room
 - Green Room
 - Lobby
 - North Elevation

Box 3

Houses (cont.)

- White House (cont.)

- President’s Dining Room

President's Office
President's Telephone/Telegraph Bureau
Red Room
South Elevation
State Dining Room
Treaty Room
West Elevation

Wilson, Woodrow

Inaugurations

Harding, Warren G. (1921)
Lincoln, Abraham (1861)
McKinley, William (1901)
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (1933)
Roosevelt, Theodore (1905)
Taft, William Howard (1909)
Wilson, Woodrow (1913)
Wilson, Woodrow (1917)
Unknown, 1913 or 1917

Interior, Dept. of

Internal Revenue, Bureau of

Interstate Commerce Commission

Justice, Dept. of

Labor, Dept. of

Library of Congress

Annex (Adams Building)

Exterior

Interior

Exhibits

Misc.

Mosaics

Minerva

Achilles

Adonis

Bellerophon

Boy of Winandar

Cairn

Clio

Comus

Endymion

Ganymede

Hieroglyphics

History

Jason

Labor

Law

Lyric Poetry

Manuscript
Melpomene
Oral Tradition
Orpheus
Paris
Perseus
Pictograph
Printing Press
Prometheus
Religion
Seasons

Reading Room
Second Floor Central Hall
Stairway

Library – Public
Carnegie
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

Mall

Markets – Center

Masonic Temple

Memorials

Barry, John
Columbus, Christopher
Ericsson, John
Farrugut, David G.
Founders (Daughters of the American Revolution)
Frederick the Great
Garfield, James A.
Gibbons, James Cardinal
Grant, Ulysses S.
Greene, Nathanael
Grief
Hahnemann, Dr. Samuel
Hamilton, Alexander
Hancock, John
Jackson, Andrew
Jefferson, Thomas
Joan of Arc
Jones, John Paul
Kosciuszko Thaddeus
Lafayette, Marquis Gilbert de
Lincoln, Abraham
Exterior
Interior
Misc.
Logan, John A.

Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima)
McClellan, George B.
McPherson, James B.
Payne, John Howard
Peace
Pike, Albert
Pulaski, Casimir
Rochambeau, Comte Jean de
Scott, Winfield
Sherman, William Tecumseh
Thomas, George H.
Washington, George (Monument)
Misc.
Webster, Daniel
National Geographic
Naval Observatory, U.S.
Navy Yard, U.S.
Neighborhoods
Chevy Chase
Cleveland Park
NE (Corcoran's Hill)
Organizations
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Famous Womens' Club
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Masonic and Eastern Star Home
Methodist Building
National Housing Center
National Press Club
National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
YMCA
YWCA

Box 4

Pan-American Union
Exterior
Interior
Parades – *Preparedness*, June 14, 1916
Parks
Potomac
Rock Creek
Patent Office
Pension Building
Exterior
Interior

Pentagon

Post Office – City

12th & Pa. Ave.

N. Capitol & Mass. Ave.

Post Office Dept. – 12th & Pa. Ave.

Potomac River

Presidents, U.S.

Johnson, Lyndon B.

Kennedy, John F.

Lincoln, Abraham

Public Health Service Building, U.S.

Restaurants

Also Café

Alex Stuart's

Alfio's la Trattoria

Allies' Inn

Balalaika

Blackie's House of Beef

Blue Mirror

Bonat French-American Café

Café Burgundy

Cannon's

Casino Royal

Cathay

China Doll

Chinese Lantern

Colony Lounge

Crown

Duke Zeibert's

Flagship

France's

Golden Parrot

Good Earth

Gung Ho

Gusti's

Hall's

Hammel's

Harvey's

Herzog's

Hogate's

Hot Shoppes

Linda

Mayfair

Napoleon's

Naylor's

New Smorgasbord

O'Donnell's
Old New Orleans
Olmstead
Pierre
Purple Tree Lounge
Reeves Coffe Shop
Restaurant 823
Restaurant Longchamps
Restaurant Madrillon
Rib Room
Roma
Ruby Foo's Den
Schneider's
Seafare Restaurant and Lounge
Scholl's
Silver Fox
Surf Room Lounge
Syriana
Tai Tung
Tally Ho
Ted Lewis
Thompson's Cafeteria
Tokyo Sukiyaki
Torino Italian Restaurant
Touchdown Club
Water Gate Inn
Schools – Private
Academy of Sacred Heart
Arlington Hall
Washington Cathedral School for Girls
Schools – Public
Dunbar
Eastern
Roosevelt
Scottish Rite Temple
Senate Office Building
Exterior
Interior
Series
Evening Star
Murals
George Washington Bicentennial, 1732-1932
Minnie E. Brooke (Photographer)
Roundabout Prints (Lesley Jackson, artist)
Washington Post
Smithsonian

Castle
History and Technology
National Museum (New)
National Museum (Old)
Postcard Set with Envelope
Soldier's Home
Treasury, Dept. of
State, War and Navy

Box 5

Stores

Garfinckels
Woodridge Rug & Carpet Co., Inc.
Woodward & Lothrop
 Bethesda/Chevy Chase
 North Building (DC)
 Series #1 (DC)
 Series #2 (DC)
 Series #3 (DC)
 Series #4 (DC)
 Series #5 (DC)

Streets

7th NW
9th NW
13th NW
Connecticut Avenue
Constitution Avenue
F NW
Pennsylvania Avenue

Supreme Court

Theaters

Arena Stage
Belasco
Ford's

Treasury

Exterior
 East Elevation
 North Elevation
 South Elevation
 West Elevation

Interior

Union Station

Exterior
Interior
 Concourse

Main Waiting Room
President's Room

Misc.
Veterans Administration Building
Virginia
 Alexandria
 Great Falls
 Potomac River
 Structures
War Dept. Building
War & Navy Building
War Risk Insurance Building
Zoo
 Animals
 Structures

Box 6

Post Card Folders (circa 1920s-1940s)
 Folger Shakespeare Library (1)
 Franciscan Monastery (1)
 Library of Congress (1)
 National Historical Wax Museum – circa 1960s (1)
 National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (1)
 Virginia – Arlington (4)
 Washington, DC - generic tourist views (15)

Box 7

Oversize Postcards