

# South Jersey Post Card Club Newsletter

January 2002

Serving Post Card Collectors Since 1971

Number One

## How I Started Collecting . . .

by Jane Cocciolone

I have seriously collected **Santas in Colored Robes** post cards for three years. However in 1988, when my interest in Santas began, it was with Hallmark figurines. I started with Santa dolls, tree ornaments, magnets, napkin holders, hand-towels, and anything else Santa related which I found interesting. My collection of figurines consists of fine china, wood, paper mache, plastic, clay dough, and many other materials.



After collecting all those items for ten years, my two sisters, Emily and Paula (who have been collecting post cards for 21 and 30 years respectively) talked me into attending a post card show with them. I did so, was impressed, and then at a second show, I became interested in Santa post cards as an additional collectible.

I bought one Santa post card at my second show and I was hooked. I now have Santas in red, blue, brown, white, black, and green robes. I look for unusual and desirable images, such as,

traveling Santas, Santas with angels, Krampus, and animals. I now have a total of 25 Santas – all in colored robes.

Santa figurines and related items are wonderful, and I still collect them but finding storage space soon becomes a



problem. I now have close to thirty boxes of Santa items in my basement waiting to be displayed during the Christmas holiday. I also decorate two Christmas trees that are 7½ feet high with Santa ornaments. Two curio cabinets and a breakfront are filled with Santa figurines that I display year



'round.

Since post cards are small, they take up much less room than my larger items. I always look forward to the next post card show and my next purchase of a **Santa in a colored robe**.

I'm enjoying myself . . . Jane

## PoCax '02

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002 – 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Garden Room of the Days Inn  
Mt. Laurel, New Jersey  
Exit 4 off the New Jersey Turnpike  
at Fellowship Road and Route #73

## South Jersey Post Card Club Thanks Don Pocher

Members of the SJPCCC want to Thank You, Don Pocher, for the kind and gentlemanly leadership you have offered our club in these last four years that you have served as President.

You took the reins of SJPCCC at a very difficult time and you accepted the added responsibility of rebuilding the club into a new and stronger group with an identity that reflects your leadership.

We will miss you as President, but hope you will still take an active part in club activities as our Immediate Past President.

You have left SJPCCC in very capable hands. Our new President – Judi Kearney will call on you for guidance and we know our future is bright.

Don Pocher, we salute you.

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## I Collect Philadelphia, too!

by Bud Plumer

Like my fellow club member, Emily DiVento, I too collect Philadelphia and Atlantic City Postcards.

My family settled in what is now the Society Hill – Queen Village sections of Philadelphia in the 1880s, and on South Street in 1902. The real estate company I operated, Plumer & Associates, Inc., is still there at 224-226 South Street.



My interest in the history of the city and its landmarks was generated by attending school at Sixth and Spruce Streets, just two blocks from Independence Hall. In good weather we ate our lunches in Independence Park and in Washington Square. As a youngster I collected stamps and often traded them to a fellow classmate for postcards that were given to him at the Salvation Army Day Care Center nearby. I accumulated several hundred pre-thirties cards, many of which were of Philadelphia scenes. [Editor's Note: I'm sure Bud has this card in his collection.

*The Pennsylvania Railroad Depot in Philadelphia. 1906.]*

Our family spent frequent vacations in Atlantic City. My grandfather operated a hotel on Arkansas Avenue from 1902 to 1918, and my Dad, in his teen years, worked there as a bellboy during the summers.

I again became interested in postcards when, during our many vacation travels, abroad and in the states, I would purchase cards of places we visited. My collection now includes New York City (my wife Pearl's birthplace) and since she taught school in Burlington County for 32 years, cards of southern New Jersey.

My collection is housed in many volumes and card boxes. Despite my very busy professional schedule, I find a great deal of pleasure in sorting and filing my cards, and appreciating their topics and their beauty. Enjoyable moments too are spent at our club meetings and shows, reading postcard journals, and an occasional visit to other clubs.

Sharing the hobby with others is certainly rewarding and justifies my interest in postcard collecting.

## New Officers Assume Posts

As is the custom, SJPC elected officers at the December meeting. The slate as elected assumes their new positions immediately. Club officers for 2002 are:

President . . . . Mrs. Judith Kearney  
Vice President . . . . Mrs. Pat Pocher  
Treasurer . . . . Mr. Sal Fiorello  
Secretary . . . . Ms. Emily DiVento  
Trustee (2004) . . . . Mr. Bob Duerholz  
Trustee (2003) . . . . Mr. Steve Martarano  
Trustee (2002) . . . . Mr. Ray Hahn

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## Hey brother, "Can I borrow your pencil?"

Another of those burning questions that comes to my sometime empty mind is: "Why are the messages on so many old postcards written in pencil?"

Of course the answer is obvious. Until very recently, fountain pens were clumsy and ballpoints had not yet been invented.

In quest of the perfect writing instrument mankind has used everything from chisels and sharp sticks to laser beams, but did you know that the first mass production of steel nib pens started right here in our neighborhood? Yes, 'tis true! In Camden.

It was at the start of the nineteenth century that attempts were made to make the quill point last longer by gilding it or facing it with horn or tortoise shell. The first steel pen was made in 1803 in England, but it was not until 1830 that James Perry and Josiah Mason began a full scale manufacturing operation of steel pens in Birmingham, England. In 1860 the operation in Camden began work. Most inks of the time were very corrosive, causing steel pens to rust. It was in Camden that alternative metals such as gold, silver, bronze, aluminum and stainless steel were first tried as new, longer-lasting pen points.

Don't you wonder? In the 1890s, did people go along in life asking, "May I borrow your pencil?"

So . . . who has a post card of the plant in Camden that made all those pens?

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## Turn Your Cards Over and Read The Message

In hopes of prodding our club members into contributing to this newsletter, let me repeat a piece of what I did years ago. Then I called that series of articles a postcard diary, but for now let's just name this bit, "My Favorite Postcard Message." Please send your contributions to: Ray Hahn, 1111 E. Pine Street, Millville, NJ 08332

Dateline: 1941, Giza, Egypt



Dear Mom,  
Look what I discovered. Just joking.  
Captain Burke allowed me and Devon to come to Egypt for a few days of R&R. We are staying at hospital in Cairo, but don't worry, I'm not hurt and I am perfectly safe.

Kiss Anna for me and tell father I'm well and still doing my duty for God and King.

Your loving son, Anthony

## Getting Your Hands On Expensive Postcard Books for \$1.00

by Bob Duerholz

Have you ever wanted to refer to one of those high priced books written on a specific Postcard subject? Well, I assume you may have, just as I have, but didn't want to spend the money for just a quick look to find a going price, or see how many cards will make a set. Now you might say, well I have gone to the library and found a few. Yes, that's true. But quite often your local library selections are few. Even your library's regional loan service may be very limited. Most people stop looking right then thinking; if it is not listed, I can't get the book I'm looking for. Here is what you can do to find almost all the books you're looking for.

Have you ever heard of the American Library Association's "Inter-Library Loan" system? Well I found out about it about two years ago and find it terrific. (And, not just for postcard information.) I have had books sent to me from libraries all over the country even from universities and technical centers.

Here is how it works. You simply first come across the book you would like to take home for a real good look. Now you may have seen it in a bookstore, at a card show or advertised in a postcard newspaper or newsletter. Copy just the basics; title, author, but even more important, to make your search real easy, copy the ISBN (International Standard Book Number). This number will always be where the copyright info is and is there on all books published in recent years. (It is only very old books that do not have one). Now take your info to your local library, or if you are so inclined, just get on your home computer and go to your local library's web site. Either way you can place an "Inter-Library Loan" request. It generally takes only 10 to 14 days and your local library will most likely notify you of your book's arrival. The service cost is just \$1.00. Occasionally, the fee could be slightly higher depending on the size of the book and where it was found in the United States. For real tough requests, I have been told they will search the country for three months. You can keep the book for three weeks to copy the information you want from it, but generally there is no renewal for an "Inter-Library Loan" book.

I have managed to take home books costing as much as ninety dollars at bookstores. I may have only wanted to read one page or chapter. Even reference books can sometimes be sent to your library if all parties agree. These sometimes have a stipulation that you must look at it only in your local library. Better that, then no access to the book at all.

I hope this article will "save" you money, so you can "buy" more postcards, rather than just "read" about them.

## The World's Largest Concrete Church

The **Hallgrimskirkja** in Reykjavik, Iceland, is largest church in the world that is completely constructed of concrete.

Seating capacity is about 1, 200 worshipers at each service and surprisingly the interior has a very warm and modern appearance. The pews are all of blond oak and the pipe organ is comprised of more than 1000 pipes from half an inch long to nearly twelve feet tall.



## Mr. Roosevelt's Hunting Trip

by Ray Hahn



Theodore Roosevelt, while president of our country was, in addition to being a very successful politician, a crusader for good government and social justice.

Roosevelt's second administration (1905-1909) was marked by many achievements in legislation for railroad regulation, pure foods and drugs, employer liability and measures providing for federal inspection of stock-yards and packing houses. His programs supporting the conservation of land and natural resources made it possible to double the number of national parks within that four

year period.

Mr. Roosevelt's impact on world politics was never more dominate than during those years of his second term. Through his manipulation of the powers of the Presidency (Remember his comment concerning the presidency? He called it a Bully Pulpit.) he brokered an end to the Russo-Japanese war, he intervened decisively in the Algeciras Crisis (1905) and was a stabilizing influence in conflicts that concerned Japan, Korea, and the Philippines.

Roosevelt's political and legislative achievements, coupled with his physical and intellectual vitality, made him a very popular president and he could easily have won re-election in 1908 had he chosen to be nominated. He left the oval office on March 4, 1909.

Only a month later, Roosevelt and his son Kermit landed in Mombasa, the main Indian Ocean seaport of Kenya. There, Roosevelt gathered a safari party of nearly 250 porters and guides. For the next year, they trekked across British East Africa, into the Congo and then back to the Nile ending in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan.

The purpose of the trip was to gather nature specimens for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, and thus with their goal in mind, the Roosevelts collected over 1,100 items, including more than 500 specimens that were considered big game. In Roosevelt's own words, he regarded his expedition to be "the most noteworthy collection of big animals that has ever come out of Africa."

After his year long hunt, Mr. Roosevelt left Africa and proceeded in early May of 1910 to England to represent the USA at the funeral of King Edward VII and from there he went on to Norway to receive the Nobel Prize for Peace which he won for his part in ending the Russo-Japanese War.

He returned home in June 1910.



## James A. Michener – Collector of Postcards

by Bud Plumer



James A. Michener, in his book *The World Is My Home*, which is actually his memoirs, describes his collection of art postcards. As a native of Bucks County, Michener graduated from Doylestown High School and Swarthmore College. He was an orphan, but was brought up in a Quaker foster home. As an adult he served in the United States Navy and went on to become one of the world's foremost and best selling authors. He won a Pulitzer Prize for his writing because he had the knack of making the most exotic places and persons come to life.

Michener's start in collecting art postcards was as a poor youngster. With very little means, he began to accumulate postcard reproductions of world famous paintings. By finding cards wherever he could, he would arrange them in some order that he called his "private art collection."

For more than 70 years Michener collected his favorite kind of postcard and often took portions of his collection with him wherever he went. He states in his book that after a slow start he began to find cards of great paintings wherever he looked, and in later years, he haunted museums to purchase cards they had for sale. In time, he visited every major museum in the world with the exception of the one in Dresden, Germany, about which he states, "If I were able to fly there today, I am sure I would be able to purchase twenty or thirty cards to fill spaces in my own museum."

Perhaps many serious collectors accumulate, but do not actually collect art cards, but it is certainly interesting how postcards fulfilled Michener's interest in art.

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## Red Cross Postcards

by John H. McClintok

The Red Cross was founded by Henri Dunant, who was present at the Battle of Solferino in 1859, at which 40,000 men were killed or wounded. Dunant spent the next five years trying to get support for his plan and succeeded in convoking a convention of interested persons in Geneva, Switzerland in 1864.

After the disappearance of his fortune, spent in promoting the idea from which the Red Cross grew, Dunant lived for years in poverty in Paris, then disappeared completely.

Bertha von Sutter, well known as a pacifist, who had been Alfred Nobel's secretary, 'discovered' Dunant when he was a very old man living in the poor house of the little Swiss village of Heiden. Through her efforts he was awarded the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901. He gave the money to charity.

Red Cross topical postcards are very popular. In addition to the various Red Cross drive promotion cards, we also have cards that were printed during World War I and World War II for service men to use.

[Editor's Note: an example of a World War I Red Cross card can be seen here. The picture side is that of French General Marshal Joffre. On the message side one Standick Howland has written a Thank you note to his dear Aunt Julia, dated March 4, 1919.]

