JAY SMALL POSTCARD COLLECTION, CA. 1907–CA. 1940S

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Cataloging Information

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Approximately 7,500 real photo and printed postcards, stored in 31 boxes

COLLECTION: Circa 1907-circa 1940s
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jay Small (30 October 1917–27 January 2000) was an Indianapolis antiques dealer. His personal interests included collecting postcards and books related to Indiana history.

Cobb Shinn (4 September 1887–28 January 1951) was born in Fillmore, Indiana, to Roscoe and Emma Pierce Shinn. He moved with his family to Indianapolis where he took art classes at the YMCA. In 1907 he enrolled in the John Herron School of Art and studied under William Forsyth and William M. Allison.

Shinn is primarily known as a postcard artist. He began producing cards as early as 1907. His most popular images included novelty cards featuring racing cars, children, and Charlie Chaplin. Other popular series included “Riley Roses,” and “Sepia Wooden Shoe Dutch” cards featuring Dutch children. The Riley Roses series included a portrait of Indianapolis poet James Whitcomb Riley and a stanza from a Riley poem. Shinn also produced postcards under the pseudonym “Tom Yad.”

Shinn served in France during World War I, returning to Indianapolis in 1919. The retail demand for postcards was waning, partly due to a glut on the market, so he turned to other forms of commercial art. Shinn produced a comic strip for the World Colortype Company of St. Louis, Missouri, and illustrated children’s books for the Chicago publisher Albert Whitman. He also created books of clip art. These small drawings were used as fillers in newspapers and other publications. Shinn married Ramona Bowlin in 1925.

During the 1930s Shinn began an association with the Bretzman Photo Studio, Indianapolis. He specialized in photographing models in comic or exaggerated poses for use in advertisements.

Sources: Items in the collection.


SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains real photo and printed postcards collected by Indianapolis resident Jay Small. Most images depict views and street scenes in towns and cities across Indiana, individuals, interurbans and railway stations, bandstands and celebrations, and examples of advertising. Also included are cards created from drawings by Indiana artist Cobb Shinn. There are some non-Indiana scenes and advertising also.

Shinn’s cards include multi-card sets based on a particular theme and single items. Sets represented in this collection include women, racing cars, children, advertising, novelty cards, Charlie Chaplin, James Whitcomb Riley and Dutch children. These cards are stored in boxes 23-26.

The collection is divided into twelve series based on the format of the material (real photo or printed postcard) and subject matter. Real photo postcards are distinct from printed items, as the image is an actual photograph. Printed postcards are made on printing presses and often depict scenes in a number of colors.

The images in the collection date from circa 1907 to the 1940s. The cards are arranged according to Jay Small’s original filing order: alphabetically according to place names or subject content. Place names are printed or written on most cards. Small filed unidentified cards according to postmark. He may have assumed that postcards were usually mailed from the town or city where they were purchased.

Oversized, souvenir fold-out cards, and panoramic postcards are contained in boxes 28–31. These are especially delicate and must be handled with extreme care. The souvenir cards fold out in various ways, from a simple folder containing a small booklet of scenes, to accordion-style or fan-style fold-outs. There is one leather postcard that was sent through the mail in 1906.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Real Photo Postcards: Indiana Towns, Cities, and Counties

CONTENTS
Acton, Adams, Akron, Alexandria, Albany, Ambia, Amboy, Anderson, Andrews, Angola, Arcadia, Arcana, Argos, Arlington, Athens, Atlanta, Attica, Auburn, Aurora, Austin, Avilla, Bainbridge, Barbee Lake, Battleground, Berne, Bethlehem, Bicknell, Birdseye, Bloomingdale, Bloomington, Bluff Mills, Bluffton, Boonville, Boswell, Brazil, Bremen, Bridgeport (?), Bridgeton, Bristol, Brooklyn, Brookville, Brown County, Brownsburg, Brownstown, Brownsville, Bryant, Buffalo, Burnettsville, Burney, Butler, Butlerville, Cambridge City, Camden, Campbellsburg, Cannelton, Carlisle, Cartersburg, Carthage, Cedar Grove, Cedar Lake, Chalmers, Chesterfield, Churubusco, Cicero, Clarks Hill, Clay City, Clayton, Claypool, Clear Lake, Clermont, Clifty, Clinton, Clinton County, Cloverdale, Columbia City, Columbus, Corydon, Covington,

CONTAINER
Box 1
Cowen, Crawfordsville, Crooked Lake, Crothersville, Crown Point, Cumberland, Daleville, Dana, Danville, Darlington, Delphi.


Nineveh, North Manchester, North Salem, North Vernon, North Webster, Oaktown, Odon, Oolitic, Orland, Orleans, Osceola, Osgood, Ossian, Oswego, Oxford, Oxford Mills, Packerton, Paoli, Paris Crossing, Parker, Patricksburg, Pendleton, Pennville, Perrysville, Peru, Petersburg, Pierceton, Pittsboro, Plainfield, Pleasant Lane, Plymouth, Portland, Poland, Princeton, Quincy, Quistville, Raleigh, Ray, Redkey, Remington, Rensselaer, Reynolds, Richmond, Riley, Rising Sun, Riverton, Roanoke, Rochester, Rockport, Rockville, Rolling Prairie, Rome City, Rossburg, Rugby, Rushville, Salem, San Pierre, Saratoga, Selma, Shades, Shelbyville, Sheridan, Shirley, Shoals, Sidney, South Bend, South Boston, Southport, Spartanburg, Spencer, Spiceland, Spring Lake (Hancock County), Springport, Stinesville, Strawns (Straughn), Stilesville, Stroh, St. Paul.

Sullivan, Summitville, Swan, Syracuse, Talbot, Teegarden, Tell

Series 2: Printed Postcards: Indiana Towns, Cities, and Counties

CONTENTS CONTAINER


Lebanon, Leesburg, Letts Corner, Lewisville, Liberty, Liberty Center, Ligonier, Linton, Logansport, Lowell, Lynn, Madison, Marengo, Marion, Martinsville, Mecca, Medora, Merom,
Michigan City, Middletown, Milan, Milford, Millhousen, Milroy, Mishawaka, Mitchell, Monon, Monroeville, Monticello, Montpelier, Moores Hill, Mooresville, Morocco, Morristown, Mount Meridian, Mount Vernon.


Richmond, Ripley County, Rising Sun, Roachdale, Roann, Roanoke, Rochester, Rockport, Rockville, Rolling Prairie, Rome City, Royal Center, Rushville, St. Meinrad, St. Paul, Salem (Vicinity), Salem, San Pierre, Santa Claus, Scipio, Scottsburg, Shades, Shelbyville, Sheridan, Shirley, Shoals, Silver Lake, South Bend, South Milford, Southport, South Whitley, Speedway, Spencer, Spiceland, Springhill, Stinesville, Sullivan, Sunman, Swayzee, Tell City.


Series 3: Real Photo Postcards: Indianapolis

CONTENTS

Series 4: Printed Postcards: Indianapolis

CONTENTS


Buildings: Library, Lilly [Eli Lilly and Co.], Lodges, Maennerchor [interior], Majestic Building, Music Companies, Newton Claypool Building, Propylaeum, Pythian [Knights of Pythias], Roosevelt Building, Schools, State Capitol, State Life, Telephone Building [Central Union Telephone], Tomlinson Hall, Traction Terminal [includes Traction Terminal Freight Depot], Union Station, Water Company, YMCA and YWCA, Unidentified.


Parks: Fairbank [Fair Bank], Fairview, Garfield, Germania, Hammond’s Grove, Holliday, Military, Riverside, Spades, St. Clair, University, Washington, Wonderland, Woollen’s Garden of Birds & Botany. Personal Notices (gas bill, telephone number announcement). Persons: Fairbanks (vice president) [residence]; Gresham, Walter Q. (secretary of state) [residence]; Harrison, Benjamin (president) [residence]; Houser, Dr. J.A. [residence]; June, Geo. W.; McGowan, Hugh [residence]; Nicholson, Meredith [residence]; Riley, James Whitcomb [residence]; Van Camp’s Residence; Wheeler, W. H. [residence]. Groups: Fire Departments; Police; Schools; Politicians, Judges, and Pastors. Peter the Great [racehorse]. Rivers: Fall Creek, White River.

Speedway. Stockyards. Street Scenes: Downtown; Bird’s Eye views of downtown; Downtown Parades, War Chest, and War Savings Subscription; Illinois; Market; Meridian; Pennsylvania; Washington St., east from Illinois, east from Meridian, west from Meridian, west of Illinois, east of Meridian; Downtown Street Car Strike [1892]; Flood of 1913. Streets: Capitol Avenue, Fletcher Avenue, Irvington Avenue, Maple Road Boulevard, Meridian Street, Morton Place, North Delaware Street, North Pennsylvania Street, Talbott Avenue. Theaters and Shows. Trains and Interurbans. Woodruff Place. Modern Reprints of Franklin Township. Wood block print made in Indianapolis schools.

Series 5: Real Photo Postcards: Interurbans, Streetcars, Rivers, Advertising, Girl in Hat, Greta Garbo, Scenes from Plays

CONTENTS

Interurbans and Stations, Streetcars, Ohio River, Wabash River, Warren River (not Indiana), Advertising, Girl in Hat (see also: O-Mi series and Photographs with frame drawings, both in Series 7), Greta Garbo, Scenes from Plays.

CONTAINER

Box 5

Series 6: Printed Postcards: Camp Atterbury, Covered Bridges, General Indiana, Indiana Soldiers, Indiana State Buildings at World’s Fairs, Interurbans, Streetcars, Mills, Notable Hoosiers, Ohio River, Personal Notices, Scenes from Alice of Old Vincennes, Ships named for Indiana, Advertising, R.F.D. Carrier Christmas Cards

CONTENTS


CONTAINER

Box 22

Series 7: Printed Postcards: Riley, Scofield, Cobb Shinn

CONTENTS

Riley, Cobb Shinn, Riley (H–W), Riley (N.P.), Riley (Roses 201), Riley (Scofield 1906), Riley (Series 503); Wallace, Lew (Scofield 1907). Cobb Shinn: A & H Co., Chicago, Advertising Cards: Clock, (Series 188), Drum Adv., Holiday Greetings, Map of the U.S., Pennant (Series 1), Pennant (Series 134), Pennant (Series No. 910), Pennant (Series No. 960), Pennant [felt pennants] (K & T); Series 441, 442, and 448; Series 450 and 481; Series 510; Series 802 and 802X; Series 888; Series 904; Automobiles (Series 896), Baby, Baseball

CONTAINER

Box 23
Lover, Berlin Kids, Birthday Cards, Birthday [Series 856, for hand coloring], Boy at Play, 1909 [of Little Girls and Guys], Boy-Baby-Stork, Blue Ribbon (Series 2) [Prize Award, see die proof], Bulldog (Series 21), Burlesque Comics (Series 5200), Charlie Chaplin, Checker Children.

Children’s Heads, Christmas (Series 606 (signed) and 609 (unsigned)) Comic Sayings, Dutch Daffydis (Series 504), Dutch Kid (Series 912), Dutch Valentine, Fancy Girls [n.d.], Fancy Girls, 1908. Fancy Girls: 1909 [Copyright: E. B. Scofield], 1910, Divided Front, Witty Remarks, Fancy Rooster [unsigned, see “Bing” card], Fantasy, Foolish Questions, Gibson Art Co., Girls and Landscapes [Birthday Greetings, copyright 1909, Scofield], Girls Heads in Smoke or Water 1908–1910, Golden Girls (Birthday-Majestic), Green Frog, Happy Dog/I Don’t Care, Happy Hog, Head Photograph [rest drawn, Series 1803 and copyright 1912].

Indian Series, Irish Series [No. 500], Leap Year (Series 501), Little Girls and Guys, Little Girls Funny Sayings [see Little Girls and Guys], Little Monkey, Lucky Cards, “Motherinlaw,” New Years Cards [Series 617 and 618, unsigned; see 606, signed], Nutty Children with Squirrels [the “D” Company, Chicago], O-Mi Series, O-Yu Series, Photographs with Frame Drawings [of Children, Kittens, and other subjects, by Cobb Shinn, unsigned], Poets, Race Cars in Color, Riley Cards [1907, copyrighted, Scofield-Pierson, Majestic Pub. Co. and Import Postcard Co.], Riley Roses and Riley Blossoms [copyright 1907, Scofield-Pierson Co.], Riley Verses. Sepia: Art Girls, Birthday Series, Messenger Boys, Poster Girls, Roses, St. Patrick, Smoke [some unidentified], Stork (Birth Announcements), Tar Babies [Roses on Back, numbered series, plain backs], Thanksgiving, Wooden Shoe [Dutch, Plain back and Roses on back], Wooden Shoes [also Dutch Kids, Auburn Postcard Manufacturing Co.], Series 23, Series 201 SB Card [Unsigned Cowboy], Series 202 [Dutch Daffydis and Series 430], Series 223 (Pennant, unsigned) [see Munson Cards], Series 229 (Girl Watching) [see Foolish Questions, Foolish Answers], Series 251.

Series 427 (Daffydis), Series 430 (Daffydis), Series 435, 436 and 437 [unsigned, see 903, 833, 450], Series 449 (Unsigned), Series 460 (Monkeys), Series 469 (Little Police,) Series 470 (How I Need You), Series 502 (Everyday Kids), Series 504 (JMP in Shield), Series 790 (T.P. and Co.), Series 795 (Chinese Children) [1911, T.P. and Co.], Series 833 (Boy and Girl) [for hand coloring, see series 897], Series 855 (Sailor Boy) [for hand coloring], Series 857 (Comic Kids) [for hand coloring], Tickets 875 (for hand coloring), Series 889 (T.P. and Co.), Series 895 (Women’s Suffrage), Series 897 [same drawings as Series 833, different text], Series 903 (T. P. & Co.), Series 911 (Sign Post), Series 936 (Don’t Need Bull), Series 1760 [for hand coloring], Ticket Stubs, Tin Lizzy, We (I, You) Should Worry [unsigned, Series 18 and 35, see Sepia Babies and Girl Crying].
Series 8: Printed Postcards: Non-Indiana

CONTENTS

Adverting: Calendar cards, calling cards, events, products and services. Sears, Roebuck, & Co. and David Bradley Plows.

Barren River (Bowling Green, Ky.). Cumberland River (Nashville, Tenn.). Illinois River. Mississippi River.


CONTAINER

Box 27

Series 9: Oversized Postcards

CONTENTS


Indianapolis: two long and narrow cards: Fall Creek (#5851); Odd Fellows’ Building (#5848). Three reproductions from Bass photos: trolley car on Illinois street, ca. 1900; traffic director at Pennsylvania and Maryland streets, 1918; start of the Indy 500, 1919. Three downtown street scenes: War Chest, War Savings Subscription, and “Cast Your Votes Here.” One color bird’s eye view of downtown, ca. 1970s.


Indianapolis—Advertising—Events and products: recital of Mme. Clara Butt and Mr. Kenmerley Rumford at the Murat Theatre, 24 Feb. 1913; Gold Medal flour and H.E. Schortemeier groceries.

Lebanon, Ind.: the Williams Hospital (card measures 5 x 7 ¼).

Fold-over card: Corydon, Ind., postmarked 1908.

CONTAINER

Box 28

Box 31

Series 10: Souvenir Fold-Out Cards and Leather Postcard — Please handle with extreme care

Indianapolis: “Sight Seeing Automobile” with black-and-white one-sided accordion-style scenes, patented 1907; “Soldier’s and Sailor’s Monument” with black-and-white two-sided pages that flip when card is pulled, n.d.; black-and-white one-sided accordion-style multi-views that may have come from a souvenir postcard folder, n.d.; “Souvenir Folder of Indianapolis, Ind.” With color double-sided accordion-style scenes, n.d.; color double-sided accordion-style scenes that may have come from a souvenir postcard folder, n.d.; “Soldiers and Sailors Monument” (series 713), contains little booklet that pulls out with color one-sided pages, sent in 1912; “Indianapolis, Monument” contains black-and-white one-sided scenes that pull out and open like a fan, n.d.; “Troops Parading on Monument Place” folder with color double-sided scenes (most pages missing), 1904 (postmarked 191?).

Indianapolis: eight small, loose, color one-sided scenes that probably came from a souvenir postcard packet, n.d.


Ohio: “Seeing Marysville, Ohio” contains black-and-white one-sided accordion-style scenes, ©1907, sent 1908.

Leather postcard: shows the steamer “Island Queen” on the Ohio River at Cincinnati, 1906.

**Series 11: Panoramas**

CONTENTS

Near Batesville: Tenth Regiment, U.S. Infantry, camping near Batesville, Ind. (No. 8914). Crawfordsville: corner of Main and Water streets, showing Post Office and Supreme Tribes, Ben-Hur offices; looking north on Washington St. and east on Main St.; Wabash College.

Indianapolis: bird’s-eye view (#11304) (two copies, one is postmarked 1913).
Nashville: “The Old Log Jail” includes a poem by Marietta Moser. North Manchester: West Main Street, sent in 1911.
Terre Haute: main floor interior of A. Herz store.

Non-Indiana: “The Old Oregon Trail” (from “The Ezra Meeker Historical Post Cards for Schools, Libraries, the Home and Collectors”). Bird’s eye view of Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, sent in 1907.

Clydesdales: three cards showing an eight-horse hitch pulling a wagon of Budweiser (two are duplicates). One showing “The Famous Genesee 12-Horse Team” from a painting by Matt Clark, includes the Clydesdales’ ancestry.

**Series 12: Oversized Panoramas**

**CONTENTS**

Two cards measuring 3½ x 16½: bird’s eye view of Indianapolis, “The Pivot City,” by C.F. Bretzman; bird’s eye view of Indianapolis (#11303), with message dated 1911.

One card measuring 5½ x 17½: “Panorama of Soldiers’ Monument and Sky Scraper District, Indianapolis, Indiana.”

**CATALOGING INFORMATION**

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  [http://157.91.92.2/](http://157.91.92.2/)
2. Click on the "Traditional Search" icon.
3. Click on the "Call Number" radio button.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0391).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.