



THE WEBFOOTER

The official publication of The Webfooters Post Card Club in Portland, Oregon

Volume 41 - Issue Number 3 - March 2007

"Every subject known to man can be found on a post card"

www.thewebfooters.com



Happy St. Patrick's Day



Here's luck to Des
Old Ireland, the
cradle of all true
and loyal hearts.

May her memory
ever stay green in
the hearts of all
sons of Old Erin.

Phyllis Palmer Collection



Next Meeting – March 17, 2007

At Russellville Grange - 12105 NE Prescott Street

10:00 am to 4:00 pm – Card sales to begin after 10:30



Join us March 17th as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day with lunch prepared by one of our members of Irish descent

See Page 4 for The Legends of St. Patrick's Day

See Page 8 for Postcard History and Dating Methods

View the colorful version of this newsletter at www.thewebfooters.com



President's Corner

Next month, we will hold our Annual Show & Sale, at the Jackson Armory (6255 NE Cornfoot Rd) April 21-22, 2007. We have a few tables left for rent, please contact Mark to get a contract and pay for your tables.

Webfooters to hold Auction/Banquet

We will kickoff the Show with a Banquet & Auction on Friday April 20, 2007, at the Rodeway/Quality Inn at 9727 NE Sandy Blvd at I-205. Preview begins at 3pm, Dinner begins at 5:30pm and the Auction begins at 7pm. Dusty Schmidt and Glenn Mason have volunteered to catalog and auction off several hundred lots of postcards, photos and collectible paper to benefit the Club. Contact Glenn or Dusty if you have articles for consignment.

To keep the hall rental costs to a minimum, we have committed to have at least 40 people purchasing dinner. The cost of the dinner will be \$11.95 per person or about \$15 including gratuity. The menu will include Lemon Chicken Bowtie Pasta with salad. We need to have your reservation by April 6, 2007. You can make your reservations by calling Dave Elston at 503-238-0896 or you can email him at elkon2k@pcez.com.

We have been offered special rates for anyone wanting to stay overnight at the Rodeway/Quality Inn. Room rates range from \$50 to \$60 per night, plus tax. Please call the Hotel directly at 503-255-1400 and ask for the "Webfooters" package. I have seen the rooms and highly recommend the rooms for \$60, recently remodeled with a king size bed.

Club Officers

President/Editor.....	Mark Moore
Vice President.....	Dale Nix
Secretary.....	Dave Elston
Treasurer.....	Arne Soland
Membership Chairman.....	David Sell
Member-at-Large.....	Jane Burton
Member-at-Large.....	Phyllis Palmer
Historian.....	Joe Macdonald
Librarian.....	Steve Kuryk

Articles and information for the Webfooter are always welcome. Please contact your editor. Post cards and information in this issue from www.pdxhistory.com unless otherwise noted.

www.thewebfooters.com





First Annual
**WEBFOOTERS
POST CARD CLUB**

Postcard, Photograph & Ephemera

*** AUCTION ***

Friday, April 20, 2007 * 7:00 pm
Preview begins at 3:00 pm
Rodeway Inn – Portland Airport
9727 NE Sandy Boulevard in Portland, Oregon

AUCTION LOTS INCLUDE:

- Post Cards: real photo, holiday, artist signed, lithos, linens & chromes.
- Vintage Photographs: daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, tintypes, stereo views, CDVs, cabinet cards, snapshots & mounted photos of all sizes.
- Paper Ephemera: advertising, trade cards, travel brochures, maps, menus & other early paper items!

No-host banquet dinner at the Rodeway Inn beginning at 5:30 pm

QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS WANTED!
Need info? Call Dusty Schmidt 503-703-2612 or Glenn Mason 503-297-5892

27th Annual Show and Sale
Saturday, April 21 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday, April 22 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Oregon National Guard Armory
6255 NE Cornfoot Road, Portland, Oregon

For dealer and general show information, contact Mark Moore: mark@pdxhistory.com –
www.thewebfooters.com



The Legend of St. Patrick

St. Patrick was the patron saint of Ireland, one of Christianity's most widely known figures. However, there is very little that is actually known about him, his life remains somewhat of a mystery. Many of the stories that are traditionally associated with St. Patrick are false. They are the product of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling. The famous account of St. Patrick banishing all the snakes from Ireland was symbolism for expelling the sins of the people. Prior to St. Patrick, the Irish people were known as Druids or Forest Worshipers with mythology as their religion.

What we do know is that St. Patrick, (real name Maewyn Succat), was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Although his father was a Christian deacon, it has been suggested that he took on the role because of tax incentives, as there is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family.

At the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who attacked his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. During this time, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from other people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. It is believed that he began to dream of converting the Irish people to Christianity during his captivity.

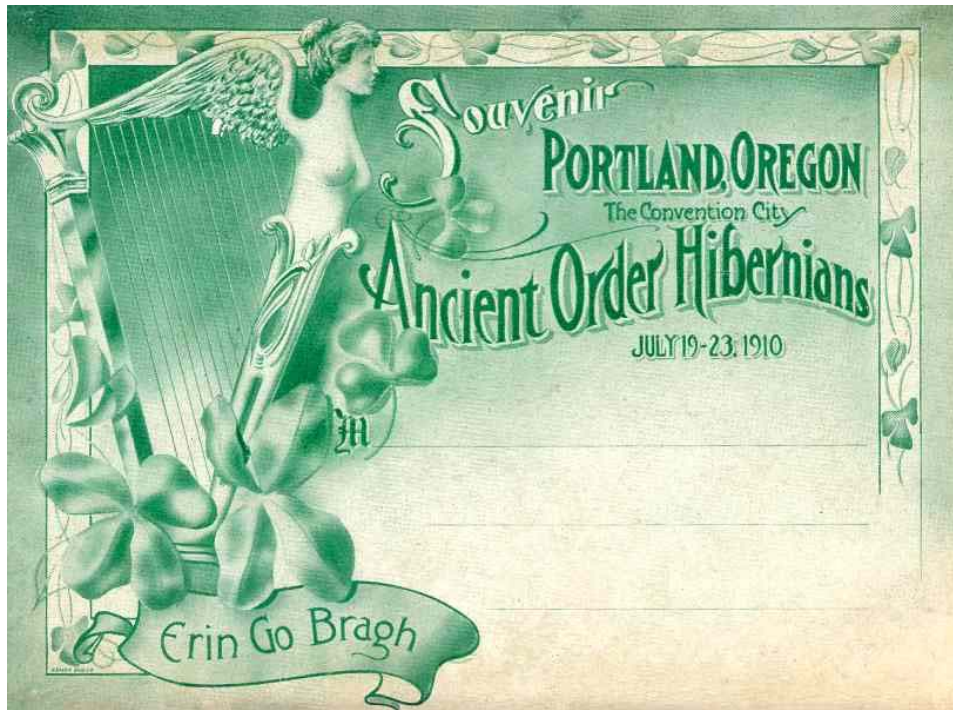
After more than six years in captivity, Patrick escaped. His writings tell how he heard God's voice speak to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland. To escape, Patrick walked nearly 200 miles from County Mayo to the Irish coast. From there, he made it back to Britain where he reported that he experienced a second revelation when an angel in another dream tells him to return to Ireland as a missionary.

Patrick soon began a 15-year course in religious studies. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission, to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish who practiced a nature-based pagan religion. The Irish culture centered around a rich tradition of oral legend and myth.

Having become familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick incorporated traditional Irish rituals into his lessons of Christianity. Since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire, Patrick used bonfires to celebrate Easter. Also, he superimposed a sun, which was a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now known as a Celtic cross. The Irish Protestants (Church of Ireland) do not have any "Saints" and do not celebrate St. Patrick's Day. St. Brigid is the real Irish Saint whom the Irish Catholics celebrate and you will see the Cross of St. Brigid all over Ireland.

The History of St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day in America has come to be associated with everything Irish: anything green and gold, shamrocks and luck. Most importantly, to those who celebrate its intended meaning, St. Patrick's Day, a Catholic holiday, is a traditional day for spiritual renewal and the offering of prayers for missionaries worldwide. Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, to commemorate the death of St. Patrick and the Irish have observed this as a day of religious feasting for thousands of years. St. Patrick's Day falls during the Christian season of Lent. Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and Irish celebrants would dance, drink and feast on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.



The first St. Patrick's Day Parade was held not in Ireland, but in New York when Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. The parades helped the soldiers rekindle friendships with fellow Irishmen serving in the military and the parades helped the soldiers to preserve their Irish traditions and musical heritage.

Irish patriotism flourished among American immigrants over the next few decades, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes and drums. Bagpipes had also become popular with the Scottish and British armies.

Up until the mid-1800's, most immigrants from Ireland were members of the Protestant middle class. When the Great Potato Famine hit Ireland in 1845, close to a million poor, uneducated, Catholic Irish began to pour into America to escape starvation. Despised for their religious beliefs and funny accents by the American Protestant majority, the immigrants had trouble finding even menial jobs. When Irish Americans took to the streets on St. Patrick's Day to celebrate their heritage, many newspapers portrayed them in cartoons as drunk violent monkeys.

The Irish immigrants soon realized the political strength in their numbers. They started to organize and the voting block known as the "green machine" became an important swing vote for political hopefuls. All of a sudden, annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans and a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates. Harry Truman became the first President to attend the New York St. Patrick's Day parade in 1948. This was a proud moment for the many Irish Americans whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in America.



Of Shamrocks and Leprechauns

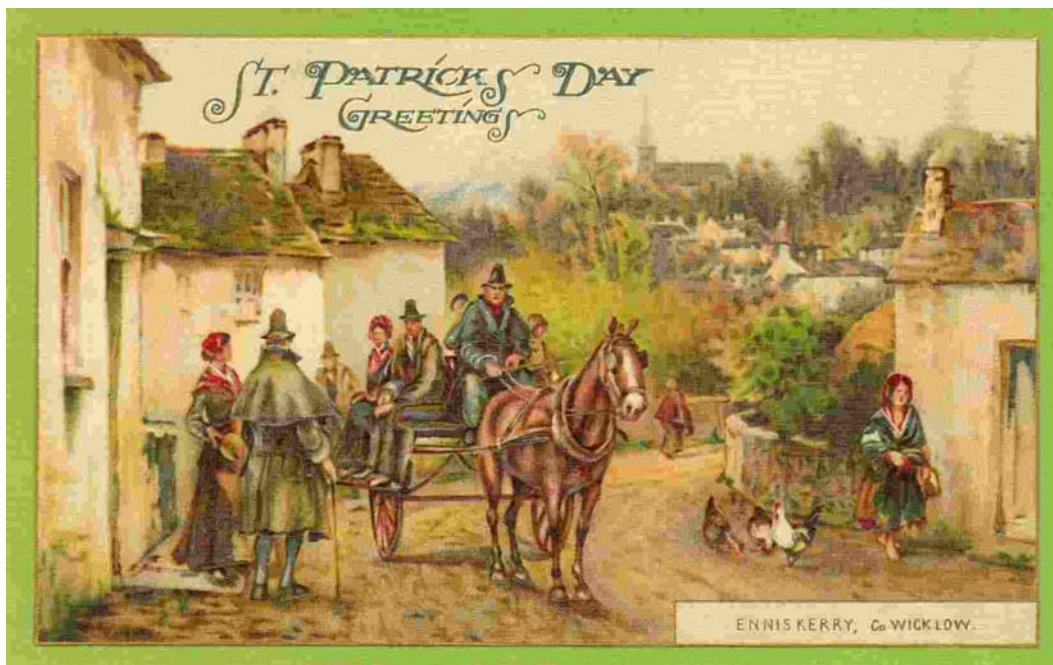
Shamrocks were called "seamroy" by the Celts which were sacred plants in ancient Ireland and they symbolized the rebirth of spring. During the 1600's, the Irish adopted the shamrock as a symbol of Irish nationalism. As the British began to seize Irish land, they enacted laws forbidding the use of the Irish language and the practice of Catholicism. Many of the Irish began to wear the shamrock as a symbol of their pride in their heritage as well as their displeasure of English rule.



The original Irish name for leprechauns in Celtic folklore is “lobaircin” which means “small-bodied fellow”. The belief in leprechauns probably stems from Celtic belief in fairies, which were tiny men and women who could use their magical powers to serve good or evil. In Celtic folktales, leprechauns were cranky souls responsible for mending the shoes of the other fairies. Leprechauns, or “wee people” as they are known in Ireland, were small in stature, but they used powerful trickery to protect their much-fabled treasure.



Leprechauns actually had nothing to do with St. Patrick's Day until 1959 when Walt Disney released a film called “Darby O’Gill and the Little People”. Disney introduced America to a very different sort of leprechaun than the cantankerous little man of Irish folklore. This cheerful, friendly leprechaun is purely an American invention, and he has quickly evolved into an easily recognizable symbol of both St. Patrick's Day and Ireland.



Irish postcard showing Ennis Kerry in County Wicklow – circa 1910 (David Sell Collection)



Irish postcard showing Barnes Gap in County Donegal – circa 1910 (David Sell Collection)

Today, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by people of all backgrounds and ethnicities from Canada to Australia, and from Japan to Russia. The largest celebrations can be found in North America. In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day has traditionally been a religious holiday with feasts for families and friends.

Up until the 1970's, it was mandated that all pubs in Ireland be closed on March 17. It wasn't until 1995 that the Irish government began a national campaign to promote tourism and to showcase Irish traditions to the world. In recent years, Dublin has become home to a multi-day celebration featuring parades, concerts, outdoor theater productions and fireworks shows that attracts over a million revelers.



Thanks to David Sell (who spent 4 or 5 years in Ireland as a youngster) for his contributions to our St. Patrick's Day articles. David says he makes regular trips to visit relatives in Ireland.

Post Card History and Dating Methods

Although the world's first picture post cards date from the 1860's to the mid-1870's, post cards, as we know them, came into being in the United States about 1901. Prior to that time, there were trade cards and postal cards, which usually carried advertising or printed messages.

Trade cards became popular with the enterprising merchants who distributed them from the 1870's to the 1890's. With the advent of the camera, which was developed in the mid-1800's, and later the post card, history would be forever immortalized in print.

The back of a post card can give several clues about the age of a card. If the postmark on a postally used card is readable, that is the first clue to its age. Most of the cards that made it to the post office were mailed within a year or two of being produced. On a card that was not mailed, the first place to look is the stamp box.

Stamp boxes are the small rectangular boxes printed on the upper right hand side, where the stamp is to be affixed. By comparing identical mailed and unmailed cards, researchers have developed a pattern to determine when a particular style of card was produced.

Real photo post cards (RPPC's) are cards that have been produced in the darkroom on photographic paper. On real photo post cards, codes in the stamp boxes can also be helpful in dating the card.

Stamp boxes on printed or lithographed cards also offer dating clues. Often there is a reference in the box to the amount of postage required. Of course, if the card is used and has a stamp, that too gives a clue, both by its value, and the style of stamp itself.

For U.S. post cards, the standard postal rate was:

1872		1 cent	1975	(September 14)	7 cents**
1917		2 cents	1975	(December 31)	9 cents
1919		1 cent *	1978	(May 29)	10 cents
1952		2 cents	1981	(March 22)	12 cents
1958	(August 1)	3 cents	1985	(February 17)	14 cents
1963	(January 7)	4 cents	1988	(April 3)	15 cents
1968	(January 7)	5 cents	1991	(February 3)	19 cents
1971	(May 16)	6 cents	1995	(January 1)	20 cents
1974	(March 2)	8 cents			

*The post card rate was increased from 1 cent to 2 cents as a wartime measure. When World War I ended at the end of 1918, the rate was lowered to its pre-War level of one cent. The postal rate was raised briefly from 1 cent to 2 cents in 1917-1919 and in 1925-1928; the conclusive raise to 2 cents was in 1951.

**The U.S. Commission (Rate Board) over-estimated revenue needs in 1974 and was forced to reduce the postage rate in 1975.

Additional Dating Characteristics

Does the card include postal mailing codes? The U.S. introduced the use of two-digit zone numbers on May 1, 1943; the use of five-digit Zip codes began in July of 1963.

How many digits does the phone number have? Locally, phone numbers changed from 6 digits to 7 about 1962. Does it list a phone number with an area code? The first unassisted coast-to-coast direct dialing with a three-digit area code began on November 10, 1951.

The size of the post card can also give a clue:

- If the card is old and it is larger than 3.5 by 5.5 inches, it may date from before 1898.
- If the card is old and it is slightly smaller than 3.5 by 5.5 inches, it may date from 1898 to 1902.
- If the card measures 3.5 by 5.5 inches, it was probably made between 1902 and 1970.
- If the card measures approximately 4 by 6 inches ("continental" size) and it is American, it was probably made no earlier than the 1960's.

Clues can also be found in the printing process:

- If the card was produced using high-quality chromolithography with six or more inks, it was probably made before 1917.
- If the card has a flat-textured surface and is printed with a limited range of low-contrast inks, it was probably made before 1930.
- If it has a linen-textured surface and is printed with sharply contrasting bright inks, it is likely from the period 1930-1960.
- If the card has a shiny surface and is printed in color using a halftone process (tiny dots of magenta, cyan, yellow and black), it was probably made no earlier than 1939.

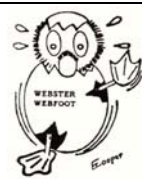
AZO Stamp Boxes

One of the popular photographic papers used for producing real photo post cards was *Kodak Professional AZO Paper*.

This was suitable for making contact prints, rather than enlargements for which the source of light would be much weaker.

Post cards produced on *AZO* paper had *AZO* stamp boxes on the back. The style of these boxes varied over time.

• 1904-1918	Four triangles, pointing up.
• 1918-1930	Two triangles 'up' and two 'down'.
• 1927-1940	Squares in the corners.



Roster Additions We welcome Diane Stone of Portland:

Stone Diane 1714

Collects: Victorian Greetings; Picnics; Tea Parties; Birds; Shells; Beach



Calendar

March 12 – Webfooters Board Meeting at Elmers Restaurant (no host)
10001 NE Sandy Blvd – 6:30 pm (Board Meetings held every other month)

March 17 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

April 1 – Pacific NW Post Card Club Meeting – Lake City Community Center
12531 - 28th Ave NE in Seattle – 11:30 am to 5pm

For the latest news, visit our website:



www.thewebfooters.com

Webfooters Auction:

**April 20, 2007 at the Rodeway/Quality Inn at 9727 NE Sandy
Where Sandy Boulevard meets I-205 at Exit 29A/B.**

Preview begins at 3pm, Dinner begins at 5:30pm, Auction begins at 7pm.

Webfooters Post Card Club's Annual Show & Sale:

Saturday, April 21: 10am to 5pm

Sunday, April 22: 10am to 4pm

At the Oregon National Guard Armory at 6255 NE Cornfoot Rd in Portland

WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB

PO Box 17240

Portland OR 97217-0240