



THE WEBFOOTER

**SINCE 1966 ~ THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB IN PORTLAND, OREGON**

“Every subject known to man can be found on a post card” – Club Motto

www.thewebfooters.com

Volume 43

Issue Number 12

December 2009



Merry Christmas



- ◆ See Post Card Storage and Handling Techniques on Page 7.
- ◆ Maggie's Minutes on Page 9 and an Auction Testimonial on Page 4.

Next Meeting – December 19, 2009

At Russellville Grange – 12105 NE Prescott Street

10 am to 3:30 pm

Noon: Annual Indoor Picnic – Club to provide ham & beverages
Bring Salads, Casseroles & Desserts, etc.



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(paid advertisements)

PostCARD

WANTED:



Post Cards, Photos and Ephemera!!

For The Webfooters 4th Annual

Antique Paper Auction to be held

April 16, 2010

The Grotto Conference Center

(Entrance at 85th & Sandy Blvd)

Contact Dusty Schmidt: 503-703-2612

Mt. St. Helens, Elevation 9750 Ft.



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of Postcards For Sale**

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Approx. 5,000 from Detroit Publishing

We will be at the Dec. 19, 2009 Webfooters Meeting

To sell Singles, Groups, Albums (paid advertisement)

Editor's note: At our last business meeting, several options were put forward for holding another auction. The membership in attendance voted unanimously to move our auction to The Grotto Conference Center and to focus on our live auction for members, not online bidding.

Webfooters Auction

A rare find at the 2009 Auction

By Leah Hollingshead

I have been a member of The Webfooters Post Card Club for over 25 years. While I seldom am able to attend club meetings, I was drawn to the Club's 2009 Auction after having read about it in the newsletter. I am an avid collector of Buster Keaton memorabilia including postcards, so after reviewing the auction items online, I decided to attend the live auction.



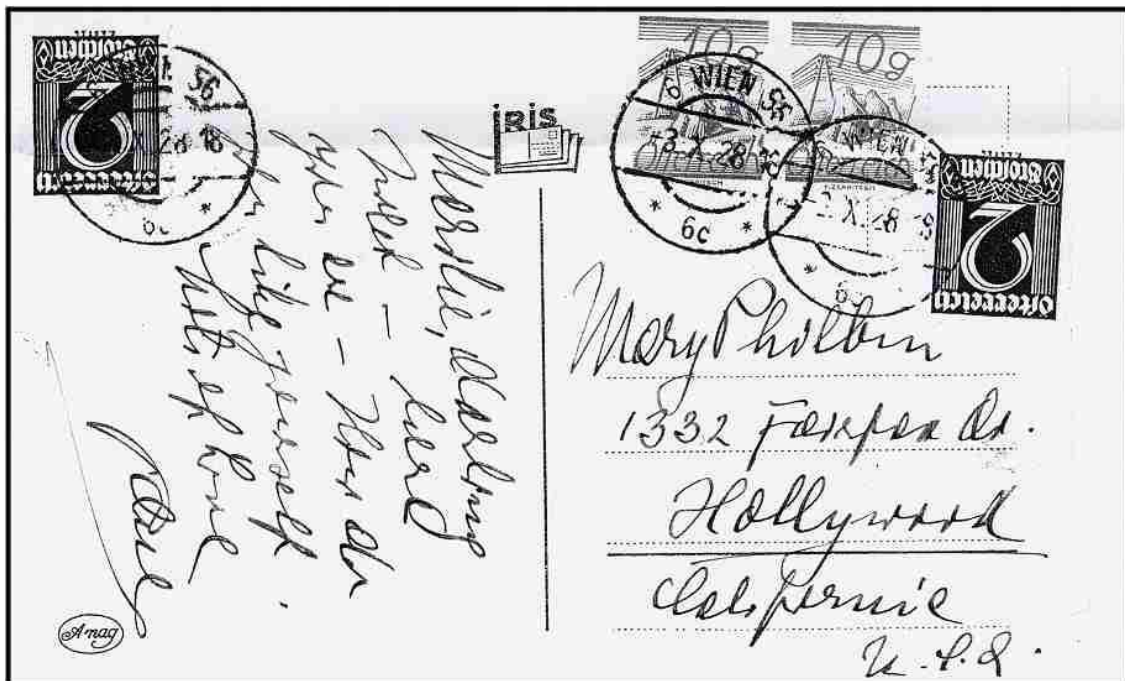
I bid on lot #1, a photo postcard of Mary Philbin who was a silent film actress best known for two Lon Chaney films: "The Phantom of the Opera" and "The Man Who Launched."

I thought the sepia toned photo was lovely and I liked the "silent film" connection of the card. The card was captioned "Universal Pictures Corp." and as the card was lot #1 and since it took a while during the auction for the momentum of the bidding to grow, I was very happy to be the high bidder at \$4.

A few weeks before the auction, I was showing a friend several of my favorite cards in my other area of collecting: gas/food and lodging, pre 1955. Most of these cards are linen cards and early black and white photos. I found that my friend was much more intrigued by the messages on the backs of the cards than on the front picture. I must admit that though I read the messages, they are rarely the reason why I purchase a card.

At the auction preview and sale, I never looked at the back of the Mary Philbin card. In fact, I did not check the back until the next day. I realized immediately that I had much more in my hand than I had bargained for. The card is addressed to Mary Philbin at 1332 Fairfax Drive, Hollywood, California USA. At this point, I knew I had a card that Mary Philbin had actually possessed at one time.

I decided to do a little research and did a search about Mary on the internet. I found that Mary had been in love with a man named Paul Kohner. Originally from Czechoslovakia, Paul Kohner was the Universal Studio executive in charge of their European Division. It seems they were "an item" for several years, but that Mary's parents forbade any marriage because of their differing faiths (Mary was Catholic and Paul was Jewish).



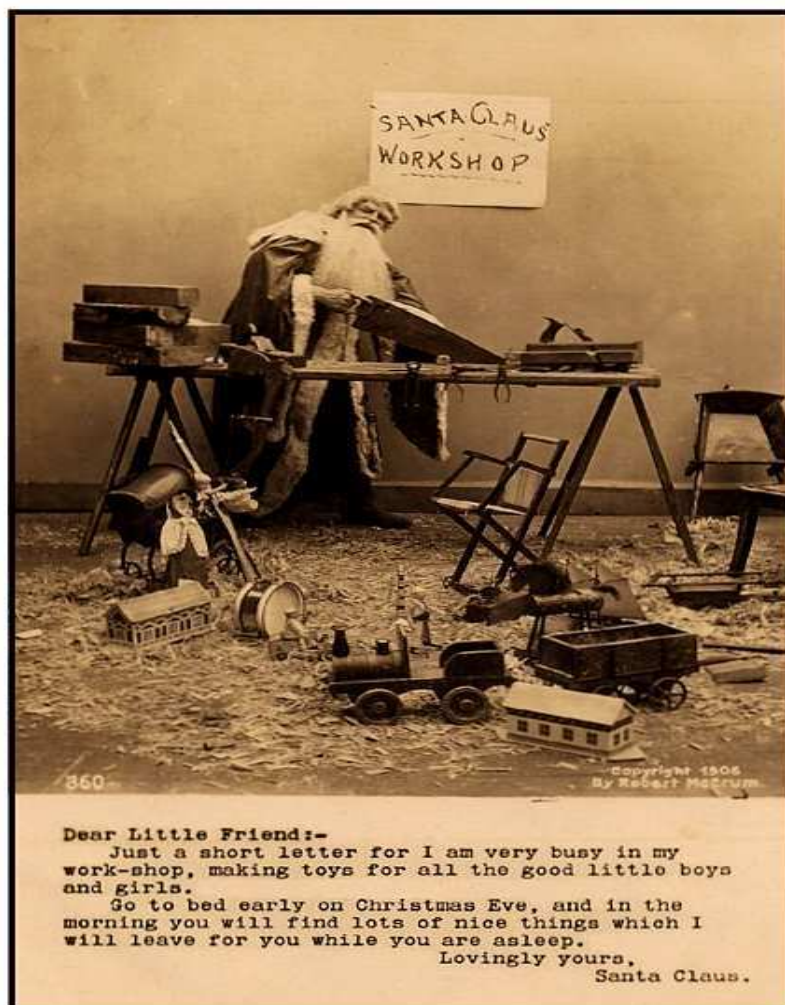
The message on the postcard reads: "Maralie darling (next word unreadable) – here you are – here as in life itself. Lots of love, Paul."

The card is postmarked and stamped from Austria, but there is no clear date on the postmark. I believe that Paul, while away in Europe working, came across this card and sent it to Mary.

After additional research on the internet, I discovered that Mary cared for her elderly parents, never married and died at the age of 90. Paul eventually founded a very successful talent agency and managed the careers of Marlene Dietrich, Greta Garbo, Henry Fonda, Lana Turner and David Niven, just to name a few. Paul married actress Lupita Tovar in 1932. They in turn, had a daughter, Susan Kohner, who was nominated for an academy award for "Imitation of Life" starring Lana Turner in 1959. Susan Kohner went on to have two sons, Chris and Paul Weitz who are both successful film directors. Quite a film dynasty!

Even though I only bought Lot #1, I loved the experience and stayed for the whole three and a half hours of the auction. I highly recommend that more members attend future Webfooter auctions. You never know what you might find.

RPPC of the Month



POST CARD AND EPHEMERA STORAGE AND HANDLING TIPS

We are so fortunate to live in a time when we can rescue lost history. Postcards and ephemera have finally become recognized as a valuable link to our past. If we call ourselves postcard collectors we must step up to the plate and accept the responsibilities that go along with preserving history. It is up to us to store and preserve them for generations to come.

Many of the real photo post cards that we find today are damaged. Under magnification, there are many more pits and scratches. Many of the cards come with hairs, mucus, fingerprints, tobacco and other toxins that are reacting with the photographic images and causing the images to deteriorate. With a little water, we can wash and very gently remove the offending toxins.

This indicates that the people who have had the cards and photos in their possession over the years did not handle and store them properly.

#1 RULE

STORE YOUR VALUABLE CARDS IN NEW, FRESH, SOFT SLEEVES.

If your card has value, put it in a new acid-free sleeve, not a second-hand sleeve. Acid-free sleeves and protectors are necessary to preserve the history we have been entrusted to pass on to future generations. Ultra Pro is one of the recommended brands. By saving the used sleeves, we are exposing our collections to unnecessary dust, dirt and other pollutants that will make the images deteriorate faster over time. Do your hands feel dirty and grimy after handling cards in used sleeves? Oil from our hands can be a dirt magnet.

Used sleeves are full of toxins and poisons. Acids, skin oils and pollutants in a used sleeve will actually hasten the destruction of the image. Store your post cards and ephemera in a smoke-free area that is also dust-free. Direct exposure to toxins and pollutants from smoke – whether from tobacco, wood or paper, will eventually cause a photo image to deteriorate and turn yellow or brown. The exposure to decaying pet hair will also hasten their deterioration.

#2 RULE

IF THE CARD HAS VALUE, PUT THE CARD, WHICH IS IN A NEW SOFT SLEEVE, IN A HARD SLEEVE AS WELL.

A good way to store your most-cherished cards is to put them in a new soft sleeve, a hard sleeve, then a 2-pocket page. You can also store your cards in 4-pocket pages which are highly recommended for storing cards as well. Four-pocket pages are rigid and your cards will get dog-eared and damaged if you take your cards in and out of the pockets frequently. Remember, most of the cards are 80 to 100 years old and the paper can become brittle over time. The lithographed cards are most vulnerable.

#3 RULE

KEEP YOUR CARDS IN ALBUMS TO ORGANIZE THEM AND TO ALLOW YOU TO VIEW THEM WHEN YOU WANT.

Used albums can be okay, just clean them with moist cleaning wipes before use. If an album is rusty, throw it away. Rust can interact with the paper and images, which will eventually destroy them.

Dust your albums periodically and watch for cobwebs. Spiders will do irreparable damage to cards, photos and ephemera. Watch out for silverfish and mice as well. Mice eat the paper, preferring some inks and glues over others. Many types of glue contain wheat paste, which mice love to eat. Unless you have pets, keep a tray of mouse bait handy in your storage area.

When handling film or photos, use cloth gloves for best protection.

#4 RULE

KEEP YOUR CARDS AND EPHEMERA AT A CONSTANT TEMPERATURE.

Changes in temperature will hasten the deterioration of postcards and ephemera. When they were made, a flyer or promotional piece was for a one-time event. You know what they say, "Print it one day and throw it away the next."

Lightweight ephemera such as newspaper clippings and flyers can become very brittle. This is caused by an abundance of acid in the paper at the time it was produced. There is an Archival Spray available at Art & Craft Stores that will draw the acid out and make the paper less dry and brittle. (*It is expensive: a small spray can is \$44.95 at Michaels.*)

Suggested Storage Temperatures:

- ◆ **Negatives: Store in a dry refrigerator at 40 degrees (Kenmore is driest).**
- ◆ **Photo Postcards: 40 to 68 degrees – Keep the temperature constant.**
- ◆ **Lithographed Postcards: 60 to 75 degrees – Keep the temperature constant.**

Be sure to keep them in a clean, dry, dust-free environment. A moist environment will lead to mold.

#5 RULE

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CARDS, PHOTOS OR EPHEMERA TO BE EXPOSED TO SUNLIGHT OR ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT.

With exposure to sunlight, postcards, photos and ephemera will fade, losing contrast and color. Always request a thin Plexiglas cover that gives protection from ultraviolet light when framing photos.



Maggie's Minutes

Attending the November 18, 2009 Webfooter's Board Meeting, held at Elmer's Restaurant were: Mark Moore (President), Tony Roberts, (Vice-President), Maggie Parypa (Secretary), Arne Soland (Treasurer), Krissy Durden (Membership) and Irene Adams, Director. After a call to order at approximately 7:00 PM, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

Financial Report - Arne Soland gave a financial report.

Report of Standing Committees

Membership Chair Krissy Durden reported that there are 228 Active Members (105 individual members, 96 Family Members, 20 Patron Members, 6 Honor Members and 1 Charter).

Refreshments - Reimbursement of up to \$30 is available for those contributing this service. If you are providing refreshments don't forget to save your receipts for Arne. Thanks to Arne Soland for providing chili at the November meeting. Thanks to Mark for bringing the donuts.

Early bird deadline approaching: Dealer contracts for next year's show on April 17-18, 2010 are due by Dec. 31, 2009 to reserve tables at \$55 each. After that time, the price increases to \$65 per table. Nearly half of our tables are already spoken for. The meeting at Elmer's was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

At the Membership Meeting on November 21, 2009, we had several out of town members including Mary Patterson and Mike Fairley from Seattle, Jim Holley from Aberdeen, WA, and Tom Mulvaney from E. Helena, Montana. We would like to thank Phyllis Palmer, Dusty Schmidt and Mark Moore for demonstrating techniques on how to restore Real Photo Postcards and how to maintain and properly store cards to prevent deterioration.

At the Business Meeting on November 21, 2009, we held an election for Club Officers and all current officers will hold office for another year. A unanimous show of hands gave a vote of confidence to re-elect the entire Board. An amendment to the Constitution passed and reads "Elected members of the board will be eligible to receive one year of membership free after completion of their term."

Our Spring Auction will be held on Friday, April 16, 2010 at The Grotto Conference Center near 85th & Sandy Blvd. Dusty has agreed to be our auctioneer once again. Meals will be \$20.00 with several selections available. Another vote with a show of hands at the November meeting approved this option. The Grotto is centrally located and it has very nice accommodations.

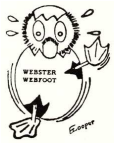
We look forward to seeing everyone at the December Christmas Indoor Picnic. Ham & beverages will be provided. A sign up list was available at the meeting. Tony Roberts will do a presentation of his WWI Military Christmas postcards.

The next board meeting will be held on January 13th, 2010 at Elmer's Restaurant at 10001 NE Sandy Boulevard.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Parypa, Secretary

See the full color version of this newsletter at www.thewebfooters.com



Club Officers

President/Editor.....Mark Moore
Vice President.....Tony Roberts
Secretary.....Maggie Parypa
Treasurer.....Arne Soland
Membership Chairman.....Krissy Durden
Directors.....Irene Adams and Phyllis Palmer
Historian.....Joe Macdonald
Librarian.....Steve Kuryk



Calendar

**December 19 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 3:30 pm**

**January 13 – Webfooters Board Meeting at Elmer’s Restaurant (no host)
10001 NE Sandy Blvd – 6:30 pm (Board Meetings held every other month)**

**January 16 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 3:30 pm**

For the latest news, visit our website:



www.thewebfooters.com



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PO Box 17240
Portland OR 97217-0240



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Storage & Handling Techniques