

McLean County Museum of History

Greeting Cards Collection

Processed by
JoAnna Mink
Winter 2013

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	4 Boxes
COLLECTION DATES:	1840s to Present
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	B. Hibarger Family Collection, Covey Family Collection, See Family Collection, Jackman Collection, M. Matejka, W. McKnight, Greg Koos
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

In the latter half of the Victorian Period, the exchange of greeting cards for various occasions was popular, particularly for Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter. By the 1850s, greeting cards for all occasions had become common, due largely to advances in printing and mechanization, as well as introduction of the postage stamp. After 1906, the domestic business climate for greeting cards improved, and a number of today's leading publishers were founded.

Christmas greeting cards were first produced in the U.S. in 1874. The popularity of Christmas postcards marked the end of these elaborate Victorian style cards. By the 1920s, the custom of sending of cards with envelopes had returned. Cards with cartoons or humorous illustrations were introduced in the 1950s.

Commercial Valentine's Day cards were first produced in the U.S. in the early 1800s. Sending such cards became widespread when American printer and artist Esther Howland mass-produced fancy, decorative cards in the 1840s. Sending valentine greetings became an American tradition during the Civil War (1861-1865) era. By 1900, valentines were made entirely by machine. Valentine's Day greeting cards have remained popular.

Easter cards caught on later since Easter was seen as more of a religious holiday but the sending of cards was accepted by the turn of the century. Easter postcards were introduced in the 1890s and preferred because they cost only one penny to mail.

Calling Cards served a number of social purposes, such as a means of introduction, to further acquaintanceship, to express congratulations or condolences, and to provide notices of arrival or departure. Card etiquette had strict rules. Most visiting cards reflected simplicity and elegance. The practice and etiquette surrounding the sending and receiving of calling cards suffered a slow death with the invention of the telephone and the decrease of households with servants.

Scope

The collection includes greeting cards and postcards from 1893 to the present, social calling cards, wedding invitations, and invitations to various local functions from the 1860s. The bulk of the collection is from the Bessie Hibarger Family Collection from the 1890s through the 1940s. Many cards are Victorian collectors' items. Most of the social calling cards are from the Jackman Collection dating 1870 through 1880. Also included in the Greeting Cards Collection are dance cards and greeting cards for various occasions.

Box and Folder Inventory

Box 1

- Folder 1: Christmas – Before 1900
- Folder 2: Christmas - 1900-1909
- Folder 3: Christmas and New Year's – 1910's
- Folder 4: Christmas – 1920's
- Folder 5: Christmas – 1930's
- Folder 6: Christmas – 1940's and 1950's
- Folder 7: Christmas – 1960's and 1970's
- Folder 8: Christmas – 1980's, 1990's, and 2000's
- Folder 9: Christmas – undated – Angels and Holy Family
- Folder 10: Christmas – undated – Candles
- Folder 11: Christmas – undated – Caroling
- Folder 12: Christmas – undated – Churches
- Folder 13: Christmas – undated – Family Photographs
- Folder 14: Christmas – undated – Fireplaces
- Folder 15: Christmas – undated – Holly and Poinsettias
- Folder 16: Christmas – undated – Horse and Carriages
- Folder 17: Christmas – undated – House Scenes
- Folder 18: Christmas – undated – Local Businesses
- Folder 19: Christmas – undated – Local Personalities
- Folder 20: Christmas – undated – Nature Scenes
- Folder 21: Christmas – undated – Package Tags
- Folder 22: Christmas – undated – People
- Folder 23: Christmas – undated – Photographs
- Folder 24: Christmas – undated – Santa Claus
- Folder 25: Christmas – undated – Ships
- Folder 26: Christmas – undated – Snowmen, Reindeer, Christmas Trees
- Folder 27: Christmas – undated – Unillustrated
- Folder 28: Christmas – undated – Wise Men and Shepherds
- Folder 29: Christmas and New Year's Postcards – Covey Family Coll. 1911-1927
- Folder 30: Christmas – Greg Koos Coll. Before 2008
- Folder 31: Christmas - Greg Koos Coll. 2008-2013
- Folder 32: Christmas – Greg Koos Coll. 2014 -
- Folder 33: Christmas – Matejka-Sandhaas Family 1978-1993
- Folder 34: Christmas – McKnight Family 1951-1976
- Folder 35: Christmas – undated - McLean County History Museum – I
- Folder 36: Christmas – undated - McLean County History Museum – II
- Folder 37: Christmas – undated – Handmade
- Folder 38: Christmas – undated – Handmade – Glenn Dodd

Box 2:

- Folder 1: Christmas and New Year's Postcards – Hibarger Family Coll. 1907-1943
- Folder 2: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1893-1923
- Folder 3: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1925-1927

Folder 4: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1928
Folder 5: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1929
Folder 6: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1930 – I
Folder 7: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1930 – II
Folder 8: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1930 - III
Folder 9: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1930 - IV
Folder 10: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1931 – I
Folder 11: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1931 – II
Folder 12: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1932-1938
Folder 13: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1939-1940
Folder 14: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1942
Folder 15: Christmas – Hibarger Family Coll. 1943
Folder 16: Christmas and New Year's – Hibarger Family Coll. 1945 and 1946
Folder 17: Christmas – undated – Hibarger Family Coll.
Folder 18: Birthday - Hibarger Family Coll.
Folder 19: Easter - Hibarger Family Coll.
Folder 20: Easter Postcards - Hibarger Fam. Coll. 1907-1943
Folder 21: Get Well - Hibarger Family Coll.
Folder 22: Mother's Day / Father's Day - Hibarger Family Coll.
Folder 23: Thank You - Hibarger Family Coll.
Folder 24: Thanksgiving Postcards and Cards - Hibarger Family Coll.
Folder 25: Valentine's Day - Hibarger Family Coll.

Box 3:

Folder 1: Anniversaries
Folder 2: Baby
Folder 3: Birthday – Covey Family Coll. - I
Folder 4: Birthday – Covey Family Coll. - II
Folder 5: Easter – Covey Family Coll.
Folder 6: Get Well and Valentine's Day – Rose Brady – I
Folder 7: Get Well and Valentine's Day – Rose Brady – II
Folder 8: Graduation
Folder 9: New Year's
Folder 10: Valentine's Day – undated – Margaret See Coll.
Folder 11: Valentine's Day – undated
Folder 12: Valentine's Day – undated - large
Folder 13: Valentine's Day – Before 1900
Folder 14: Valentine's Day – 1901-1919
Folder 15: Valentine's Day – 1920's
Folder 16: Valentine's Day – 1930's
Folder 17: Valentine's Day – Rita Rhodes Coll. – 1930's
Folder 18: Valentine's Day – 1930's – Mechanical
Folder 19: Valentine's Day – 1940's
Folder 20: Valentine's Day – undated – 3-dimensional
Folder 21: Valentine's Day – undated – Birds
Folder 22: Valentine's Day – undated – Children's

- Folder 23: Valentine's Day – undated – Floral
- Folder 24: Valentine's Day – undated – Handmade
- Folder 25: Valentine's Day – undated – Heart-Shaped
- Folder 26: Valentine's Day – undated – Ornate
- Folder 27: Valentine's Day – undated – Ornate, Large
- Folder 28: Valentine's Day – undated – Pop-Up
- Folder 29: Valentine's Day – undated – Pop-Up, Ornate
- Folder 30: Valentine's Day Postcards – undated
- Folder 31: Valentine's Day Postcards – Covey Family Coll. 1911-1919
- Folder 32: Birth Announcements – Hibarger Family Coll.
- Folder 33: Birthday Invitations
- Folder 34: Mother's Day / Father's Day cards
- Folder 35: Miscellaneous Holidays

Box 4:

- Folder 1: Calling Cards – undated
- Folder 2: Calling Cards - New Year's Day (A-F)
- Folder 3: Calling Cards - New Year's Day (G-M)
- Folder 4: Calling Cards - New Year's Day (O-Z)
- Folder 5: Calling Cards - New Year's Day - Jackman Fam. Coll. 1872-1873
- Folder 6: Calling Cards - New Year's Day - Jackman Fam. Coll. 1874
- Folder 7: Calling Cards - New Year's Day - Jackman Fam. Coll. 1875
- Folder 8: Calling Cards - New Year's Day - Jackman Fam. Coll. 1876
- Folder 9: Calling Cards - New Year's Day - Jackman Fam. Coll. 1877
- Folder 10: Calling Cards - New Year's Day - Jackman Fam. Coll. 1878
- Folder 11: Calling Cards - New Year's Day - Jackman Fam. Coll. 1879
- Folder 12: Calling Cards - New Year's Day - Jackman Fam. Coll. 1880
- Folder 13: Dance Cards
- Folder 14: Dance Invitations
- Folder 15: Florists' Cards
- Folder 16: Funeral Announcements
- Folder 17: Commencement and Graduation Announcements (B-N schools)
- Folder 18: Commencement and Graduation Announcements (rural schools)
- Folder 19: Commencement and Graduation Announcements (outside McLean Cty)
- Folder 20: Graduation Name Cards – Sibley H.S. Class of 1911
- Folder 21: Invitations – Miscellaneous
- Folder 22: Miscellaneous Themes
- Folder 23: Open House / At Homes
- Folder 24: Retirement
- Folder 25: Wedding Ann. and Invitations (incl. Hibarger Fam. Coll.) – pre-1870
- Folder 26: Wedding Ann. and Invitations (incl. Hibarger Fam. Coll.) - 1870-1879
- Folder 27: Wedding Ann. and Invitations (incl. Hibarger Fam. Coll.) - 1880-1889
- Folder 28: Wedding Ann. and Invitations (incl. Hibarger Fam. Coll.) - 1890-1899
- Folder 29: Wedding Ann. and Invitations (incl. Hibarger Fam. Coll.) - 1900-1909
- Folder 30: Wedding Ann. and Invitations (incl. Hibarger Fam. Coll.) - 1910-1919
- Folder 31: Wedding Ann. and Invitations (incl. Hibarger Fam. Coll.) - 1920-1929

Folder 32: Wedding Ann. and Invitations (incl. Hibarger Fam. Coll.) - 1930-1939
Folder 33: Wedding Ann. and Invitations (incl. Hibarger Fam. Coll.) - 1940-1949
Folder 34: Wedding Ann. and Invitations - 1970-1979
Folder 35: Wedding Ann. and Invitations – 1980-1989
Folder 36: Wedding Ann. and Invitations – 1990-1999
Folder 37: Wedding Ann. and Invitations – 2000-Present
Folder 38: Unprocessed