Eastern Illinois University

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Greetings from Illinois: The Booth Library Postcard Collection

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Greetings from Illinois

THE BOOTH LIBRARY POSTCARD COLLECTION

BROOMCORN PALACE (MADE FROM BROOMCORN STALKS), ARCOLA, ILL.

The caption and handwritten text on the front of this postcard identify the scene as the Arcola Broomcorn and Free Street Fair, Sept. 26 to Oct. 1, 1898. However, the postcard was published approximately a decade later than the source image. An example of the American News Company's *Litho-Chrome* process, a continuous-tone lithographic method, the card would have been printed in Germany between 1906 and 1909. The undivided back of the card further indicates that it was manufactured no later than 1907.

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR POSTAL, WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION

This postcard, identified as series no. 1, design no. 9, was printed by the American Lithographic Co., New York, for the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. The Woman's Building was designed by Sophia Hayden, one of the earliest female American architects. Bertha Honoré Palmer, whose portrait also graces the card, served as president of the Board of Lady Managers, overseeing both the execution of the Woman's Building and the exhibition of women's achievements at the fair.

AGRICULTURE AND DAIRY BUILDINGS

This official postcard, published in deeptone by Reuben H. Donnelley Corporation, Chicago, depicts exhibition buildings at the Century of Progress International Exposition in 1933.

HENRICI'S, 67 W. RANDOLPH ST.

This postcard advertises Henrici's, a famous Chicago restaurant that closed in 1962. The numbering in the stamp box on back suggests that it may have been published by Curt Teich in 1954.

MR. SPARERIBS – CALIFORNIA BRICK KITCHENS, OAK PARK, EVANSTON

This postcard was probably published in the mid-to-late 1940s, when the advertised restaurants are known to have been in operation. The ceramic pig on the front may be a Shawnee Pottery "Smiley Pig," a cookie jar patented in 1942, and the one-cent stamp box on back indicates a date prior to the 1951 postage increase.

METROPOLIS, ILLINOIS, HOME OF SUPERMAN

This 7-foot-tall fiberglass statue of Superman stood in front of the courthouse in Metropolis, the adopted hometown of the comic book character, from 1986 to 1993, when it was replaced by a 15-foot bulletproof bronze statue. The postcard bears a copyright date of 1988 and was printed by MWM Dexter, a merger of Midwest Map Co. and Dexter Press.

POPEYE, SEGAR MEMORIAL PARK

A 6-foot, 900-pound, bronze statue of Popeye was unveiled in 1977 in Segar Memorial Park, overlooking the Mississippi River in Chester, Illinois. The park was named for Elzie Crisler Segar, the creator of the Popeye character and a Chester native. The postcard was made by Dexter Press, West Nyack, N.Y., in the late 1970s.

HOLIDAY INN, DEKALB, ILLINOIS

This postcard published in 1960 by Curt Teich exemplifies the chrome printing process known as "photochrome." (Both the series, Curteichcolor 3-D Natural Color Reproduction, and the publisher's number denote the process used.) While the front of the card features a generic image advertising the Holiday Inn chain of hotels, the caption on back describes the specific features of the DeKalb location.

VACATION DAYS

The calendar on the front of this advertising postcard for the Shelby County State Bank of Shelbyville suggests a publication date of 1909.

H. W. BUCKBEE COUPON POSTCARD (1912)

In 1907, the backs of postcards were divided into two separate areas for the message and the address. The message space on this divided back card has been printed with an advertisement for Buckbee's seeds.

The front of the card features smaller images of individual postcards for products, such as sweet peas and muskmelons, from H.W. Buckbee's Rockford Seed Farms and Forest City Greenhouses.

YOU MAY BE FAR AVAY FROM CHARLESTON, BUT I AM GOMING QUEEK

An example of a generic mass-produced postcard, with the name of the town printed on the pennant post-production. The card was likely manufactured circa 1913 (postmark date). The logo of the publisher Solomon Brothers appears on back.

OUR CORN

This tall tale postcard by photographer Alfred Stanley Johnson, Jr., of Waupun, Wisconsin, features an enlarged image of corn imposed on a staged background. Such postcards were intended to promote the superiority of Wisconsin farming communities. Although the image is copyrighted 1909, the postcard may have been produced later. The title stamped at top, "How we do things at Mattoon, Ill.," was added to the original card.

MARSHALL FIELD & CO., WHOLESALE, CHICAGO

The wholesale store depicted on this postcard predates the iconic State Street building: Located at Franklin between Quincy and Adams, it was designed by Henry Hobson Richardson and completed in 1887. The V.O. Hammon Publishing Co., Chicago, issued this lithographic card sometime between 1907 and 1916.

GREETINGS FROM CHICAGO

This postcard, published by the International Postal Card Co., Chicago, and made in Germany, depicts the Montgomery Ward & Co. building located at the corner of Michigan Ave. and Madison St. The card would have been published around the time of the building's construction in 1908.

CHICAGO. FIELD MUSEUM, JACKSON PARK

The Field Museum of Natural History began as the Columbian Museum of Chicago, housing artifacts for display at the 1893 world's fair. The museum was renamed in 1905 to honor its benefactor Marshall Field. In 1921, the museum moved from its Jackson Park location to Lake Shore Drive. This postcard was issued by Raphael Tuck & Sons of London, official printers of the king and queen of England, as part of a series of Chicago view cards circa 1905-1907. (Publisher's logo and stamp box at right.)

CHICAGO'S PICASSO, CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

As his first public sculpture, Pablo Picasso created this 50-foot, 162-ton, wind-resistant steel structure. A Plastichrome by Colourpicture, published by Joboul Publishing Co., Evanston, Ill., the postcard is copyrighted 1967, the same year the sculpture was dedicated.

ENTRANCE TO ART INSTITUTE, CHICAGO, ILL.

This view down Michigan Avenue offers a glimpse of the front of the Beaux-Arts building designed by Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, into which the Art Institute moved later that year. The bronze lions guarding the western entrance were sculpted by Edward L. Kemeys. This real photo postcard, published by the Grogan Photo Co. of Danville, is postmarked 1946.

MUNICIPAL PIER, CHICAGO

This postcard was published by Max Rigot Selling Co., Chicago, with a copyright date of 1915, and distributed by the Union News Co., New York (logo at right). Municipal Pier, as Navy Pier was then known, opened to the public in 1916 after its construction under architect Charles Sumner Frost.

THE LITTLE THEATRE ON THE SQUARE, SULLIVAN, ILLINOIS 61951

This postcard by Dexter Press may have been published in 1974, as suggested by the marquee on the front of the building announcing the theater's 18th season and Leonard Nimoy's performance in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

GREETINGS FROM ROCKOME GARDENS, ARCOLA, ILL.

This postcard was published by Rockome Gardens, the Amish theme park in Arcola that opened in 1958, and manufactured by Dexter Press of West Nyack, N.Y. The front of the card depicts a young woman sitting in the park's oversize rocking chair.

MT. SYCAMORE (THE BLIZZARD OF 1979)

This snow sculpture of four busts representing distinguished residents of Sycamore, Illinois (identified in the caption on back) was created by L.W. Bute in an apparent homage to Mount Rushmore. The photograph was taken by Roger C. Ackert in February 1979, published as a postcard by Ackert Enterprises of DeKalb and printed by Curt Teich & Co. in 1981.

LINCOLN MONUMENT BY ST. GAUDENS, ENTRANCE OF LINCOLN PARK, CHICAGO

This bronze statue, known as *Standing Lincoln*, was completed by Augustus Saint-Gaudens in 1887. Eli Bates, whose name is inscribed on the pedestal base, funded the sculpture, and Stanford White designed its architectural setting. This lithographic postcard was published by the Franklin Post Card Co., Chicago, between 1908 and 1915.

SWORD AND PEN: THE HOME OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

The theme of this postcard represents how the Civil War was fought, by "sword and pen." The juxtaposition of images in the borders—an armed soldier engaged in battle opposite Abraham Lincoln writing at a desk with a quill pen—carries the theme through. The cartouche at bottom identifies the house in the central illustration, signed C. Chapman, as Lincoln's home in Springfield. The postcard was issued circa 1909 (perhaps in commemoration of the centennial of Lincoln's birth) by the International Art Publishing Co. of New York, publisher of many patriotic postcards, and printed in Germany.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF STATE CAPITOL, CENTENNIAL BUILDING AND SUPREME COURT BUILDING, SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

This postcard physically and chronologically bridges the "white border" and "linen card" eras in the history of postcards. The numbering on this postcard not only confirms its date of publication by Curt Teich & Co. as 1931, but also attests to the *C.T. art colortone* method of printing used in its production.

GREETINGS FROM EGYPT

The postcard caption identifies the ten views of Southern Illinois in the word "Egypt" as follows:

E: Peach orchard, near Anna; WJPF, the voice of Egypt, Herrin.
G: Court house, Murphysboro; Cave in Rock State Park.
Y: Electric shovel, Harrisburg; Science Bldg, S.I.N.U., Carbondale.
P: First oil well, Salem; Veterans Hospital, Marion.
T: High school, Frankfort; Oil wells, Centralia.

This postcard belongs to the *C.T. American Art* series. The Curt Teich numbering system indicates that this example is a reproduction of a card originally published in 1945.

ILLINOIS

A map of the state of Illinois illustrated with major tourist attractions, surrounded by six views captioned Wrigley Building, Lincoln Memorial, Water Tower, Lincoln's Tomb, Saw and grist mill, State capitol. This "ShiniColor" postcard was manufactured by Colourpicture, and may date to the late 1950s.

AMERICA: THIS HUMAN PICTURE COMPOSED OF BLUE JACKIES OF THE U. S. NAVAL STATION, GREAT LAKES, ILL.

One of several aerial views of sailors standing in formation to compose patriotic words or images, this postcard was manufactured by Curt Teich & Co. in 1917 as part of its *C.T. American Art* series.

ATLANTA, ILLINOIS (ALT. 722 FT.)

This postcard is fourth in a series of "Old Route 66 Scenes" self-published by Rochester, Illinois-based artist Robert Waldmire. Illustrated on the front of the card are landmarks along the road in Atlanta, accompanied by descriptive text. The back of the card includes a map and brief history of the highway.

DICKSON'S MOUND BUILDERS TOMBS, LEWISTOWN, ILL.

This image shows some of the human remains unearthed at Dickson Mounds, a Native American Indian burial mound complex in Fulton County. This postcard likely dates to the early 1930s: Excavation of the site began in 1927, and the date 8/11/35 is handwritten on back. The stamp box on back (see right) verifies this as an example of a real photo postcard—more specifically, a chloride print on EKKP paper.

GERSTENSLAGER BOOKMOBILES

This "natural color" photochrome postcard by Dexter Press advertises bookmobiles by the Gerstenlager Co., a Wooster, Ohio company that was the premier manufacturer of such custom mobile units in the 1950s. The lettering on the side of the vehicle in the image reads: Illinois State Library Bookmobile, Charles F. Carpentier, Secretary of State and State Librarian.

CAMPUS SCENE, THE BONEYARD, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

This handcolored postcard offers a view of Boneyard Creek running through the Urbana-Champaign campus. The postcard was manufactured by the Albertype Co., so named for the particular phototype process used in producing the cards.

LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

This exterior view of the library building at Urbana-Champaign was published by the International Post Card Co., New York (made in Germany) in 1907 or 1908, as suggested by the postcard's divided back and postmark. The building, designed by Nathan Ricker and James McLaren White in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, was completed in 1897. Renamed Altgeld Hall in the 1940s, the building was later added to the National Register of Historic Places.

INTERIOR OF LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

This interior view, published by the Albertype Co., depicts what is now the Mathematics Library in Altgeld Hall. The view includes one of the allegorical murals—"The Forge of Vulcan," dedicated to the College of Engineering—painted in 1897 by Newton Alonzo Wells.

CHARLES DEERING LIBRARY, CHRISTMAS, 1933

The Deering Library was dedicated in January 1933, replacing Lunt Library as the main library on Northwestern University's Evanston campus. Designed by architect James Gamble Rogers, renowned for his work in the Collegiate Gothic style, the building was modeled after King's College Chapel at Cambridge University. The quote on front is signed Walter Dill Scott, then-president of the university.

MAIN READING ROOM, CHARLES DEERING LIBRARY, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

Charles R. Childs, a photographer and prolific postcard publisher of views around Chicago and the Midwest, produced this interior image of Deering Library. This room is located at the front of the building on the second floor.

ORRINGTON LUNT LIBRARY, EVANSTON, ILL.

The Lunt Library at Northwestern University, designed by Chicago architect William Otis in an adaptation of an Italian Renaissance style, opened in 1894. This view was printed by Curt Teich & Co. using the *C.T. photochrom* process, and bears the logo of distributor F.W. Woolworth Company. A publication date between 1907 and 1914 is suggested by the postmark on the divided back of the card.

LINCOLN LIBRARY, SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

The building that once housed the Lincoln Library, the public library of Springfield, is depicted here. This postcard was printed in Germany and published by the Rotograph Co. of New York in the second half of the 1900s as part of its D series of views printed in a Delft-bluish tone.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF BEAUTIFUL CHICAGO UNIVERSITY

This aerial view of the University of Chicago campus identifies 23 buildings by number. (Harper Memorial Library is marked with number 14.) The postcard was printed in 1938 by Curt Teich & Co. using the *C.T. art colortone* process.

HARPER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, CHICAGO UNIVERSITY

This postcard featuring newspaper artist Miles W. Sater's illustration of the University of Chicago's William Rainey Harper Memorial Library, a Collegiate Gothic building constructed 1910-1912, was issued in 1914 by P. Volland & Co. as part of a series of Chicago views.

NEWBERRY LIBRARY, CHICAGO

The Newberry Library, an independent humanities research library, moved into its permanent location—this Romanesque building designed by Henry Ives Cobb, and located across from Washington Square Park at 60 West Walton Street—in 1893. The printer's mark on the back of this postcard indicates that it was manufactured by the Acmegraph Co. of Chicago. The crest on the picture side identifies it as one of a series of 102 "I will" cards of Chicago landmarks published circa 1910.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, CHICAGO, ILL.

This Beaux Arts-style building, designed by the architectural firm of Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge and completed in 1897, was the first permanent home of the Chicago Public Library. Located on Washington St. (bounded by Michigan and Randolph), the landmark building now houses the Chicago Cultural Center. This lithographic postcard view of the exterior was published by A.C. Bosselman & Co., New York, and printed in Germany sometime during the first two decades of the 20th century.

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY CULTURAL CENTER, 78 EAST WASHINGTON STREET

One of several interior views of the Chicago Cultural Center, this postcard was published by the Aero Co., Evanston, Ill., and printed by Dexter Press, likely in the late 1970s shortly after the building was designated a Chicago landmark. The Renaissance-inspired grand staircase, made of white Carrara marble with green marble and mosaic inlay, leads from the Washington St. entrance up to Preston Bradley Hall, its 38-foot Tiffany stained-glass dome partly visible in this image.

LIBRARY BUILDING, NORMAL UNIVERSITY, CARBONDALE, ILL.

This postcard depicts the Wheeler Library building, dedicated in 1904 at the Southern Illinois State Normal University (now SIUC). The postcard was probably published circa 1906, as the date handwritten on the image suggests. As the reverse side of the card was intended only for the address until 1907, the sender had to write the message on the picture side. The imprint in the margin indicates that the card was published by the Illustrated Post Card Co. of New York, which began producing cards in 1905.

MORRIS LIBRARY, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS

The Morris Library building was completed in 1958, replacing the Wheeler Library. Mike Roberts of Berkeley, Calif., known for his pioneering photochrome technique, printed this postcard in natural color.

LOVEJOY LIBRARY, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS

The Elijah P. Lovejoy Library, named for an abolitionist newspaper editor from Alton, has served the SIUE campus since 1965. The building was designed by Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum, Inc. (HOK), Architects.

MILNER LIBRARY, ILLINOIS STATE NORMAL UNIVERSITY, NORMAL, ILL.

This neo-Georgian building, completed in August 1940 according to the caption on back, was a WPA-sponsored project designed by state architect C. Herrick Hammond. The manufacturing of this postcard by the E.C. Kropp Co., Milwaukee, appears to have been contemporaneous with the construction of the building. It housed the library until 1976, when the current Milner Library opened and the building depicted here was renamed Williams Hall.

SWEN F. PARSON LIBRARY

This building at Northern Illinois University bears more than a passing resemblance to our own Booth Library. The caption on the back of the postcard states that the building, dedicated in 1952, was constructed of Joliet marble in collegiate Gothic style. Swen Parson Hall now houses the NIU College of Law, with the Founders Memorial Library, built in 1979, serving as the main library for the campus in DeKalb.

MONROE STREET, LOOKING WEST FROM TENTH STREET, CHARLESTON, ILL.

This view of a residential neighborhood was made in Germany between 1907 and 1910. Lindy's Racket Store, a local Charleston business, is named as publisher on the back of the card.

THE TORNADO WHICH SWEPT SEVEN STATES, KILLED 38 AND INJURED 150 AT CHARLESTON, ILL., LEFT MANY HOMELESS THERE AND DID $1,000,000 WORTH OF DAMAGE

This postcard documents some of the destruction caused by a tornado on May 26, 1917.

OLD LINCOLN CABIN, EIGHT MILES SOUTHWEST OF CHARLESTON, ILL.

This black-and-white postcard with a blue-tinted sky depicts the home of Abraham Lincoln's father and stepmother, Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln. The building pictured here appears to be the original log cabin built by Thomas Lincoln, which was lost when moved to the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. (A replica of the building was erected on the original site in the mid-1930s.) The photograph, copyrighted 1902 by Anton Berner of Charleston, was published as a "photoette" by C.U. Williams of Bloomington, Illinois; the divided back and postmark suggest a publication date between 1907 and 1910.

GREETINGS FROM CHARLESTON, ILL.

This postcard, printed on leather by the Chicago publishing firm of Gartner & Bender, probably dates to the early 1900s. The Coles County Court House, a Richardsonian Romanesque structure designed by Chicago architect Cornelius W. Rapp, was built in 1898, succeeding three earlier buildings on the same site in the town square.

SIXTH, COR. MADISON STREET, CHARLESTON, ILL.

This view down 6th St. from the corner of Madison was produced in 1907 or 1908 by the E.C. Kropp Co., Milwaukee, for W.E. Hill of Charleston.

LIBRARY, TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL, JOLIET, ILL.

This interior view of a school library was printed in Germany for United Art Publishing. The postcard would have been manufactured no earlier than 1901, when the high school was built, and no later than 1906, as indicated by the postmark on the undivided back of the card.

HIGH SCHOOL, CHARLESTON, ILL.

Central High School was built in 1898 and destroyed in 1927. It was the second school building on the site at 8th and Jefferson, where Jefferson Elementary School now stands. The postcard was made in Germany in 1907 or 1908; the imprint of C.E. Wheelock & Co., Peoria, Ill., appears in the stamp box on back.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, MATTOON, ILLINOIS

The Mattoon Public Library moved to its current location, this Carnegie library building at 1600 Charleston Ave., in 1903. The logo on back indicates that Samuel Langsdorf & Co. published this postcard, made in Germany. Based on the publisher and postmark dates, this card would have been manufactured between 1906 and 1909.

PUBLIC LIBRARY, CHARLESTON, ILL.

One of more than 2,500 libraries built with funds donated by industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, the Charleston Carnegie Public Library opened in 1904. This postcard was manufactured by the Commercial Colortype Co., Chicago, sometime between 1907 and 1912 for the Lindhorst Mercantile Co. of Charleston.

GREETINGS FROM CHARLESTON, ILL.

Four postcard views of Charleston—captioned Residence St., River scene, West side square, and The old Lincoln homestead—are displayed on butterfly wings. This postcard was printed in Germany between 1907 and 1909 by the Paul C. Koeber Co., identified as manufacturer by the PCK Series logo on back, for the Lindhorst Mercantile Co. of Charleston.

NAPOLEON

Napoleon, the stray golden retriever and unofficial campus mascot who made Eastern Illinois State College his home from 1947 to 1960, is pictured here next to Old Main. The postcard was produced from an Ektachrome transparency by the L.L. Cook Co., Milwaukee.

LAKE AND EASTERN ILLINOIS STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, CHARLESTON, ILL.

The postcard was manufactured by the Albertype Co., Brooklyn, N.Y., perhaps in the 1910s, for W.E. Hill & Son of Charleston. Lake Ahmoweenah was drained in 1937 or 1938 in order to build McAfee Gym on the site. In this view of the lake, Old Main can be seen in the background.

OIL WELL IN THE CHARLESTON OIL FIELD, CHARLESTON, COLES COUNTY, ILL.

This postcard of a gusher was published circa 1907 by the E.C. Kropp Co., Milwaukee.

Before 1907, U.S. postal regulations allowed only addresses, not messages, to be written on the backs of postcards. This example of an undivided back illustrates other details of interest to collectors and useful in dating postcards: the postmark (mailed from Champaign, Ill., on Feb. 13, 1905); the flag cancellation mark; and the postage stamp, a one-cent green U.S. postage stamp bearing the likeness of Benjamin Franklin, a regular issue stamp first issued in February 1903.

This real photo postcard appears to be a class portrait, believed from the handwritten information on back ("Yale School, Don Copelin, teacher, Ernest is second from left in second row") to depict a teacher and students at a school in Yale, Illinois. The stamp box on the divided back identifies the type of photo paper as Azo, used for gelatin prints, and helps to date the postcard to 1907-1918.

The back of this card—postmarked Galesburg, Ill., Jan. 6, 1978—has a "first day of issue" cancellation mark, referring to the commemorative stamp of Carl Sandburg issued to coincide with the centennial of the poet's birth in Galesburg.