

## Summary Information:

**Collection Title:** Joliet Postcard Collection

**Collection Number:** MSS.14

**Date Range:** C. 1900-1940, C. 1990s

**Size:** 1 Linear Foot

**Location:** RR.9.3

**Creator:** Various creators have contributed to the items in this collection.

**Abstract:** The Joliet Postcard Collection contains a variety of Joliet area postcards primarily from the early 1900s through the 1940s.

**Acquisition Information:** This collection has been composed from various accessions collected at various times. All materials are appropriately labeled with their accession numbers, and more information regarding acquisition can be provided if requested.

**Separated Materials:** No materials were directly removed from the collection, but additional postcards can be found in other collections. The postcards housed in this collection are largely unposted.

**Restrictions:** None

**Processed by:** Kailee Lowry

## Background Information:

**History:** Prior to the official production of postcards in the United States some people sent cards through the mail with attached postage, often referred to as "mailed cards." In February of 1861, the US Congress passed an act allowing privately printed cards to be sent in the mail, and that same year John P. Charlton copyrighted the first postcard in the States. By 1870, Hymen L. Lipman began reissuing Charlton's postcard under the name: Lipman's Postal Cards.

In June of 1872 the US Congress approved government production of postal cards, and the first government-produced postcard was issued on May 1, 1873. One side of the postcard was for a message and the other side was reserved for the recipient's address. By law, government issued postcards were the only cards allowed to bear the term "Postal Card." Private publishers such as Lipman could still produce cards but they were more expensive to mail than government-produced cards. By 1898, Congress passed another act allowing private printing companies to produce postcards with the statement "Private Mailing Card, Authorized by Act of Congress of May 19, 1898." This act brought the price of mailing privately produced cards down to the cost of government-produced cards. In 1901, the Postmaster-General issued Post Office Order No. 1447, allowing the words "Post Card" instead of

“Private Mailing Card” on the back of postcards. Private printers were now also allowed to omit the line citing the 1898 Private Mailing Card Act.

In 1907 postcards underwent additional changes as the use of images on one side became more prevalent. The Universal Postal Congress decreed that government and privately produced postcards would bear messages on half of the address side of the postcard. These changes to the backs of postcards ushered in the Divided Back Period, which spans from 1907 until 1915.

During the early period of postcard productions, many were printed in Germany. However, with the beginning of WWI, American printers supplied most of the postcards in the United States. Not having access to the same technology as German printers, the quality of postcards fell. Printers saved ink during this time by not printing to the edge of the card and leaving a white border around the image. Many of the postcards included in this collection fall into this time frame of postcard printing.

White boarder postcards were later replaced by “linen” postcards in the 1930s and 1940s. These cards were created using a new printing process which made the image appear to be printed on linen rather than paper. Finally, the modern era of Photochrom postcards began around the 1940s and gained momentum around 1950. These cards are glossy and colorful, what were most commonly encounter today.

**Scope and Content Arrangement:** The Joliet Postcard Collection contains a variety of postcards that are largely unposted but retained for the historic images printed on them. The bulk of the postcards included in this collection are from the “white boarder” period of postcard printing, with the inclusion of linen, leather and photochrom postcards as well. The postcards have been organized by subject matter and arranged alphabetically.

## Content Listing:

### A - F

Americana Nursing Center  
American Institute of  
Laundering  
Banks  
Boston Store  
Bridges and Waterways  
Buell Ave.  
Bush Park  
Cathedral of St. Raymond  
Central Presbyterian Church  
Chamber of Commerce  
Chicago St.  
Christ Church and Rectory  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Colliseum  
Court House, Will County  
Country Club  
Dams and Locks  
D'Arcy Building  
Dellwood Park  
East Park  
Eastern Ave. First Baptist  
Church  
Electric Park  
Elks Club  
Farragut School  
Fire Department  
Fitzgerald's Furniture  
Flood of 1903  
Forest of Arden

### G - P

Gerlach-Barklow  
Guardian Angel Home  
Hickory Creek  
Highland Park  
Higinbotham's Park  
Hobb's Hotel  
Holiday Inn  
Hotel Louis Joliet  
Illinois State Penitentiary,  
Old Joliet Prison  
Illinois State Penitentiary,  
Stateville Branch  
Illinois State Penitentiary,  
Women's Prison  
Illinois Steel Works  
Jefferson St.  
Joliet Inn  
Joliet Jackhammers  
Joliet Park District  
Joliet Public Library  
Joliet Township High School,  
Central Campus  
Lewis University  
Manor Motel  
Masonic Temple  
Misc. Joliet Postcards  
Opera House  
Ottawa St. Methodist Church  
Our Lady of Angels  
Retirement Home  
Pilcher Park  
Post Office

### R - Z

Railways  
Rialto Square Theatre  
Riverside Park  
Route 66  
Salem Home  
Sheraton-Joliet Motor Inn  
Sheridan School  
Silver Cross Hospital  
Sleepy Hollow Motel  
St. Francis Academy  
St. John's Catholic Church  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
St. Joseph's Catholic Church  
St. Joseph's Hospital  
St. Mary Academy  
St. Mary's Catholic Church  
St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
Stillman's Pharmacy  
Swedish Baptist Church  
Swedish Lutheran Orphan's  
Home  
Trolleys  
Union Station  
West Park  
Western Ave.  
White Fence Farm  
Will County Jail  
Woodruff Building  
Woodruff Inn  
Y.M.C.A