

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Grainger, John H.

History of Alaska-Yukon Postcards, 1897-1940

MS 23

2 boxes
0.9 linear ft.

Processed By: Gladi Kulp
India Spartz
September 1997

ACQUISITION: John H. Grainger and Ken L. Elder donated the collection in May of 1997. Images form separate collections, PCA 118, PCA 255, in the Historical Collections. (Acc. No. 1997-28)

ACCESS: The collection is open to research.

COPYRIGHT: Copyright interests have been reserved. Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

PROCESSING: The original order was maintained. Some of the materials were removed from 3-ring binders and sleeved in Mylar.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John. Grainger moved to Alaska in 1940 in order to work at the new Metlakatla airfield with the Civilian Conservation Corps. During his employment, Mr. Grainger developed an interest in Alaskan postmarks and began collecting them on a regular basis. As postmarks became harder to acquire, Mr. Grainger changed his collecting hobby to Alaskan postcards. This hobby eventually led to a full-time pursuit. His postcards document over 90 years of Alaskan history and include subjects such as the Gold Rush, totem poles, geographic locations, towns and ships.

In addition to the postcards, Mr. Grainger collected information about postcard publishers, photographers, manufacturers, dates of issue and number of cards in each set. This information has been documented in his book, *Collecting Alaska Postcards* (Historical Collections, NC1875.G7)

Mr. Grainger has resided in Ketchikan and southeast Alaska for over 50 years, with his wife, Frances. He served as Grand Historian for the Grand Lodge of Masonics for Alaska (Free and Accepted Masons), and contributes historical articles to various publications. As of 1997, Grainger had collected over 10,000 postcards and "know[s] them all individually." [From: PCA 255 and *The Southeastern Log*, Mar. 1976, v. 6, no. 3.]

SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Includes general information on postcards followed by an alphabetical file on Alaska businesses or photographers who published cards, and publishing houses of Alaska/Yukon postcards; unpublished manuscript contains historical information about photographers who produced photo postcards with a concentration on the Klondike gold rush era through 1940.

INVENTORY

Box 1

- Vol. 1 History of Alaska-Yukon Post cards, 1897-1920, pt. I of II, by John Grainger and Ken Elder [manuscript, copy; published as *Alaska-Yukon Post Cards, an Historical Review*, 1986.]
- Vol. 2 History of Alaska-Yukon Post cards, 1897-1920, pt. II of II [Mc-Z].
- Vol. 3 Manuscripts, published or unpublished, by John Grainger and Ken Elder.
- No. 1 "Hotel Northern and Japanese Bazaar," by Ken Elder. [17 leaves] [photocopy]
- No. 2 "Collecting Alaska Post Cards," by John Grainger. [57 leaves] [photocopy] + *Deltiology: A Journal for Postcard Collectors and Dealers* [n.d.]
- No. 3 "Alaska Post Cards - An Intriguing Hobby," by John H. Grainger. 7p. [n.d.]
- No. 4 "Wish You Were Here," by John Grainger [copy of manuscript written about J.E. Thwaites.]

Box 2

- Folder 1-24 "Photo Postcards - Alaska /Klondyke," by Ken L. Elder and John H. Grainger. [unpublished manuscript; includes historical information about Klondike and gold rush photographers.] Acc. No. 1997-28.