

**Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

**Grainger, John H.**

**John Grainger Alaska Postcard Collection, ca. 1897-1980s**

**PCA 255**

ca. 7,500 postcards  
122 albums (34 boxes)  
ca. 21 linear ft.

Rev. 5/19/2004

**ACQUISITION:** The postcards in this collection were donated by John Grainger of Ketchikan, Alaska, from 1976-1994. Other Grainger collections include PCA 118, MS 23 and a collection of stereographs, PCA 225. (Acc. Nos. 1977-027, 1985-013, 1991-066, 2010-06, others.)

**ACCESS:** The collection available for viewing, however, the photographs may not be photocopied.

**COPYRIGHT:** Requests for permission to reproduce from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

**PROCESSING:** The collection has been left in the form it was received. The postcards are filed in 122 vinyl, 3-ring binders that include notes and miscellaneous photocopies. The albums are labeled and arranged by subject, generally.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Grainger moved to Alaska in 1940 and began collecting Alaskan postmarks. As postmarks became harder to acquire, he collected Alaskan postcards. By 1997, his collection of over 10,000 postcards spanned 90 years of Alaskan history. Mr. Grainger also collected information about postcard publishers, photographers, and manufacturers, which he documented in *Collecting Alaska Postcards*. In addition to serving in WWII, he worked as advertising manager for *Alaska Sportsman* magazine and eventually became a partner in the magazine. He also worked as a linotype operator, a private pilot, and for the State of Alaska. Grainger has resided in Ketchikan and southeast Alaska for over 50 years, with his wife, Frances. He contributes historical articles to various publications. [From: PCA 255 and *The Southeastern Log*, Mar. 1976, v. 6, no. 3.]

John Grainger and his wife, Frances, have lived in Ketchikan and Southeast Alaska for over 50 years. He serves as the Grand Historian for the Grand Lodge of Masonics for Alaska (Free and Accepted Masons), and contributes historical articles to various publications.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

The approximately 7,500 color and black & white postcards in this collection are arranged alphabetically in broad subject categories and fill 121 albums. Subjects include the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, Alaskan wildlife, towns and villages, dog teams, gold rush, glaciers, Pacific Coast Steamship Co., Trans-Alaska Pipeline, railroads, ferries, community activities, ships, Alaska Natives, British Columbia and Yukon subjects, lighthouses, logging, northern lights. The collection contains some examples of birch bark, aluminum and leather postcards. Alaskan artist, Fred Machetanz and photographers, Otto Schallerer and J.E. Thwaites are represented in the collection, along with other photographers and publishing companies.

## INVENTORY

Volume:

1. 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (AYP) - Publishers A-G
2. 1909 AYP - Publishers H-M
3. 1909 AYP - Publishers N-Z + advertising
4. 1909 AYP - E.E. Kropp, publisher
5. 1909 AYP - Regensteiner Colortype, Chicago, pub.
6. 1909 AYP, misc. postcards by Portland Postcard Co.
7. 1909 AYP - Regensteiner, Colortype Co., "Pioneer Postcards"
8. Miscellaneous postcards published by Portland Publishing Co.

9. Miscellaneous postcards published by Portland Publishing Co.
10. Subjects (A)
  - Alaska scenics
  - Aluminum postcards (c.1905)
  - American Souvenir Card Co.
  - Arctic scenes
  - Art Litho Postcards c. 1904
  - Autographed
11. Aleutian Islands (A-N) (Includes maps and town of Kodiak)
12. Aleutian Islands (O-Z) (Includes Bering Sea area)
13. Animals (A-B)
14. Animals (C-M)
15. Animals Reindeer
16. Animals (S-Z)
17. Artists (A-I)
18. Artists (J-Z) - early Machetanz postcards
19. Aviation
20. Birds
21. Subjects (B-C)
  - Baskets
  - Beachcombing
  - Caches
  - Coast Guard
  - British Columbia
  - White Pass and Yukon Railroad
  - Atlin, B.C.
  - Carcross, Y.T.
  - Five Finger Rapids
  - Miles Canyon
  - W. Taku Arm
22. Dog Teams I
23. Dog Teams II
24. Dog Teams (Fbks-Valdez Trail)
25. Dog Teams (Iditarod Trail)
26. Dog Teams (B&W)
27. Episcopal Church
28. Eskimos I
29. Eskimos II
30. Eskimos III
31. Eskimos - (Siberia B&W)
32. Exploration - Arctic
33. Fisheries
34. Flowers
35. Gowen Sutton(photographer/publisher in Canada)

36. Glaciers (A-C)
37. Glaciers (D-M)
38. Glaciers (N-Z)
39. Glaciers (Mendenhall)
40. Glaciers (Muir)
41. Glaciers (Taku I)
42. Glaciers (Taku II)
43. Goldrush (Skagway-Chilkoot Trail)
44. Goldrush (Skagway to Summit - mile 21)
45. Goldrush (Atlin)
46. Goldrush (Summit-Miles Canyon - mile 106)
47. Goldrush (Whitehorse Rapids, Lake Le Barge [Laberge] - mile 136)
48. Goldrush (Ben-My-Chree, Dawson - mile 571)
49. Goldrush (Dawson I)
50. Goldrush (Dawson II)
51. Goldrush (Klondike I - Klondike River, Yukon River)
52. Goldrush (Klondike II - Indians, transportation, Flora, Fauna)
53. Goldrush (Klondike III - mining)
54. Greeting Postcards (I)  
 Advertising  
 Cartoons  
 Multiple views  
 Exaggerations  
 Flags  
 Maps  
 Menus  
 Paintings  
 Poetry  
 Political  
 Pull tab
55. Greeting Postcards (II)  
 Advertising  
 Cartoons  
 Multiple views  
 Exaggerations  
 Flags  
 Maps  
 Menus  
 Paintings  
 Poetry  
 Political (Pull tab)
56. Highways - Alaska
57. Hunting
58. Indians I - Athabascan, Aleut, Chilkat

- 59. Indians II – Copper River, Southeast, Tanana
- 60. Indians III – Tlingit, Yakutat, Wrangell, misc.
- 61. Subjects (G-L)
  - Islands
  - Lakes
  - Leather postcards - c. 1903-08
  - Lighthouses
  - Logging
  - Lynn Canal
- 62. Mountains
- 63. Subjects (M-0)
  - Mail
  - Matanuska Valley
  - Miscellaneous
  - Northern Lights
- 64. Mining I (Alaska)
- 65. Mining II (Dredging)
- 66. Subjects P-Q
  - Pacific Coast Steamship Co. 1904
  - Pribilof Islands
  - Trans-Alaska Pipeline
- 67. Private Mailing Cards- (Design of postcard backing, c.1898-1901)
- 68. Subjects (R-S)
  - Resources
  - Seasons (winter, summer)
  - Sun scenes (sunsets and midnight sun)
- 69. Railroads
  - Alaska Railroad
  - Seward Peninsula
  - Tanana Valley
- 70. Copper River & Northwestern Railroad
- 71. Railroads (White Pass and Yukon I - mile 1 to Pitchfork Falls at mile 9)
- 72. Railroads (White Pass and Yukon II - mile 9 to Summit at mile 21)
- 73. Railroads (White Pass and Yukon III - mile 21 to Whitehorse at mile 111)
- 74. Riverboats (A-M)
- 75. Riverboats (N-Z)
- 76. Ships - State Ferries (A)
- 77. State Ferries (B-E)
- 78. State Ferries (F-M)
- 79. State Ferries (N-P)
- 80. State Ferries (Q-Z)
- 81. Totems (A-R)
- 82. Totems (Ketchikan-Saxman)
- 83. Totems (S-W)

84. Totems Wrangell I (A-M)
85. Totems (R-Z)
86. Totems, Non-Alaska
87. Towns\_(A-C)
88. Towns\_(Anchorage)
89. Towns\_(Cordova)
90. Towns (D-G)
91. Towns (Fairbanks)
92. Towns (H)
93. Towns (I-K)
94. Towns (Juneau I)
95. Towns (Juneau II)
96. Towns (Juneau III)
97. Towns (Juneau B&W)
98. Towns (Ketchikan I)
99. Towns (Ketchikan II)
100. Towns (Ketchikan B&W)
101. Towns (L-N)
102. Towns (Mary's Igloo) - Jesuit Priest's postcard collection: French/Italian
103. Towns\_(Nome I)
104. Towns (Nome II)
105. Towns\_(Nome III)
106. Towns\_(O-P)
107. Towns\_(Q-S)
108. Towns\_(Seward)
109. Towns\_(Sitka I)
110. Towns\_(Sitka II)
111. Towns\_(Sitka B&W)
112. Towns\_(Skagway I)
113. Towns\_(Skagway II)
114. Towns\_(Skagway III)
115. Towns (T-U)
116. Towns (V-Z I - Volcanoes)
117. Towns (V-Z II - Volcanoes)
118. Towns (Wrangell)
119. Yukon River
120. Schallerer, Otto - Ketchikan/Seward shop owner postcard collector I
121. Schallerer, Otto - Ketchikan/Seward shop owner postcard collector II
122. Folder Accordion Cards
123. Russian America