

Finding aid for the Meyer postcard collection

Collection 220

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
Creator	Meyer, Evelyn B.
Title	Meyer postcard collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1908-1912
Date [inclusive]	1908-1968
Extent	0.21 Linear feet One box
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Meyer postcard collection contains 72 postcards belonging to Evelyn B. and Joseph Meyer. The Meyers resided in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The postcards were exchanged between the Meyers and their family and friends. The correspondence provides insight into a circle of acquaintances and into communications in the early 1900s. The postcards also provide access to early 20th century images and illustrations.</p>

Biographical/Historical note

Little is known about Joseph or Evelyn Meyer. Joseph lived in Grand Rapids on Major Court. At one point, he worked at the Grand Rapids Notion and Crockery Company on Ionia Street, possibly as a salesman. He had a sister named Lena who lived in Colorado with her family. Evelyn was the wife of Joseph. Her mother and father were Mary Holzworth Berry and Oscar Berry. They lived on Godfrey Avenue SW.

Scope and Contents note

There are many other archival collections in the GRPL Archives which contain postcards. These provide a graphic history of Grand Rapids, and sometimes provide other insights to the lives of individuals through the notes on the cards.

This small collection of postcards has been organized first by the names of those corresponding, rather than the graphics, though a graphic index has been provided to access the images. The index includes broad subject terms and descriptions from the scenic views, as well as a geographic index to the real scenes.

About half of the postcards are views of Michigan sites, with four cards for out of state sites. Only a few cards are of Grand Rapids, with Kalkaska being the community represented by the most number of view cards. The Kalkaska cards include images of three different fires in that community, with one as late as 1940.

Graphically, two primary types of images are found:

A. Views, including many real photo views, of various locations in Michigan. B. Graphics, including floral, holiday theme or comic card.

Some of the graphic cards have signed illustrations, though these are often comic themes, rather than an artistic view. Perhaps most interesting among the graphic cards are the five cards from Oscar Berry to Mary Holzworth. One card has a three dimensional nature, and all have a tactile feature, using a velvet or other raised surface material in the physical creation of the card.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

The Estate of Evelyn B. Meyer, accession number 1992.003

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Coll. 077, Dautrich Postcards.

Coll. 078, GRPL Postcard Collection. This is the primary collection to which miscellaneous small accessions of postcards are added.

Coll. 089, Swanlund Collection.

See also Coll. 313 for the Christian Meyer Postcard Coll.

Other archival collections contain small selections of postcards, or contain postcards of foreign localities. These may be travel cards in family collections, or images from Grand Rapids soldiers collected during their war service experiences.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- letters (correspondence)
- postcards

Geographic Name(s)

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

Personal Name(s)

- Meyer, Evelyn B.
- Meyer, Joseph

Subject(s)

- Postcards -- Michigan

Geographic Index

Borculo, Mi.(Ottawa Co.)- Box 1, folder 1

Bravo, Mi. - Box 1, folder 1 (2)

Burnips, MI- box 1, folder 1(3)

Cheboygan County, Mi. - Box 1, folder 11

Duluth, Minn. Box 1, folder 3

Dutton, Mi.- Box 1, folder 1 (See Bridge St. Ferry card)

Fennville, MI- box 1, folder 1(2)

Flint, MI- Box 1, folder 2

Genesco, Il. - Box 1, folder 8

Grand Rapids, Mi. -Box 1, Folder 1 (See Bridge St. Ferry card) ; Box 1, folder 2; Box 1, folder 5; Box 1, folder 7

Hamilton, MI- box 1, folder 1

Holland, Mi. - Box 1, folder 8

Kalamazoo, Mi. - Box 1, folder 1(2)

Kalkaska, MI- Box 1, folder 2 (4) ; Box 1, folder 3 (3 cards, 2 images, i.e. Same image sent twice)

Macatawa Park, Mi. - Box 1, folder 6

Mackinac Island, Mi. - Box 1, folder 2(2)

Muskegon, Mi. - Box 1, folder 8
New Richmond, MI- Shady Drive, box 1, folder 1
Niagara Falls, N.Y. - Box 1, folder 2(2)
Onaway, MI- Box 1, folder 11
Pullman, Mi. - Box 1, folder 1
Saugatuck, Mi. - Box 1, folder 1
Spring Lake, MI- box 1, folder 8
St. Ignace, Mi. - Box 1, folder 10
Sunfield, MI- box 1, folder 1
Traverse City, MI- Box 1, folder 8
Wayland, MI- box 1, folder 1

Graphic Index

Scenic Views, Michigan Berkey & Gay Factory, Grand Rapids – See Grand River ... Box 1, folder 2
Bridge Street Ferry, [Grand Rapids, Mi.? Card is mailed from Dutton, Mi.] - Box 1, folder 1
Bridges See St. Ignace, Mi. See Grand Rapids. Concrete Bridge over Grand River
Churches See Burnip See Kalkaska
Court Houses See Kalkaska Cut River Bridge, 24 miles west of St. Ignace, Mi. - Box 1, folder 10
Docks See Mackinac
Edward's Hospital, Insane Asylum, Kalamazoo, Mi. - Box 1, folder 1
Feed Mill, Burnips, MI- Box 1, folder 1
Fires See Kalkaska. Larson. M.N. Lehner. July 5, 1908. See Kalkaska. Ruins. Apr. 1910. Beebe See Kalkasla. July 20, 1940. Beebe
Fish - Box 1, folder 3
Forts See Mackinac Island
Gashorn Lake- Box 1, folder 1 Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island - Box 1, folder 2

Grand River, New Grand Trunk Depot and Concrete Bridge, Grand Rapids, Mi.- Box 1, folder 2 Grand Trunk Depot, Grand Rapids, Mi. - Box 1, folder 2

Hospitals See Kalamazoo. Edward's Hospital

Hutchins Lake Camping- Box 1, folder 1

Indian River, Cheboygan County, Mi. - Box 1, folder 11

Jails See Kalkaska

Lakes See Bravo. Scott Lake See Fennville. Hutchins Lake See Kalamazoo See Onaway, Mi. See Saugatuck, Mi. See Spring Lake See Traverse City

M.N. Lehmner fire in Kalkaska, Mi. - Box 1, folder 2

Macatawa Park - Box 1, folder 6

Main St., North, Borculo (Ottawa Co., Mi.) Box 1, Folder 1

Main Street looking West, Sunfield, Mi. - Box 1, folder 1

Main Street Path, Kalkaska, Mich. Ferguson. - Box 1, folder x

McKinley Statue in Muskegon, MI- box 1, folder 8

Mills See Burnips.

Monroe & S. Division St., Grand Rapids, Mi. Bosselman - Box 1, folder 5

Oakwood Park, Boat House and Lake, Kalamazoo, Mi - Box 1, folder 1

Old Fort and Dock, Mackinac Island - Box 1, folder 2

Post and Drier's Store, Burnips, MI- Box 1, folder 1 "Puritan" Steamer, Holland, Mi. (Lake Michigan?)- Box 1, folder 8

Railroads See Flint. Railroad yards See Grand Rapids. Grand Trunk Depot. See Kalkaska. Main Street ... with railroad tracks Kalkaska. Complements from ... station house

River View and Railroad Yards, Flint, Mi. - Box 1, Folder 2

Road to Kezis Mokesa, Traverse City, Mi. - Box 1, folder 8

Shady Drive, New Richmond, Mi. - Box 1, Folder 1

St. John's Orphan Asylum, Grand Rapids, MI- Box 1, folder 7

Schools See Kalkaska

Scott Lake, Bravo, Mi. - Box 1, folder 1

Statues. McKinley. See Muskegon

Steamers See Puritan, Holland, Mi.

Stores See Borculo See Bravo See Burnips See Fennville See Hamilton See Pullman, Mi. See Sunfield, Mi.

Street Scene, Pullman, Mi. - Box 1, folder 1

Tents See Fennville

Trout Fishing on Rapid River, Lyon & Son - Box 1, folder 2

W.A. Nash General Store, Bravo, MI- Box 1, folder 1 Waterfalls See Niagara Falls

Scenic views, Out-of-State Aerial Bridge, Duluth MN- box 1, folder 3

Camp Grounds See Geneseo, Il.

Cave of the Winds or Rock of Ages, Niagara Falls, NY- box 1, folder 2

Log Cabins See Genesco., Il.

Riley's Camp Grounds, Geneseo, IL- box 1, folder 8

Steel Arch Bridge View, Niagara Falls, NY- box 1, folder 2

Decorative, Holidays

New Years- box 1, folder 2 & 9

St. Patrick's Day- box 1, folder 2 & 3 (same postcard)

Easter- box 1, folder 3

July 4th- box 1, folder 2

Halloween- box 1, folder 4

Thanksgiving- box 1, folder 2, 3, & 9

Christmas- box 1, folder 9

Birthday- box 1, folder 4

Decorative, Floral

Floral with sayings- box 1, folder 3 & 6 Floral- box 1 folder 3 & 9

Decorative, Miscellaneous

African Americans – Box 1, folder 3 ““Ise waited Hone, waited long for you” African American figure fishing from a pier, with landscape background, brown on white card.

People- box 1, folder 2, 3, & 4 Sayings- box 1 folder 3

Decorative, Comical Cartoons with humorous sayings- box 1, folder 2, 3, 5, 7, & 8

Joseph Meyer Messages

Collection Inventory

Series I Joseph Meyer Messages		
	Box	Folder
Joe to Abbie Spoonstra (17) 1908-1912	1	1
J.J. Pelton (J.J.P) to Joe (18) 1908-1910	1	2
Marguerite to Joe (20) 1909-1910	1	3
Lena, Joe's sister, to Joe (4) 1908-1910	1	4
Hila Horton to Joe (2) 1908-1909	1	5
Katherine L. (K.L) to Joe (2) 1909	1	6
Anna to Joe (2) 1908, 1910	1	7
Miscellaneous people to Joe (6) 1909-1910	1	8
Series II Oscar Barry to Mary Holzworth		
	Box	Folder
Oscar to Mary (5 decorative tactile cards) 1909-1911	1	9

Evelyn Meyer Messages

Series III Evelyn Meyer Messages

	Box	Folder
Joseph and Evelyn to Mrs. Mary Berry (1 scenic) 1956	1	10
Freyger (or Trigger) to Evelyn (2 scenic) 1960, 1968	1	11