REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:
Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center
Bob and Evangeline Atwood Resource Center
625 C Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 907-929-9235
Email: resourcecenter@anchoragemuseum.org

Guide prepared by: Heather McClain, Archivist

TITLE: Harris Postcards

COLLECTION NUMBER: B1970.016

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1900-1940

Extent: 37 items

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Winter and Pond

Administrative/Biographical History:
This collection includes color postcards of Alaska Railroad and Alaska towns including Sitka, Wrangell, Ketchikan, Valdez, Juneau, and Skagway.

Scope and Content Description:
This collection consists of 37 color postcards

Arrangement: Original order maintained.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

(Updated as of September 7, 2022)
Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:
The Anchorage Museum is the owner of the materials and makes available reproductions for research, publication, and other uses. Written permission must be obtained from the Anchorage Museum before any reproduction use. The Anchorage Museum does not necessarily hold copyright to all of the materials in the collections. In some cases, permission for use may require seeking additional authorization from the copyright owners.

Preferred Citation: Harris Postcards, Anchorage Museum, B1970.016

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information
Donated by R.E. Harris of Portland, Oregon in May 1970.

Processing Note
Guide updated from original inventory and finding aid.

RELATED MATERIALS
B1963.x.011 CIHS Reeve Collection
B1967.013 CIHS Sundberg
B1988.003 Don Ingalls Postcard Collection
B2013.003 Mt. McKinley Postcard
B2013.019 Paxson Postcard

SUBJECTS
Alaska-Juneau Gold Mining Company
Alaska Railroad
Chilkoot Pass – Alaska
Denali, Mount (Alaska)
Douglas (Alaska)
Haida art – Alaska
Haines (Alaska)
Houston (Alaska)
Juneau (Alaska)
Ketchikan (Alaska)
Mendenhall Glacier (Alaska)
Peterburg (Alaska)
St. Michael’s Cathedral
Sitka (Alaska)
Skagway (Alaska)
Stikine River (Alaska)
Taku Glacier (Alaska)
Tlingit art – Alaska
Tlingit wood-carving – Alaska
Valdez (Alaska)
Wrangell (Alaska)
Yukon River (Yukon and Alaska)

Detailed Description of the Collection

F1
.1 – 5622. Keystone Canyon near Valdez, Alaska. Back, Keystone Canyon. Keystone Canyon is one of the narrow defiles through which all must pass to gain the interior of Alaska, via the Valdez-Fairbanks Trail. [postcard, dog sled team with musher and passengers on ice with snow covering rocks and trees. Keystone Canyon, Valdez, Alaska]
.2 – C104. Memorial Totem in Sitka, Alaska. Back, Memorial Totems, Sitka, Alaska. The Sitka Totems are nearly all Haida. They have been donated by the different chiefs to the Sitka Museum. The most famous of all is the Sitka Memorial Totem. It was donated by Chief Sunnyheart. (It is surmounted by the Fog Woman and her children.) Below that is the Wolf, Eagle and the Bear. It is a memorial of the potlatch feast when all these families were present [postcard, carved pole and house posts. The pole was likely gifted by Chief Saanaheit from the K’a’yk’aanii (Kaigani) Haida village of Ḷasa’aan (Kasaan) on Prince of Wales Island in 1901. Sheet’ká Ḵwáan (Sitka), Alaska]
.3 – C108. Kicksetti Totem and Sun House in Wrangell, Alaska. Back, Kiksetti Totem and Sun House. This totem is surmounted with a face representing a mountain. Below is a frog, the emblem of the Kiksetti tribe. Below is the old Raven, talking to the young Raven that created man. The lowest figure is that of the Killisnoo beaver, whose father belonged to the beaver family and the mother of the frog family. The house has the symbol of the sun. [postcard, carved Kiksádi pole in front of Ḳagaan Hit (Sun House), Shtax’héen Ḵwáan (Wrangell), Alaska]
.4 – C151. Ketchikan, Alaska and Tongass Narrows. Back, Ketchikan. Ketchikan is the southernmost town in Alaska, and being the port of entry it is sometimes spoken of as the “first city.” It is probably the most prosperous town in Alaska, for salmon and halibut have made it rich and given it large canneries and cold storage plants. It has a population of about 6,000. [postcard, aerial view of Taant’a Kwáan, Kíchxáán (Ketchikan), Alaska]
.5 – C128. Russian Church, Sitka, Alaska. Back, St. Michael’s Cathedral. This remarkable edifice built in 1817 in the form of a cross, is the most historic shrine of religion on the Pacific Coast. The cathedral is equipped according to lavish customs of imperial Russia, with gold and silver trimmings, jeweled crowns, robes of costly texture, and paintings of rare beauty and inestimable value. [postcard, St. Michael’s Cathedral. Sheet’ká Ḵwáan (Sitka), Alaska]
.6 – C109. The Raven Flood Totem, Ketchikan, Alaska. Back, The Raven Flood Totem. The raven circle at the top represents heaven. The legend is that the raven at flood time flew up to heaven with children in his arms to save them. When the flood subsided, he descended (two figures from top) and lighted on a piece of Kelp, represented here by a frog. [postcard, The Raven Flood carved pole and other poles, possibly memorial, in front of a structure. Taant’a Kwáan, Kíchxáán (Ketchikan), Alaska]
.7 – C121. Over Chilkoot Pass during the Gold Rush in Alaska. Thousands of gold seekers used this trail. Back, Chilkoot Pass – “Trail of ‘98.” This view brings back memories of the old days when thousands took this trail into the Yukon district in search of the precious yellow gold. [postcard, miners at the base of mountain pass with pack line to the summit. Jilkoot Kwáan, A Shakéé (Chilkoot Pass), Alaska]

.8 – C148. Juneau, Alaska, looking down Gastineau Channel. Back, Juneau, Alaska. Juneau, the Capital of Alaska, is situated on Gastineau Channel about 1,033 miles northwest of Seattle. It has a population of about 4,500. The settlement and development of Juneau depend largely on mining, it being situated in what is known as the “Juneau Gold Belt.” [postcard, aerial view of Āak’w Kwáan and T’aaḵ’ū Kwáan, Dzantik’i Héeni (Juneau) and Sayéik (Douglas) facing south, Alaska]

.9 – 15343. Totem pole of Thlinget Chief Kian, Ketchikan, Alaska. Back, Totem Pole of Thlighet Chief Kian. One of the most noted of the Totem Poles of Ketchikan is the famous Totem Pole of Chief Kian. It is surmounted by the fabled bird Kajuk. Below this bird is the eagle and below the eagle is the wolf. [postcard, carved pole of Tlingit Chief Kyan with buildings visible to the left and right. Taant’a Kwáan, Kíchxáan (Ketchikan), Alaska]

.10 – C100. Mt. McKinley, Mt. McKinley National Park, Alaska. Back, Mt. McKinley. Mt. McKinley National Park, one of the newest of our national playgrounds, has an area of 2,645 square miles. Superb Mt. McKinley, rising to an altitude 20,300 feet above sea level and some 17,000 feet above the plateau at its base, is the highest and most lordly mountain on the North American continent. [postcard, scenic view of Denali, Denali National Park]

.11 – C106. Famous Chief Shake’s Totem, Wrangell, Alaska. Back, Geo. Shake’s Totem. Geo. Shake’s Totem, sometimes called The Raven Totem is surmounted by the Raven Creator. The box is the chief’s box, supposed to have spiritual power. Below is the young Raven, the Creator of man. Below is the daughter of the Creator and the mother of the young Creator. [postcard, Chief Shakes or Raven carved pole in front of house. Shtax’héen Kwáan, K̲aax̲an áak’w (Wrangell), Alaska]

.12 – C107. The Kadasan Totems, Wrangell, Alaska. Back, The Kadasan Totems. These Totems are very old. The time of their erection dates soon after the days of the Russian occupation. The right hand one is surmounted by a figure of a man. This represents the creator. The left hand Totem is surmounted by the Eagle, the crest of the Kadasan family [postcard, Shtax’héen Kwáan, K̲aax̲an áak’w (Wrangell), Alaska]

.13 – 5612. Haines and Chilkoot Barracks. Back, Haines and Chilkoot barracks. Construction of the military post, was commenced in 1903. Two companies of infantry are now stationed here. Haines was established soon after the discovery of placer gold in the Porcupine District, fifty miles northwest of this point. It has since been the base of supplies for the district. [postcard, aerial view of Fort William H. Seward and Haines. Jilkáat Kwáan, Deishú (Haines), Alaska]

.14 – C144. Juneau and Douglas, Alaska. Showing new bridge. Back, Juneau-Douglas Bridge. For many years communication between these two pioneer Alaska cities was entirely by ferry. Recently there has been a modern bridge built across the channel greatly simplifying travel between these cities. [postcard, aerial view of Douglas and Juneau facing northeast. Āak’w Kwáan and T’aaḵ’ū Kwáan, Dzantik’i Héeni (Juneau) and Sayéik (Douglas), Alaska]

(Updated as of September 7, 2022)
The settlement and development of Juneau depend largely on its easy accessibility. It is reached by a beautiful highway out of Juneau. A very good idea of its size is obtained by comparing it with the figure of a man standing at the base. [postcard, landscape view of T’aaḵú Ḵwáan Sít’i (Taku Glacier). T’aaḵú Ḵwáan, Alaska]

Juneau is situated in what is known as the “Juneau Gold Belt.” Placer gold was first discovered in the Juneau district in the early 1880’s in Gold Creek. Later prospectors discovered gold quartz deposit in the hills back of Juneau. The development of these prospects resulted in operations of a number of mining properties, the principal one of which is the Alaska-Juneau gold mine. [postcard, view of Alaska Juneau Gold Mine and Muir Glacier, postcard [Muir Glacier. Xunaa Ḵáawu (Hoonah), Sít’ Eetí Ḵee��í (Glacier Bay), Alaska]

Juneau, the Capital of Alaska, is situated on Gastineau Channel about 1,033 miles northwest of Seattle. It has a population of about 4,500. The settlement and development of Juneau depend largely on mining, it being situated in what is known as the “Juneau Gold Belt.” [postcard, view of
Dzantik’i Héeni (downtown Juneau), Alaska, and the bridge to Deishú Áák’w (Douglas Island). Áák’w Kwáán (Juneau), Alaska]
.25 – C115. Airplane view, Petersburg, Alaska. Photo by U.S. Navy. Back, Petersburg, Alaska. Petersburg, established as a cannery site in 1897, has grown steadily until it is now one of the important and prosperous towns in southeastern Alaska. Its principal industry is fishing, and it is the center of the crab and shrimp industry of Alaska. [postcard, aerial view of Séet Ká (Petersburg). Shtax’héen Kwáán (Wrangell), Alaska]
.26 – 5605. Scene on Stikine River, Alaska. Back, Scene on Stikine River. At trip up the Stikine River can accomplished by launch from Petersburg or Wrangell. Lovers of nature will enjoy a rare treat in the wonderful scenic beauty encountered on every hand. [postcard, landscape view of Shtax’héen (Stikine River), Shtax’héen Kwáán (Wrangell), Alaska]
.27 – C137. “The Loop” Alaska Railroad near Seward. Back, The Loop, Alaskan Railroad. In the building of the Alaska Railroad from Seward to Fairbanks, many obstacles had to be overcome and one of the greatest engineering feats in the construction of this railroad was the building of the famous Loop at mile 50. [postcard, view of the Loop at mile 48 of the Alaska Railroad between Moose Pass and Portage]
.28 – C119. Lynn Canal and Skagway, Alaska. Back, Lynn Canal and Skagway. Lynn Canal provides 80 miles of most wonderful scenery. It varies in width from one to five miles and both sides are walled with snowcapped mountains, glaciers and gushing waterfalls. Skagway, at the head of Lynn Canal, sprang to life during the early Klondike gold days. [postcard, view of Shgagwei (Skagway), Alaska facing south towards Lkootká (Chilkoot side of Lynn Canal. Jilkoot Kwáán, Alaska]
.29 – C101. Mendenhall Glacier and Auk Lake, near Juneau, Alaska. Back, Mendenhall Glacier. It is situated about 15 miles north of Juneau on a beautiful boulevard built and maintained by the U.S. Bureau of Roads. From the Glacier the highway continues and crosses the Mendenhall River and around the “Loop” affording a view of beautiful Auk Lake [postcard, view of Áak’w (Auke Lake) with Séit’ (Mendenhall Glacier) in the background. Áak’w Kwáán (Juneau), Alaska]
.30 – C126. Lover’s Lane, Sitka, Alaska. Back, Lover’s Lane. This name has been applied to part of the trail through Indian River Park. In this Park are many interesting totems. Nearly all were placed there by the Government for preservation. [postcard, trail with two carved poles on the right side. Sheet’ká Kwáán (Sitka), Alaska]
.31 – C122. Soapy Smith Skull, Skagway, Alaska. Back, Soapy Smith’s Skull. This peculiar rock formation in Skagway was so named for Soapy Smith, the well-known character of early Klondike mining days, He had a notorious career in various other mining sections before coming to Alaska, and it was here he met his death in a gambling hall fracas. [postcard, rock painted to look like a skull with lettering that reads, “Soapy Smith’s Skull, FM.” Shgagwei (Skagway), Jilkoot Kwáán, Alaska]
.32 – C133. Eskimo boys carving ivory, Alaska [postcard, three Indigenous youth carving ivory]
.33 – C117. Mendenhall’s Glacier, near Juneau, Alaska. Winter and Pond Juneau. Back Mendenhall Glacier. Mendenhall Glacier, situated about fifteen miles north of Juneau, can be reached by auto. This Glacier perhaps is the greatest attraction to tourists inasmuch as they are able to get a much better idea of the formation of a glacier in general. [postcard, view of Séit’ (Mendenhall Glacier). Áak’w Kwáán (Juneau), Alaska]
.34 – C-147. Night view of Juneau, Alaska. Winter and Pond Photo. Back, Juneau at Night. Moonlight on the waters of Gastineau Channel presents a scene of unsurpassed beauty. Electrical illumination of the city and surroundings are modern in every respect. [postcard, view of Dzantik’i Héeni (downtown Juneau) at night. Áak’w Kwáan (Juneau), Alaska] 

.35 – C120. Skagway, Alaska. Back, Skagway. Skagway is the terminal of the White Pass & Yukon Railroad in the North, giving service between salt water and the navigable waters of the Yukon river. Skagway is often referred to as the garden spot of the North, a city of beautiful homes and a most attractive place to spend a vacation. [postcard, view of .” Shgagwei (Skagway), Jilḵoot Kwáan, Alaska] 


.37 – Sitka Hotel. Back, Sitka Hotel, Downtown Sitka, Alaska, adjoining the Alaska Air Lines office. 60 modern rooms, $10.00 to $20.00, Ted & Russ Clithero. [postcard, street view of Sitka Hotel with three cars in the street. Alaska Airlines office in lower right. Sheet’ká Ḵwáan (Sitka), Alaska]

Guide updated: September 7, 2022