

Picture Postcard Magic

from Reflections of a Bygone Age

Christmas 2021

Postcard fairs, we love you!

"If postcard fairs ever stopped, I think I would give up the hobby". That recent facebook posting by a well-known dealer/collector with a passion for postcards summed up what I guess many people think. The enforced suspension of postcard fairs for much of 2020 and the early part of this year was a real blow to collectors who prefer in-person buying and selling to online postcarding. Since the resumption, however, attendances have been much lower - maybe 40-50% of pre-Covid figures. Hardly surprising, as many people are still understandably very cautious about potentially crowded indoor situations. The Covid saga seemed to be heading in the right direction, though, until the end of November, when it was announced that a scary new variant, Omicron, was circulating big-time in a far-off foreign land and was due to arrive here any time soon. So, unsurprisingly, the big Christmas postcard fair at the National Motorcycle Museum was a bit more subdued than it otherwise might have been. Around 80% of collectors and 20% of dealers were properly masked-up, and everyone had a good time. I liked the new café set-up on the ground floor especially. By the way, lots of credit to Simon Collyer for going ahead with this event despite the financial risk to himself.



All the best for Christmas & New Year!
This is a lovely embossed Edwardian Christmas postcard, published by London firm Hartmann and posted at Earls Court on 22nd December 1906

Children in Need

For the past 33 years, we've raised money for the BBC Children in Need appeal, partly by publishing special postcards, and also by donating the admission money from Nottingham's November postcard fair and holding a raffle during the event. Below is this year's postcard, on the theme of refugees. We've published 29 postcards so far, though some are sold out. Total raised so far in 2021 is £756. If you'd like to contribute, a pack of 10 of these cards is £5 post-free and a pack of 20 mixed designs £10 (payment by cheque, card or paypal to reflections@postcardcollecting.co.uk).



"It's postcard collecting, Jim, but not as we know it!". The Birmingham fair on 12th December.



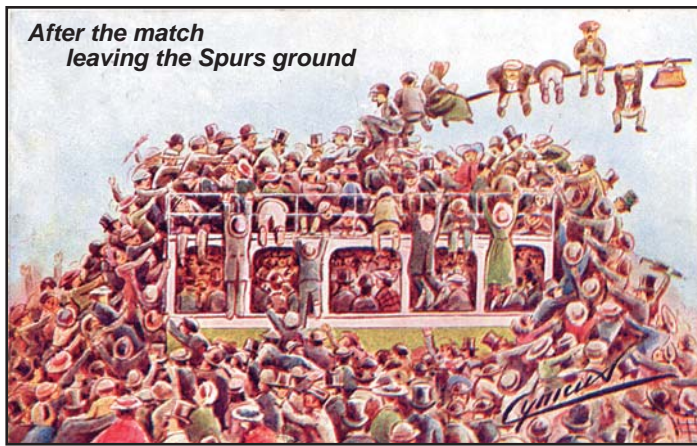
This is the QR code for our website
www.postcardcollecting.co.uk
The idea is that anyone with the QR app can scan it on their phone and it automatically brings up the website.
It'll be on the side of our car soon!

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£120 for a Cynicus? You're joking!



Knight's auction, July 2021, and a comic postcard by Scottish artist Martin Anderson sold for a whacking £120! Normally you'd expect this design to go for about £4 max., but the clue is in the caption. It was bought by a Tottenham Hotspur fan, I suppose. This card was part of a bumper selection of Spurs postcards lotted as singles, which grossed a massive £11,000 for 82 postcards. Top prices were for a 1912 team pic on tour in Germany at £430, 1913 FA Cup team group at £240 and 1905-6 playing staff and officials at £230. Realisations of £100+ per card were the norm.



A little bit of Nuneham

I've never been to Nuneham, indeed I don't think I'd even heard of it before I came across this postcard recently, but I'm now an expert on the place. In the 1904 edition of *Bartholomew's Gazetteer*, it was called Nuneham Courteney (or Courtenay), with a population of 277 (now it's 200). The village, five miles south-east of Oxford on the River Thames, was created in the 18th century with identical rows of semi-detached houses built on either side of the main Oxford-Reading road. The postcard shows the Harcourt Arms Inn (still in existence) and E. Franklin's horse-drawn cart. Franklin came from nearby Clifton Hampden, and also had a coal and coke, and furniture removal, business in Culham. Picture postcards broaden horizons; there's something to be discovered on every card, but some are more researchable than others, and the one I've illustrated – a fine real photo topographical though by unidentified publisher - is better than most.

It was posted at Clifton Hampden on 2nd August 1910, written by Alice, who was staying at Burcote House, Abingdon, and posted to her aunt, Mrs Lines, in Diss, Norfolk. "Thought I would send you a card ... As you will see I am in the country with my people for nine weeks... have been here a fortnight now".

2022 EDITION

**PICTURE
POSTCARD
ANNUAL**

with Diary
of 2022
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Packed with postcard features

Inside is a bumper package of 60 features on picture postcards to inspire you!

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- * Glamorous cycling
- plus
- * Dealers, shops & collectors' centres listing
- * Fair organisers & Auction Houses
- * Postcard Clubs
- * Top auction prices
- * 2022 Diary of events

£8.95

It's here!

The 2022 Picture Postcard Annual

The postcard collector's guide and entertainment for the whole year, with

- * Diary of 2022 Fairs & Auctions
- * Features on 60 amazing postcard subjects
- * Listings of postcard dealers, postcard clubs, auction houses & fair organisers
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A wealth of information in one volume!

The 2022 Annual costs £8.95 + postage (£1.95 UK, £5 Europe, £8.50 rest of world)

Louis The Catman on the big screen!

On general release in UK cinemas January 2022: **The Electrical Life of Louis Wain**, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Claire Foy. Also available on Amazon Prime Video.

Next sales list will go out early January 2022. We're also working on a special AR Quinton sales list after acquiring another big collection of these.

McGill bonanza at auction

The Eric Kent collection of Donald McGill comic cards comes up for auction at Warwick & Warwick next month. It comprises some 14,000 postcards split into 33 lots - an average of over 400 per lot. Eric Kent's was probably the best extant collection of this artist's postcard work, but looks almost certain to be broken up now, given that dealers are likely to buy most of the lots.



Nottingham Postcard & Cigarette Card Show

with 70 tables of old & modern picture postcards, trade & cigarette cards, ephemera and related accessories

Saturday
5th February 2022
10am - 4pm
Admission £1.50

**at Studio 7, King's Meadow Campus,
Lenton Lane, Nottingham NG7 2NR**

Other 2022 dates:

Sat 7th May De Vere Jubilee Hotel NG8 1DH

Sat 3rd September Studio 7, King's Meadow Campus

Sat 5th November Studio 7, King's Meadow Campus

More information from Reflections of a Bygone Age

0115 937 4079

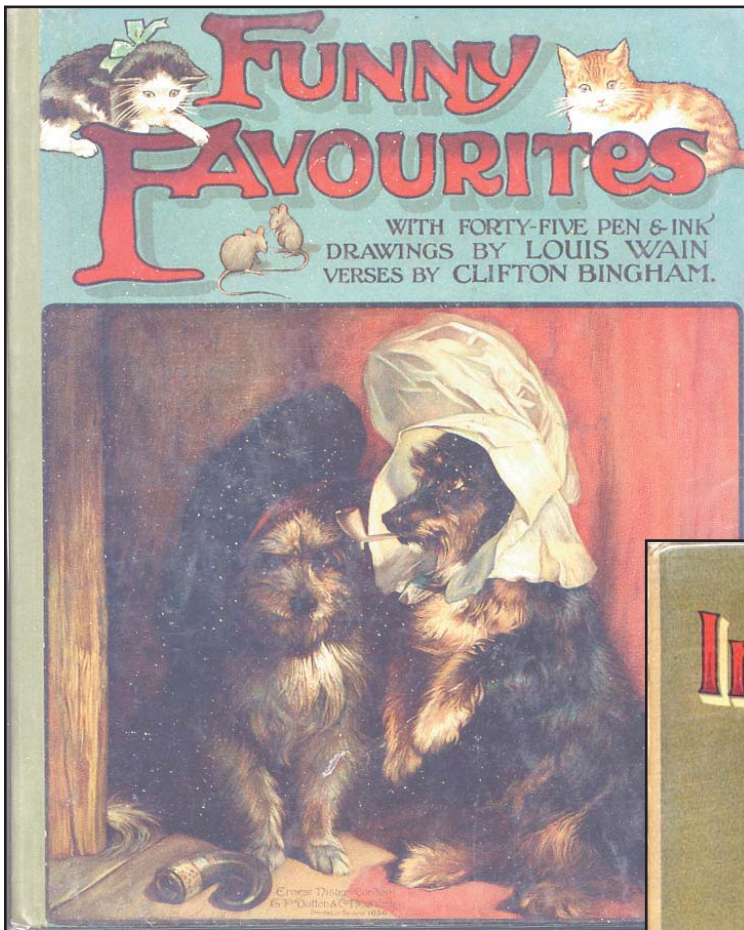
www.postcardcollecting.co.uk



McGill worked in the postcard genre from 1905 until his death in 1962, and left a huge body of work. He became known as 'the King of the Seaside Postcard' but many of his designs featured other subjects, including sport and First World War. These two pictures show (far left) a Joseph Asher-published card from c.1908 and one from the Inter-Art Co. c. 1912.

Fancy a good book for Christmas?

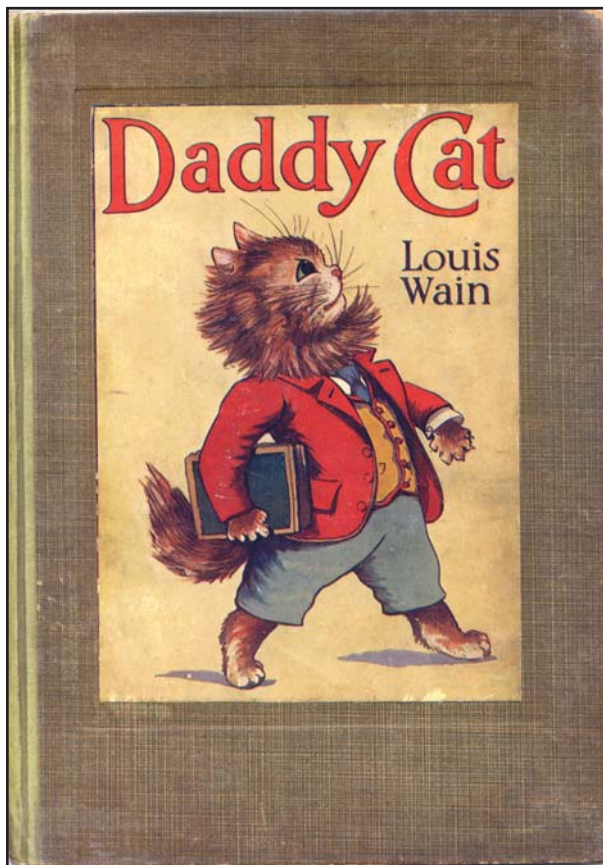
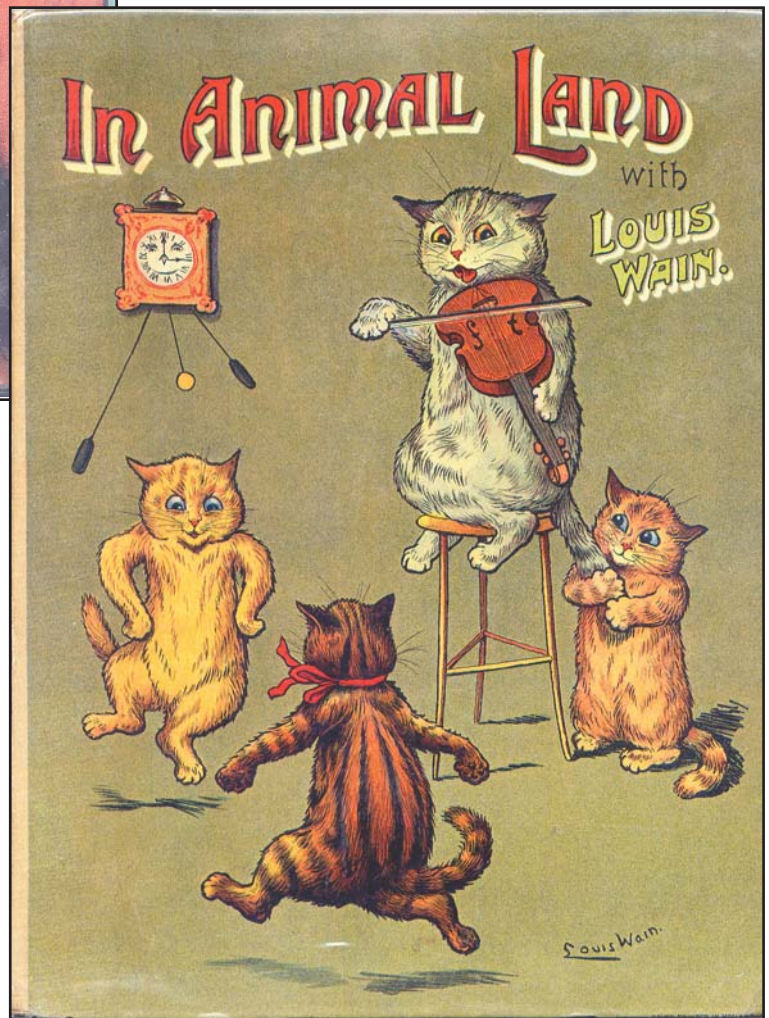
We have these three Louis Wain crackers for sale!



Funny favourites (published by Ernest Nister 1904). 48pp quarto with 45 fine pen & ink drawings by Louis Wain and a colour LW frontispiece. Hardback in good condition£95

Daddy Cat. (published by Blackie 1915). 36pp quarto hardback with 34 lovely col. paintings by LW. Good condition.....£150

In Animal Land with Louis Wain (published by Partridge & Co. c.1905. 88pp A4 hardback with full-page col. LW and very many b/w illus., some full page.....£150.



Strictly come postcards!

A recent edition of *Strictly* featured an opening number with dancers in a routine to a live performance of the song 'Postcard' by the group JLS. Background graphics were all postcard-related, though not real postcard backs, which would obviously have been more effective!