



Guide to Dating Curt Teich Postcards

The first series of cards printed by the Teich Company used numbers only and ranged from 1 – 14989. The production dates were not recorded by the company at this time, but from copyright dates found on some of the cards, it has been determined that these cards were produced between 1900 and 1908.

1900–1908

1 – 14989

The next card series began with either “A” or “R”* and were numbered from 1–124180. From 1908 until 1913, production dates are not clear and were determined by copyright dates found on a few of the cards. These numbers and dates should be used only as a guide. After 1913, dates began to appear occasionally in the order books kept by the company, and from 1922 on, production dates were well documented. The letter ‘A’ has been used as the standard.

1908–1928

1908-1910	A1	1919	A77482 – A81999
1910	A19922	1920	A82000 – A83599
1911	A22998	1921	A83600 – A87975
1912	A32000	1922	A87976 – A92873
1913	A32236 – A45599	1923	A92874 – A96826
1914	A45600 – A5399	1924	A96827 – A102410
1915	A54000 – A61999	1925	A102411 – A107826
1916	A62000 – A71999	1926	A107827 – A112867
1917	A72000 – A77320	1927	A112868 – A118311
1918	A77321 – A77481	1928	A118312 – A124180

*There are a few hundred cards ordered by the Woolworth Company that begin with a ‘W’ instead of the more typical ‘A’ or ‘R.’ It is believed that in some cases the same view was ordered from the Teich Company by another customer, and the card was printed with ‘A’ or ‘R’ preceding the number. A small number of cards also filed with this series begin with ‘BS,’ ‘DT,’ ‘RG,’ and ‘RT.’ After approximately 1924, the ‘A’ or ‘R’ may not appear on the card at all.

A ‘-N’ printed on the postcard after the production number indicates it was a reprinted card. Reports printed from the Teich Archives database may show other alpha characters (X, Y, Z) after the number which usually indicates it has been computer cataloged under more than one subject heading. However, early Teich postcards and V.O. Hammon postcards sometimes used the same number on two different views, and an ‘A’ or ‘B’ has been added by the Archives to the end of the production number.

During the years 1929 and 1930, another new system was started. The company used the number of the card and then a ‘-’ followed by the year:

1929-1930	
1929	1-29 – 6262-29
1930	1-30 – 2934-30

In the middle of the “-30” series, the numbering system was again changed. A letter would denote the decade (A – 1930s, B – 1940s, C- 1950s, D – 1960s, E – 1970s), and the number before the letter would indicate the year within that decade. Thus the next card printed after 2934-30 was 0A2935. In 1931 a new printing process was developed, and this style added another letter after the decade letter. An ‘H’ was added if the card was printed using the ‘Art Colortone Method’ also called linen cards. Later, a ‘K’ was used, beginning in the late 1940s, to indicate ‘Curteichcolor’ which is a chrome postcard printing process. From the 1930s through the 1970s, the following numbers were used:

1931-1978			
1930 0A2935 – 0A5363			
1931 1A1 – 1A3637	1AH1 – 1AH565		
1932 2A1 – 2A1562	2AH1 – 2AH1082		
1933 3A1 – 3A552	3AH1 – 3AH1656		
1934 4A1 – 4A654	4AH1 – 4AH2223		
1935 5A1 – 5A650	5AH1 – 5AH2701		
1936 6A1 – 6A668	6AH1 – 6AH2913		
1937 7A1 – 7A710	7AH1 – 7AH3989		
1938 8A1 – 8A923	8AH1 – 8AH3291		
1939 9A1 – 9A982	9AH1 – 9AH2637		
1940 0B1 – 0B996	0BH1 – 0BH2755		
1941 1B1 – 1B954	1BH1 – 1BH2693		
1942 2B1 – 2B545	2BH1 – 2BH1581		
1943 3B1 – 3B432	3BH1 – 3BH1722		
1944 4B1 – 4B436	4BH1 – 4BH1657		
1945 5B1 – 5B510	5BH1 – 5BH1509		
1946 6B1 – 6B721	6BH1 – 6BH2667		
1947 7B1 – 7B561	7BH1 – 7BH2149		
1948 8B1 – 8B791	8BH1 – 8BH1993		
1949 9B1 – 9B782	9BH1 – 9BH1904	9BK1 – 9BK129	
1950 0C1 – 0C700	0CH1 – 0CH2125	0CK1 – 0CK448	
1951 1C1 – 1C653	1CH1 – 1CH1937	1CK1 – 1CK305	1CP1450 – 1CP2030*
1952 2C1 – 2C564	2CH1 – 2CH1680	2CK1 – 2CK401	2CP2001 – 2CP2638*
1953 3C1 – 3C494	3CH1 – 3CH1433	3CK1 – 3CK1548	3CP2001 – 3CP2254*
1954 4C1 – 4C420	4CH1 – 4CH909	4CK1 – 4CK2194	4CP2001 – 2CP2109*
1955 5C1 – 5C230	5CH1 – 5CH705	5CK1 – 5CK3091	5CP2001 – 5CP2049*
1956 6C1 – 6C100	6CH1 – 6CH228	6CK1 – 6CK3110	6CP2001 – 6CP2022*
1957 7C1 – 7C8	7CH1 – 7CH92	7CK1 – 7CK3151	
1958	8CH1 – 8CH62	8CK1 – 8CK3280	
1959	9CH1 – 9CH6	9CK1 – 9CK3023	
1960 0DK1 – 0DK2443			
1961 1DK1 – 1DK2385			
1962 2DK1 – 2DK2073			
1963 3DK1 – 3DK2035			
1964 4DK1 – 4DK1936			
1965 5DK1 – 5DK2006			
1966 6DK1 – 6DK1957			
1967 7DK1 – 7DK1795			
1968 8DK1 – 8DK1477			
1969 9DK1 – 9DK1330			
1970 0EK1 – 0EK885			
1971 1EK1 – 1EK785			
1972 2EK1 – 2EK699			
1973 3EK1 – 3EK561			
1974 4EK1 – 4EK392	4ED1 – 4ED558**		
1975 5EK1 – 5EK537	5ED1 – 5ED981**		
1976 6EK1 – 6EK689	6ED1 – 6ED954**		
1977 7EK1 – 7EK454	7ED1 – 7ED368**		
1978 8EK1 – 8EK116	8ED1 – 8ED187**		

* The ‘P’ indicates the ‘C.T. Photochrom’ process. Most of the cards printed with this new process were reprints of cards the Teich Company produced in other styles.

**In 1974 the Teich Company was sold to Regensteiner Publishers also in Chicago. The Teich Company continued to operate in the same building and continued printing Teich postcards until 1978 when the plant closed. The ‘ED’ series postcards are Curteichcolor 3-D natural color reproduction and are international size

In 1929 another series of cards originated referred to as the ‘D’ series. This series consists of different types of printed pieces, although many of the early numbers are postcards. Other types of materials include: blotters, brochures, pamphlets, letterheads, envelopes, souvenir booklets, fold-out postcards, and oversize advertising pieces.

D Series			
1929	D1- D558	1952	D9972 – D10203
1930	D559 – D1100	1953	D10204 – D10431
1931	D1101 – D1720	1954	D10432 – D10713
1932	D1721 – D2400	1955	D10714 – D11134
1933	D2401 – D3200	1956	D11135 – D11600
1934	D3201 – D3650	1957	D11601 – D11935
1935	D3651 – D4200	1958	D11936 – D12352
1936	D4201 – D4750	1959	D12353 – D12772
1937	D4751 – D5200	1960	D12773 – D13075
1938	D5201 – D5700	1961	D13076 – D13355
1939	D5701 – D6200	1962	D13356 – D13612
1940	D6201 – D6470	1963	D13613 – D13822
1941	D6471 – D6790	1964	D13823 – D14095
1942	D6791 – D7090	1965	D14096 – D14390
1943	D7091 – D7435	1966	D14391 – D14796
1944	D7436 – D7685	1967	D14797 – D15261
1945	D7686 – D8000	1968	D15262 – D15684
1946	D8001 – D8492	1969	D15685 – D16231
1947	D8493 – D8741	1970	D16232 – D17000
1948	D8742 – D9105	1971	D17001 – D17770
1949	D9106 – D9450	1972	D17771 – D18600
1950	D9451 – D9725	1973	D18601 – D19325
1951	D9726 – D9971	1974-1978	D19326 – D20363

** The company continued printing ‘D’ cards after it was sold in 1974, but the new orders were not written in the company books. The last ‘D’ card printed before the plant closed in 1978 was D20363.*

Several smaller series of postcards were printed at the same time as the main series of cards. One group began with two letters before the number of the card. These two letters could be AD, AC, AH, AP, AS, RC, RD, RH, RP, RS, WC, OR WP. The second letter in the code often indicates the process – the ‘C’ usually means C.T. Colorchrome, ‘D’ – Doubletone, ‘S’ – Sepia, ‘H’ – C.T. Handcolored. ‘RC’ has been used below as the standard. The dates for this series are approximate and were derived from the company records or from copyright dates on the postcards.

‘RC’ Cards 1912- 1925			
1912	RC1 – RC360	1919	RC10567 – RC12318
1913	RC361 – RC1800	1920	
1914	RC1801 – RC4500	1921	
1915	RC4501 – RC6680	1922	
1916	RC6681 – RC8842	1923	RC12637 – RC14175
1917	RC8843 – RC10193	1924	RC14176 – RC14528
1918	RC10194 – RC10566	1925	RC14529 – RC14804

The series of cards known as ‘C’ cards were printed approximately between 1905 and 1926. Not much is known about this series because many numbers were not entered in the company records and few were recorded with a date. Many of the cards in the files are printers proofs – not finished cards. Many of the backs of the finished cards are printed with a brown (sepia) tone. There are a number of different styles in this series which include: Octochrome, Commercialchrome, and Sky-tint, but there may be others. In some cases, the ‘C’ or even a ‘CC’ may follow the production number or may not be present at all.

The few dates found for these cards have been mostly from copyright dates that appear on the cards. In a few cases there were notes written by Teich employees which indicated a date. The following dates are approximate

Special Series 1905–1926			
1905	C1	1916	C48476
1906	C4235	1917	C51320 – C52372
1907		1918	
1908		1919	
1909	C4644	1920	
1910	C7315 – C8060	1921	C56466
1911		1922	
1912	C22152	1923	
1913	C31916	1924	
1914		1925	– C61608
1915	C37088	1926	C61609 – C63517

Other series of cards printed by the Teich Company which are not included at this time are: ‘L’ printed for the Hugh C. Leighton Company, Portland, Maine; ‘AQ’ printed mainly for Fred Harvey; and ‘E’, ‘B’, ‘K’ cards which are miniature views.

Dates for the V.O. Hammon postcards are not included on this list, but the V.O. Hammon Publishing Company, publisher of pictorial postcards, is listed in the Minneapolis, Minnesota city directory from 1904 until 1923.