

Guide to Postcards of the British royal family

MSS 51



YCBA Library Court. Photograph by Richard Caspole, YCBA, 2016.

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Center for British Art, Institutional Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MSS 51

TITLE: Postcards of the British royal family

DATES: ca. 1897-ca. 2013

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (approximately 1000 postcards)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection comprises approximately 1000 postcards depicting members of the British royal family.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/ycba.mss.0051>

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Yale Center for British Art, Gift of Rosemarie Haag Bletter and Martin Filler

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is unprocessed and may not be available for immediate access.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright Undetermined

The collection is the physical property of the Yale Center for British Art. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the Archives Department.

Preferred Citation

Postcards of the British Royal Family, Yale Center for British Art, Gift of Rosemarie Haag Bletter and Martin Filler

Scope and Contents

The collection comprises approximately 1000 postcards depicting members of the British royal family. The postcards are arranged in a general chronological order (i.e., by reign) in four albums. They begin circa 1897 with cards relating to Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, a number of satirical cards dealing with her and the Boer War circa 1900, and memorial cards from 1901. One of the collection's highlights is a number of satirical Edward VII cards, many of French origin. For each of the reigns there are the expected coronation and funeral cards (including a series on Edward VII's obsequies), but also less common ones such as Edward VII's sojourns in Biarritz and Marienbad.

There are a large number of postcards concerning George V and Mary, the weddings of all their children in turn, World War I patriotic cards, Silver Jubilee, etc. Also present is a selection of unusual Prince of Wales/Edward VIII postcards, including pre-abdication rarities of Edward and Mrs. Simpson, and an autographed postcard of the vicar who performed their marriage ceremony. George VI postcards include treatment of the coronation, Canadian, US, and French state visits before the war, wartime patriotic cards, and his funeral. Postcards for the reign of Queen Elizabeth II include depictions of Charles and Diana and conclude with a portrait of the family after the christening of Prince George (2013).

Additionally, there are approximately 100 non-royal patriotic cards dealing mainly with Winston Churchill, but also Neville Chamberlain, and the London Blitz, including a series of cards called "London Under Fire" showing bombed-out ruins.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

South African War, 1899-1902
World War, 1914-1918
World War, 1939-1945

Geographic Names

Great Britain -- Kings and rulers
London (England) -- History -- Bombardment,
1940-1941

Genres / Formats

Portraits
Postcards

Names

Chamberlain, Neville, 1869-1940
Churchill, Winston, 1874-1965
Edward VII, King of Great Britain, 1841-1910
Elizabeth, Queen of Great Britain, II, 1926-
George, King of Great Britain, V, 1865-1936
George, King of Great Britain, VI, 1895-1952
Mary, Queen, consort of George V, King of
Great Britain, 1867-1953
Victoria, Queen of Great Britain, 1819-1901
Windsor, Edward, Duke of, 1894-1972
Windsor, Wallis Warfield, Duchess of,
1896-1986

Families

Windsor, House of