

Prior to the presentation, we had the pleasure of touring the Lake County History Archives, part of the Lake County Discovery Museum which houses much more than just the postcard archive which is recognized throughout the world as the largest public collection of postcards and subordinate materials. The Teich Archives include:



- Images of more than 10,000 towns and cities in North America and in many foreign countries
- One of the nation's largest collections of Route 66, Lincoln Highway and other travel-related images
- Over 100,000 job files for the postcards produced by the Teich Company
- 365,000 postcards that are computer-cataloged under more than 2,100 subject headings

The first part of the tour was hosted by Christine Pyle who explained function of the Lake County Archives' and the numerous items that have found a home in the building that are related to the county's history (plat maps; 1860's through 2000, school record, township census and public records) along with a very large collection of Civil War documents including the history and records of the 96th Illinois Regimental Volunteers; letters of Orson Young (96th IL); letters of the Minto Family of Millburn (96th IL); and Adjutant General Reports of Illinois 1861-1865.

The second part of the tour presented by Heather Johnson explored the artistic side of the county's history including the Early Motion Picture Industry Collection featuring Edward Amet (1860-1948) of Waukegan who was the inventor of the first practical 35mm motion picture projector the Amet Magniscope and sketch books and painting from local artists.

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Debra Gust explains the first step in the production process – the photograph

Debra Gust presented the last section covering the Curt Teich Postcard Archives. In her presentation she covered the history of the company, the inventory system used by the company from 1900 to 1978 that makes the collection much easier to use, some of the uses of the collection by the public (neighborhood restoration, movie/stage period backgrounds and individuals who are looking for items that were apart of their past for example).

Throughout the presentation, she retrieved, displayed and explained the process on how these cards were produced and some interesting other facts behind the company's other products such as the story about WWII invasion maps produced by a company founded by immigrant German and employing numerous Japanese in the art department.



Postcards were not the only product sold by the company ... notice the toy truck just to the right of Walter's shoulder



In all it was very pleasant way to spend a cold-wet afternoon and look at a lot of history in the process.

The Archives Library is open Monday through Friday from 1100 to 1630. An appointment will provide staff assistance and access to the Collections. Appointments are available Monday through Friday, 0900 to 1200 and 1300 to 1630.

Curt Teich Postcard Archives
27277 N Forest Preserve Rd
Wauconda, IL 60084
(Entrance ~ 2000 ft west on IL Route 176
after Fairfield Rd light)

For more information on using postcards from the Curt Teich Postcard Archives, please e-mail (teicharchives@lcfd.org) the Archives or call 847-968-3381 for immediate assistance.