

1121-057-GSM-gau (USMARC)
City of Savannah, Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia [GSG (OCLC/LYRASIS)]

Record Series #: 1121-057

Name: V. & J. Duncan Postcard Collection

Dates: circa 1870s-circa 2000s, no date

Extent/Size: 2 records cartons, 1 document case, 5 postcard boxes, 240 digital items (3.5 cubic feet; 8.6 GB)

Language: English

Scope & Content:

The V. & J. Duncan Postcard Collection (circa 1870s-circa 2000s, no date) includes 4,092 physical and digital postcards, photographs, and ephemera depicting Savannah scenes and Savannah-related images. The collection consists primarily of postcards and photographic prints of prominent Chatham County locations and institutions. Major themes in the collection include: Savannah's commercial, residential, and religious architecture; streetscapes and aerial city views; squares and monuments; cemeteries; parks; military installations; scenes from Tybee Island; maritime activity; and images related to prominent Savannah figures such as John Wesley, James Oglethorpe, and Juliette Gordon Low. The collection also contains images of cities and towns along the southeast Atlantic coast from St. Augustine to Charleston, including Jacksonville, Midway, Bluffton, and Beaufort. A small portion of the collection are postcards celebrating holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and other occasions. Postcards that are addressed to recipients in Savannah are included in the collection, regardless of the image on the front of the mailing. The majority of items in the collection date from the first two decades of the twentieth century.

Custodial and Processing History:

The V. & J. Duncan Postcard Collection was accumulated by John Duncan during the course of his life and career running the V. & J. Duncan Antique Maps, Prints, and Books shop, formerly located in Monterey Square. In 2014, Duncan loaned his postcard collection to the Municipal Archives to digitize and utilize as a reference collection, but retained physical custody of the materials. In 2020, he loaned a second selection of new acquisitions for digitization and again retained physical custody of the materials after scanning was complete. John Duncan passed away in 2022. In 2025, Duncan's physical collection of postcards was gifted to the Municipal Archives by his estate. The collection was processed by matching the physical items to the previously gifted digital surrogates and by cataloging new additions not previously included in the collection. Approximately 50 items from the original 2014 accrual and the entirety of the 2020 accrual were not present in the final gift and have been marked as "Digital Only" in the access files. Items that do not fit in with the scope of the collection (i.e. related to locations or subjects outside of the Southeast Atlantic Coast and excessive duplicate copies) have been deaccessioned.

System of Arrangement & Ordering:

The physical items are arranged numerically by their assigned item numbers and by the phase in which they were received.

Items from the 2014 donation are arranged by item number, regardless of subject category. All items from this accession are digitized. Digital reference copies of the items from the 2014 donation are organized into subject files. The subject files are available online (<https://www.savannahga.gov/4161/1121-057-V-J-Duncan-Postcard-Collection->). Printouts of the access binders are available in boxes 1121-057-007 and 1121-057-0008.

Items from the 2020 donation are available in digital format only. They are numbered in the order that they were received. Access copies of these items have been integrated into the subject reference files with the 2014 accession.

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Items from the 2025 donation are arranged by item number and by subject matter and format. These items are not included in the subject matter access files and are partially digitized. See inventory below for a list of subject headings included in each box for the 2025 accession materials.

Conditions Governing Access:

None. Some items, marked “Digital Only” in the Subject Reference Files, were never physically transferred to the Municipal Archives.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

Please read carefully the statement on copyright below. ***Permission to reproduce does not constitute permission to publish.*** Researchers who plan publication are asked to discuss this with the archivist first for written permission. While most of the Archives collections are public records and in the public domain, not all are, and the Archives may not be the owner of copyright for all its archival materials. Researchers are responsible for obtaining any necessary permission to publish from the holder of copyright. In the event that the Archives becomes a source for publication, a copy of the publication is requested for the Archives.

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This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would involve a violation of copyright law.

Digital Access:

Postcards in the V. & J. Duncan Postcard collection are completely digitized. Ephemeral materials housed in Box 1121-057-006 are partially digitized. A select sampling of the digital images can be accessed through the [Online Digital Image Catalog](#). Access copies of the digitized materials arranged by subject are available on the Municipal Archives website here: <https://www.savannahga.gov/4161/1121-057-V-J-Duncan-Postcard-Collection->

Preferred Citation:

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Processed by: L. Morris and T. Clinton-Selin, July 2014. 2025 gift processed by K. Zacovic, 2025.

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V. & J. Duncan Postcard Collection Subject Categories

Aerial Views

Businesses and Nonprofits

Cemeteries

Cities and Towns (Georgia, other than Savannah)

Assorted

Isle of Hope

Thunderbolt

Cities and Towns (Georgia, other than Savannah)

Tybee Island

Wilmington Island

Wormsloe

Cities and Towns (outside of Georgia)

Beaufort, SC

Brunswick, GA

Charleston, SC

Ireland

Jacksonville, FL

Jekyll Island

Midway, GA

St. Augustine, FL

St. Simons Island

Waycross Georgia (Okefenofee Swamp)

Cotton Trade and Transport

Holidays and Greetings

New Year's

Valentine's Day

St. Patrick's Day

Easter

Memorial Day / Fourth of July

Mother's Day / Father's Day

Thanksgiving

Christmas / Winter

Birthday

General Greetings

Military

Assorted

Fort Jackson

Fort Pulaski

Fort Screven

Fort Stewart

Hunter Army Airfield (Savannah Municipal Airport/Savannah Air Base)

Monuments *see* Squares

Musicians

Nature, Plants, Agricultural Scenes

Neighborhoods (Ardsley Park and Chatham Crescent)

Parades

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Parks

- Assorted
- Forsyth Park

People

- Assorted (identified and unidentified)
- Lady Chablis
- Juliette Gordon Low
- James Oglethorpe
- Casimir Pulaski
- John Wesley
- The Waving Girl
- Woodrow Wilson

Public Buildings

- Armories and Artilleries
- Banks
- Churches and Religious Architecture
 - Assorted
 - Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
 - Christ Episcopal Church
 - Independent Presbyterian Church

Public Buildings

City Hall

- Clubs and Fraternal Organizations
- Cotton Exchange
- County Courthouse (Wright Square)
- County Farm
- County Jail
- Custom House
- Federal Courthouse (Wright Square)
- Hospitals

Public Buildings

Hotels

- Assorted
- DeSoto Hotel
- Hotel Savannah
- Savannah-Oglethorpe Hotel

Public Buildings

- Libraries (Bull Street and Hodgson Hall/Georgia Historical Society)
- Memorial Hall (Confederate Memorial Hall)
- Municipal Auditorium
- Schools—Colleges and Universities
- Schools—Primary and Secondary
- Telfair Academy
- Union Station
- Waterworks
- YMCA

Residences

- Andrew Low House
- Assorted
- Group Homes

- Record Series 1121-057, V. & J. Duncan Postcard Collection, circa 1870s-circa 2000s, no date**
- Davenport House
 - Green-Meldrim House
 - The Hermitage
 - Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace *see* People – Juliette Gordon Low
 - The Pink House
- River Images
- Boats
 - Savannah River and Shipping
 - Talmadge Bridge
- Squares (and associated monuments)
- Assorted
 - Chippewa Square and Oglethorpe Monument
 - Johnson Square and Greene Monument
 - Madison Square and Jasper Monument
 - Monterey Square and Pulaski Monument
 - Wright Square and Gordon Monument
- Streets
- Assorted
 - Bay Street (Including Factor's Walk, the Strand)
 - Bay Street Viaduct
 - Broughton
 - Bull
 - Gaston
 - Gwinnett
 - Liberty
 - Oglethorpe
 - 37th
 - Victory (Estill)
 - Washington
 - Waters
 - White Bluff
- Transportation (trains, automobiles, horse-drawn vehicles)
- “Savannah” Postcards (multiple Savannah photos/generic images)
- Postcard Folders (sets of Savannah images)

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Inventory

2014 Donation – Items 1 thru 2079 are in numerical order according to the object numbers assigned during 2014 processing. 2014 donation item numbers do not correspond to subject categories. Reference files organized by subject category can be found online here: <https://www.savannahga.gov/4161/1121-057-V-J-Duncan-Postcard-Collection-> All 2014 donation materials are digitized and digital files are available by request.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1121-057-0001	Postcards; Items 0001 through 0850
1121-057-0002	Postcards; Items 0851 through 1749* [*see Box 1121-057-006 for oversized items: 906, 907, 949, 1038, 1078, 1140 thru 1153, 1256, 1302, 1371, 1624, 1714]
1121-057-0003	Postcards; Items 1750 through 2079

2025 Donation – Items 2080 thru 3855 are in numerical order and are sorted by subject category or format. Items from the 2025 donation are digitized. Reference files organized by subject category can be found online here: <https://www.savannahga.gov/4161/1121-057-V-J-Duncan-Postcard-Collection->

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1121-057-0003	Postcards; Items 2080 through 2660 <i>Subjects:</i> Banks Bay Street / Factors Walk / River Street Broughton Street Bull Street Cemeteries Chippewa Square Churches Civic Buildings Daffin Park DeSoto Hotel Forsyth Park Government Buildings Green-Meldrim House Grimble Point Hotels, assorted Jasper Monument Johnson Square – Green Monument Nature, General Oglethorpe Street Pulaski Monument Residences, assorted Schools and Libraries Victory Drive Wright Square – Gordon Monument

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1121-057-0004 Postcards; Items 2661 through 3287*
[* see Box 1121-057-0006 for oversized items: 2955 through 2971,
3077 thru 3107]

Subjects:

“Savannah” Postcards
Aerial Views
Ardsley Park / Chatham Crescent / 37th Street
Isle of Hope
Liberty Street
Military – Savannah-area
Savannah – other
Savannah postcard folders
Savannah River / Bridges / Ports / Cotton shipping
Ships
Streets, assorted
The Hermitage
Thunderbolt
Tybee Island
Waving Girl
Wilmington Island
Wormsloe
Regional – Georgia – assorted
St. Simon’s Island
South Carolina – Beaufort
South Carolina – Charleston
Florida – Jacksonville
Florida – St. Augustine
Ireland

1121-057-0005 Postcards; Items 3288 through 3757

Subjects:

Addressed to Savannah [postcard front images are non-local, but cards
were posted to Savannah addresses]
Savannah, assorted
Military, assorted (non-local)
Holidays – New Year’s
Holidays – Valentine’s Day
Holidays – St. Patrick’s Day
Holidays – Easter
Holidays – Memorial Day / Fourth of July
Holidays – Mother’s Day / Father’s Day
Holidays – Thanksgiving
Holidays – Christmas / Winter
Holidays – Birthday
General Greetings

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- 1121-057-0006 Oversized and Non-Postcard materials
- Folder 1: Card catalog cards for Savannah-related collections in other repositories (photocopies), no date [unnumbered]
- Folder 2: Correspondence, general and mailing envelopes, 1893, 1942-1950, no date [Items 3778 thru3783, and 3842]
- Folder 3: Ephemera and Souvenirs [1 of 2], 1922, no date [Items 3831 thru3835]
- Gardner Map and Guide of Savannah (cover only), no date
 - Invitation card to a vocal recital at Lawton Memorial, June 26, 1922
 - Eli Whitney “Famous Americans” envelope with small portraits of Eli Whitney inside, no date
 - “Look’n’See” card with portrait of Abraham Lincoln, no date
 - Budweiser Clydesdales panorama card, no date
- Folder 4: Ephemera and Souvenirs [2 of 2], 1893-1961 [Items 3836 thru3842]
- Concert program at Hotel Ponce de Leon, St. Augustine, FL, February 6, 1893
 - Virginia Dare cocktail guide, no date
 - Dance Card with small pencil, 1896
 - Bowling Average Record Card for Marge Windham, 1960-1961
 - Niagara Falls barrel souvenir keychain, 1945
 - *Think on These Things* booklet, no date
- Folder 5: Greeting Cards, assorted holidays, no date [Items 3772 thru3777]
- Folder 6: Leather-printed postcards, 1906-1907, no date [Items 3761 thru3771]
- Folder 7: Letterhead, various and First Day of Issue envelope 1971, no date [Items 3784 thru3787]
- Folder 8: Oversized postcards from Box 1121-057-0002 [Items 906, 907, 949, 1038, 1078, 1140 thru 1153, 1256, 1302, 1371, 1624, 1714]
- Folder 9: Oversized postcards from Box 1121-057-0004 [Items 2955 thru 2971, 3077 thru 3107]
- Folder 10: Photographs, People, 1922-1948, no date [Items 3808 thru 3812]
- Folder 11: Photographs, St. Patrick’s Day, 1972 [Items 3796 thru3807]
- Folder 12: Photographs, various scenes, no date [Items 3821 thru3824]
- Train in motion
 - Church, unidentified
 - Aquatic dam, unidentified
 - Cat
- Folder 13: Photo postcards, People, no date [Items 3825 thru3830]

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1121-057-0006 (Con't)

- Folder 14: Receipts (possibly tax-related) related to T.P. Bond and someone with the surname Waltour, 1890-1892 [Items 3843 thru3845]
- Folder 15: Stereograph cards [1 of 2], 1870-1890 [Items 3788 thru3791]
- Bonaventure Cemetery scenes
- Folder 16: Stereograph cards [2 of 2], 1886-1890 [Items 3792 thru3795]
- Bonaventure Cemetery scenes
 - Pullman Dining Car "Victoria"
- Folder 17: Stereograph cards (black and white photocopies), 1893-1895 [Items 3846-3855]
- Dock scenes
 - DeSoto Hotel interiors
 - Aerial views of Savannah
 - Bonaventure scenes
 - Pulaski monument

2020 Donation: Items 3856 thru 4091 are arranged in numerical order and are available in digital format only. Access copies of these images have been integrated into the digital subject reference binders and are marked "Digital Only."

Digital Files [housed in E-Archives] Postcards; Items 3856 thru4091

Subject Reference Files: Printouts from the 2014 accession images were arranged into physical subject matter binders. The binders have been dismantled, scanned, and made available online.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1121-057-0007	Reference files: A thru Residences
1121-057-0008	Reference files: River Scenes thru Wormsloe