

Postcard Collections



With over one million postcards, the Department of Archives and Special Collections holds one of the largest publicly accessible postcard collections in the United States. LMU's postcard collections are comprised of thematic cards and view cards from all over the world. A selection of postcards has been digitized and made available online in the LMU Digital Collections: [The Changing Face of Southern California: A History in Postcards](#) and [Werner von Boltenstern Postcard Collection](#).

Inquiries and appointments to use the holdings are made with the Department of Archives and Special Collections: Special.Collections@lmu.edu | 310-338-5710.

Werner von Boltenstern Postcard Collection:

The Werner von Boltenstern Postcard Collection is the core of our postcard collections. Werner von Boltenstern was born in Berlin, Germany in 1904. He immigrated to the United States in 1947 and settled in Los Angeles where he pursued a career as a free-lance photographer. His profession apparently sparked his interest in postcards and postcard collecting. Von Boltenstern amassed an enormous personal collection, which he donated to Loyola University in 1967. He continued to add to this collection until his death in 1978. Since then, LMU's postcard holdings have continued to grow through donations.

Generally, postcards are organized into two categories: view cards and thematic cards.

View cards are arranged alphabetically by geographic locations. Nearly every country is represented. Dates of publication range from the early 20th century to the present.

Thematic cards are arranged by topics, such as advertising cards, ethnographic cards, greeting cards, and political cards. Cards made of various materials, such as leather, wood, copper, and embroidery, are represented in the postcard collections. There are also a large number of early postal cards known as government-issue cards from the late 19th century.

Postcard Collections List

The following list of postcard collections are open for research:

- 001 PIK-NIK. Media Nationwide Advertising Postcard Collection
- 012 Eliza R. Barchus Postcard Collection
- 017 Needles Postcard Scrapbook 018 Postcard Albums
- 042 Werner von Boltenstern Postcard Collection
- 053 Emma Wilhelmi Postcard Collection
- 055 Postcard Views of Europe, 1917-1919
- 058 World War I Postcard and Photograph Collection
- 059 Stumpf Family Postcard Album
- 060 Jack Logan Scrapbook Collection
- 068 Philip Schmansky World War I Collection
- 070 Dr. Mary Neighbour Parent Japanese Architectural Postcard Collection