

The Hugh C. Leighton Company, Portland, Maine



Postcard Publisher History

Hugh C. Leighton Company

Former Name:
A.P. Leighton Company (Before 1906)

Original Owner:
Leighton - Adam Philips Leighton (1851-1922)
Leighton - Hugh Chisholm Leighton (1878-1943)

Known for: View Cards - particularly New England views.

Major publisher of view-cards, particularly New England views. They printed in four distinct styles most often employing tinted halftones.

"Picture postcards helped spread information about [Maine's] beauty and points of interest, and it was a Portland man who first brought such postcards to the United States."

Adam Philips Leighton went to work at Chisholm Brothers, a book store on Congress Street in Portland, Maine on November 19, 1867 for \$5 a week. In 1868 he was sent to the Grand Trunk railway station to take charge of the newsboys at the Chisholm railroad office. The Chisholms began to enlarge their book and news business on the railroad until they held a monopoly in the business on several railroad lines. Adam's son, Hugh Chisholm Leighton later managed the company and began printing postcards in the United States instead of farming them out to printers in Europe.

The Chisholm company had long specialized in view books illustrated first with lithographs and then with black-and-white photographs. Familiar with pictorial post cards used in Europe, Leighton purchased sheets of one-cent postals from the government and had single-colored pictures put on the side not reserved for an address. The first were in 1888. He later had others printed in Germany. They bore the Chisholm company name. Adam eventually began to publish postcards under his own name and built the new enterprise into a substantial business.

Leighton - Adam Philips Leighton (1851-1922)
Leighton - Hugh Chisholm Leighton (1878-1943)

See: Chisholm Brothers.pdf

In 1907, postcards were allowed to have divided backs, with half to be used for a message. They merged with Valentine & Sons in 1909.

The 1898 act [of Congress, which limited postcard stock to that provided by the government] led to the issuing of more pictorial cards by a wider number of companies, and many were published in the United States, both in color and in black (or sepia) and white. American printers, including the

PDF: https://swhpl.digitalarchive.us/files/original/13251/The_Hugh_C._Leighton_Company_Portland_Maine.pdf

Identifier: 13251

Title: The Hugh C. Leighton Company, Portland, Maine

Type: Reference

Subject: Businesses, Service Business

Description: The Hugh C. Leighton Company was a major publisher of view-cards, particularly New England views. They printed in four distinct styles most often employing tinted halftones.

"Picture postcards helped spread information about [Maine's] beauty and points of interest, and it was a Portland man who first brought such postcards to the United States."

Place: Portland ME

State: ME

Country: USA

Rights: In Copyright - Non-Commercial Use Permitted