

Members items

Cabinet cards & Paris panels

During the 1880s, the cabinet card became the most popular way to mount and display photographs, replacing the smaller carte-de-visite. Utilising the same process as the carte-de-visite—a thin photographic print mounted on a card—the major difference was the size. Whereas the carte-de-visite comprised a 2.125" x 3.5" (54 mm x 89 mm) photograph on a 2.5" x 4" (64 mm x 100 mm) mount, the larger cabinet photograph measured 4" x 5.5" (108 mm x 165 mm) on a 4.25" x 6.5" (111 mm x 170 mm) mount. Larger still was the Paris panel, first used by Talma in 1894. Approximately double the size of a cabinet, the Paris panel mount measured 7.2" x 10" (185 mm x 254 mm).

The postcard craze

Just as the cabinet photograph displaced the carte-de-visite in the 1880s, the 5.5" x 3.5" (140 mm x 89 mm) postcard had virtually replaced the cabinet card by the early 1910s.

Unlike its predecessors, the postcard seamlessly combined the pictorial image and the postcard backing. In Britain, offset printing techniques were employed prior to 1903, but after this date the introduction of rotary presses enabled the mass production of 'real' photographs, the most famous exponent being London's Rotary Photographic Co. Ltd. In the early days before the perfection of colour printing, black and white images were often hand coloured to enhance their appeal—and the use of other novelty elements such as glitter and embossing was also common.

Talma was one of the first photographic businesses in Australia to embrace the pictorial postcard. In 1894 the British postal service gave permission for privately printed postcards to be sent through the post using an adhesive stamp, with postal services in Australia following suit the next year. However, it wasn't until the nationalisation of the postal system in Australia after 1901 and the introduction of two deliveries a day, that the craze for postcards really took off, replacing envelopes and notepaper as the preferred means of correspondence. Postcard sending and collecting became a popular hobby. Many people kept standing orders with photographers and bookstores, filling scrapbooks and albums with new cards as they were issued.

October Meeting

Few of the present buildings predate the 16th century when much of it was destroyed by artillery bombardment. The most notable exceptions are St Margaret's Chapel, from the early 12th century which is regarded as the oldest building in Edinburgh. It dates from the reign of King David who built it as a private chapel for the royal family and dedicated to his mother, St Margaret of Scotland. The chapel is still used today for religious ceremonies such as weddings.

The castle is now run and administered mostly by the Historic Environment of

Scotland, although the army remains responsible for some areas. The castle is the most popular paid visitor attraction in Scotland with over 2.1 million visitors in 2018.

It is used as the backdrop to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo during the annual Edinburgh Festival, which has made the castle a recognisable symbol of Edinburgh and Scotland.



October Meeting

The Scottish War Memorial

Stands on the site of the medieval St Marys Church. Proposals for a Scottish National War Memorial were put forward in 1917 during WWI. Construction began in 1923 and the memorial was formerly opened on 14th July 1927, by the then, The Prince of Wales. The memorial commemorates Scottish soldiers and those serving with Scottish regiments who died in the two world wars and in more recent conflicts.



On the altar within the Shrine is a sealed casket containing Rolls of Honour which list over 147,000 names of soldiers killed in the First World War. After the Second World War another 50,000 names were inscribed on Rolls of Honour around the Hall.



The One O' Clock Gun

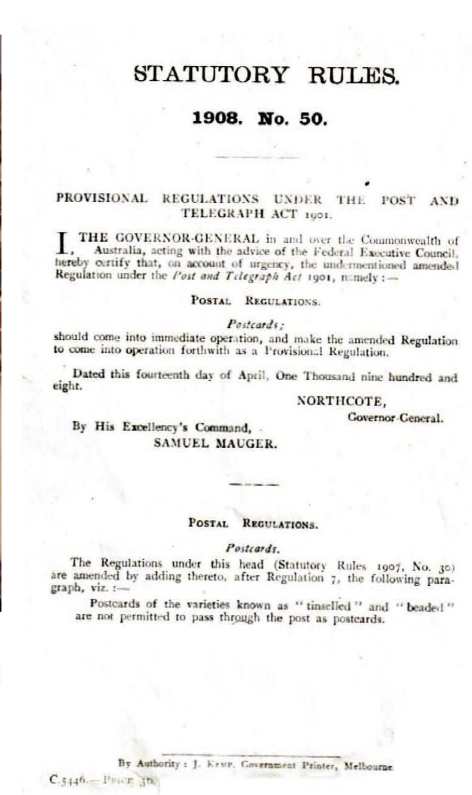
Is a time signal fired everyday at precisely 1pm, except for Christmas Day, Good Friday and Sundays. The Time Gun was established in 1861 as a time signal for ships in the harbour of Leith and the Firth of Forth 3 miles away.

Members interesting items



3 very different old style postcard display stands

Thanks to Neville Solly for these interesting snippets



3 very different old style postcard vending machines



The first Christmas card

We have to travel times for this Christmas story - to Henry Cole (later to Cole) was a very working in the Public London. So busy in have the time to family and friends at Christmas time.



back to Victorian particular 1843 to be exact. become Sir Henry busy man, Records Office in fact, that he didn't write to all his

In 1840, he had an idea: why not ask well known artist John Calcott Horsley to design a card with a message on it, which he could send to people. JC Horsley was living at Orestone Manor between Torquay and Maidencombe at the time, and it was here where he designed that very first card.

The card shows the feeding and clothing of the poor on each side, and in the centre there is a happy family having a drink and enjoying Christmas festivities.

The words printed on the card were 'A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year To You' - so not a lot has changed since!

The card went down so well with Henry and the recipients, that in 1843, some 1,000 of the cards were produced for commercial sale at a shilling each - making it the first recorded mass production Christmas card. However, not everyone approved. Puritans objected to the picture showing people raising a glass to Christmas. But their objections were swept aside and the rest, as they say, is history!

It's believed that the very first Christmas card was probably made in Germany centuries earlier than this, but the card designed in Torquay is the one which really marked the birth of the commercial Christmas card.

Later, Henry Cole helped to organise the Great Exhibition in 1851 and was a founder member of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London the following year. He was knighted for this work. And JC Horsley also enjoyed a successful life. He contributed drawings to Punch, and was rector at the Royal Academy, where he campaigned against the use of naked models. It's thought that a dozen of Horsley's original cards still exist and you can see one of them in the National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum. *(From an article written 2004)*

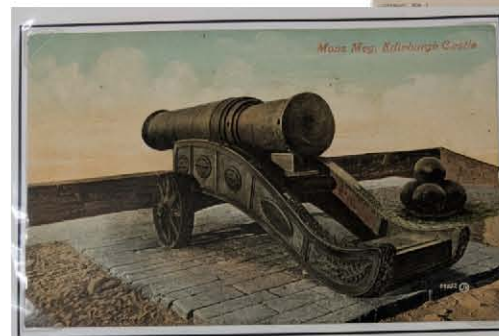
The One O' Clock Gun

The original gun was an 18 pound muzzle loading cannon which needed four men to load and was fired from the Half Moon Battery. This was replaced in 1913 by a 32 pound breech loader and in May 1962 by a 25 pound Howitzer. The present One O' Clock gun is a much lighter gun brought into service in 2001.

Mons Meg

The 15th Century siege gun or bombard known as Mons Meg is displayed on a terrace in front of the chapel. It was constructed in Flanders in 1449 and was given as a gift to King James II. The 13,000 pound rests on a reconstructed carriage. Some of the large gun stones, weighing around 300 pounds each are displayed along side.

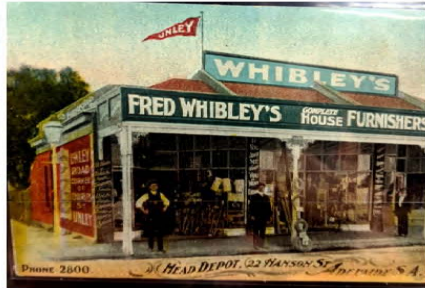
The gun has been defunct since its barrel burst while firing a salute to the Duke of Albany in 1681. The gun rests on a reconstructed carriage.



The same but not the same

From David Figg

The sets of postcards, the scenes are supposedly the same. Can you spot the small differences



Trains, Trams and Street Scenes from Adelaide and Surrounds

From David Figg

