

POSTCARD FACTS

1840 The first postcard was hand painted by Theodore Hook in England—a caricature of Post Office employees.

1861 The first commercially produced card was created by John P. Carlton in Philadelphia.

1870 The first picture postcard was created by Leon Besnardeau in France.

1 How many cents the first postcard cost in the United States.

1898 The year publishers were authorized by the U. S. Government to use the term "postcard."

677m. How many postcards were handled by the Post Office in 1908 at the height of "The Golden Age." (At a time when the population was only 89 million).

1m. How many postcards were mailed in one week in Coney Island in 1907.

1906 The year Eastman Kodak introduced the "Folding Black Camera" which not only had a postcard sized negative but included a metal tool to write directly on the image.

9000 The number of postcards amassed by photographer Walker Evans—or "folk documents" as he liked to refer to them.

2 Number of the Fluxus Movement's anti-stances that somewhat guided "Wish You Were Where"—that the art is small and the text is short.

Ex-laws, re-released wings, and sealing wax—number of Dadaist anti-stances from which Fluxus had stolen all of its ideas.

13 Day in January 1995 that Ray Johnson—most infamous of all Mail Artists--was found floating in a small cove in Sag Harbor, NY. Also, the number his age (67), hotel room (247), and the time of his demise (7:15) all add up to (N. Y. Correspondence School, which was how he signed the registry, uses exactly half, or 13 letters of the alphabet) as does the date of the Wish You Were Where celebration—5/7/10.

PROJECT FACTS

191	Number of postcards handed in at celebration.
67	Number of poets who contributed pieces.
132	Artists who did.
59	Number of those outside of New England.
22	Number of states from which postcards were sent and/or received.
3	Countries other than U.S. (Canada, France, and Sweden).
285	Number of viewers present that night.
300	Amount raised from basket raffle.
211	Final postcard count.
160	Number of them auctioned off (21 additionally sold at Hoot).
2,792	Amount raised from auction.
10,000	Resounding thanks and shout-outs to the Board—Bill, David, Lesley, Mary, Melanie, Michael, Nancy, Paula, Sue, and Tammi, who took a half-decent idea and reasoned and saw it, even rigged up and strong-armed it, over long hours and months, into something multi-faceted and first-class, almost flawlessly aced, the nearly 200 participants who not only lent their talents and fellowship, but fearlessly surrendered their little masterworks to the ill-omened maw of those mailboxes--especially Cleone, Jason, and John, who talked it up from the start, in ways artful and fast-acted-upon, Elissa, for her glorious logo, Mike, for his classiest of emceeing and to-the-nines innovations, our events-hosts, The Portsmouth Discover Center and the Sheraton, and Anne.

AUCTION INTRO

Being that it was first nothing more a cheap alternative to the two cent letter (half the price) for all those fanatically paced correspondents of the Victorian period, all terribly tea'd up and soon-to-be-outdated, it's ironic that the postcard became this iconic form of stationary for the Modernist Age and Coney Islanders of the Mind everywhere—verse-terse and fleet, about as taken with reflection as Teflon. It's not about function. Think of how little is actually communicated. It's ludicrous. Nothing but these motel transmissions and streamed weather-casts, lists of sightings, meted-out activities—all one-sided and inane. So maybe it's its status as quickie-mart artifact—this postmodern trope of isolation, displacement. Or more so it's much less owned-up-to role or purpose as riposte, tactless, slam—this sub-tropic swipe at those winter-imprisoned. Some bold-lettered mockery against its arctic-white backdrop. Or is it an attempt while away—a la Wallace Stevens, to fill-in what lies between one life and the other, reconcile the mind and reality—to fly back with some word, text our whereabouts (this "idea of order"), restore or discover new meaning? Anyway, we'll have to get back to you.