

EDWARDIAN MINING IN OLD POSTCARDS

John Hannavy

The Edwardian era was the heyday of the picture postcard with hundreds of millions of cards being mailed each year. The postcard was the text message of its day, and with such a huge market, the range of subjects featured on postcards was enormous. Coal mining was the subject of hundreds of different cards. Just about every colliery in Britain appeared on a postcard, and mining activities both above and below ground were featured. Many of the cards were beautifully tinted, introducing the working life of the collier and his family to an ever-wider audience. Locally produced cards commemorated major and minor events in and around colliery villages – including parades, celebrations, and the mining disasters which cost hundreds of Edwardian lives. Many of the images in this richly illustrated book have never been published before, bringing the life of the Edwardian miner to a new audience.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

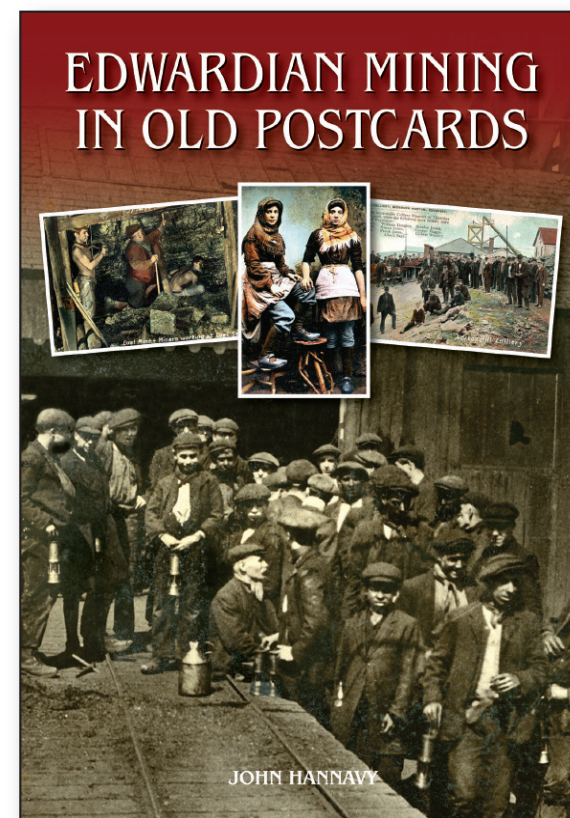
John Hannavy is a writer, photographer and photographic historian. Until retirement he was Professor in Photography and Photographic History at the University of Bolton. This is his 40th book.

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Above: Dinner time in a coalmine, a postcard using a photograph taken by J.A. Snape of Bridgtown, Cannock. Not postally used, and believed to be c.1910.



Right: A 'Peacock Series' postcard from c.1907, titled 'Miners Descending Pit near Redruth'. Redruth was the centre of the tin and copper mining industry, with several mines in the immediate vicinity. The location of this card is probably East Pool Mine, the subject of an extensive series of coloured postcards.



Above: One of the best known tinted postcards of Wigan pit brow lasses, this view was photographed at the Junction Colliery, Abram, and was available in sepia or tinted as here. Published by Will Smith, it was printed in Germany. Below: This unusual postcard produced as part of the 'Peverill Series' shows a trainload of miners on their way home from Shipley Colliery c.1907. Was some local hierarchy at work here which dictated who travelled in the carriages and who had to settle for the open coal trucks?



Example of a double-page spread.