

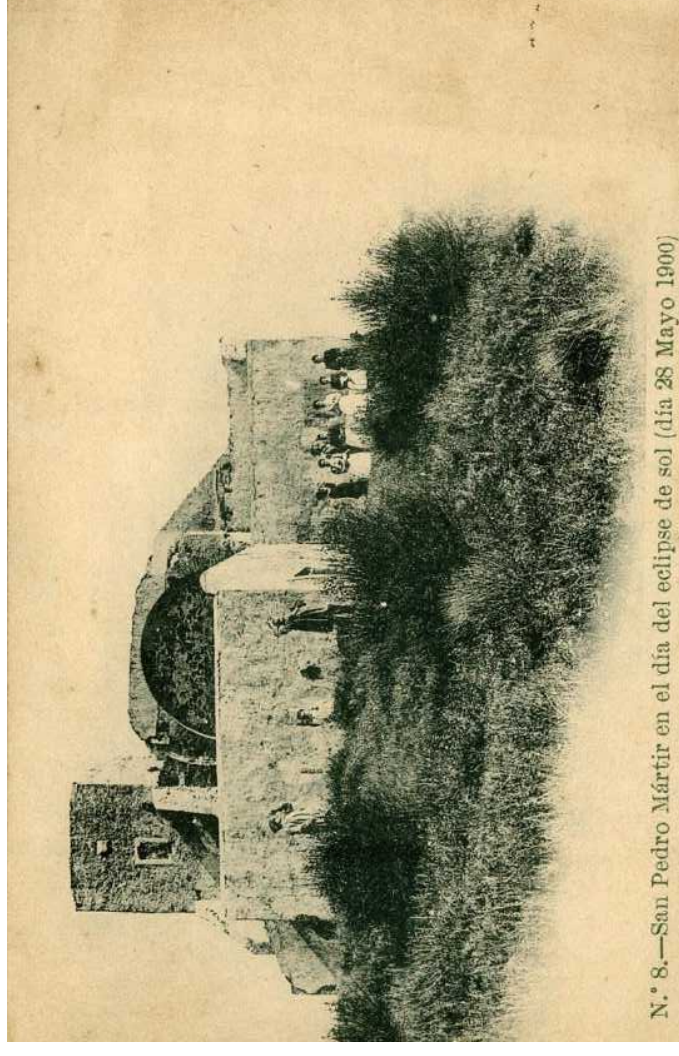
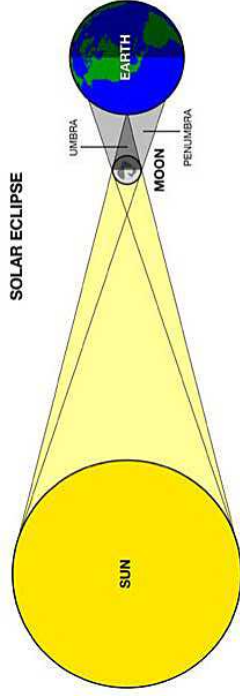
The Solar Eclipses of 1905 and 1912

This single-frame exhibit of picture postcards lets the viewer experience the solar eclipses of 30 Aug 1905 and 17 Apr 1912. It explores images of the eclipsed sun, the people who viewed it, viewing techniques, eclipse celebrations, and advertisements that took advantage of eclipse popularity.

Postcards along the eclipse path include United States, England, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy, and Algeria. Details of the eclipse extent and viewing times are provided for each location.

Why 1905 and 1912? Although there were other eclipses around that time period, most were not prominent in postcard producing countries. For the years 1901 to 1920, exhibitor has only seen three postcards for an eclipse other than 1905 or 1912. Those two years provide a variety of postcards not equaled until 1999. That said, postcards associated with any eclipse are relatively scarce. Of the 55 million postcards for sale on Delcampe.net, less than 150 are associated with any solar eclipse.

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon comes between the Sun and Earth. It happens 2 to 5 times a year, usually a partial (the Penumbra on the diagram). A total eclipse occurs about every 18 months, only covering a narrow swath of land (the Umbra). A given location experiences a total eclipse about once every 400 years.



Precursor.

Barcelona, Spain, 28 May 1900

Earliest known eclipse postcard. One of two prior to 1905.

People observing the eclipse from ruins of the hermitage of St. Peter the Martyr.

Barcelona experienced a 91% eclipse of the sun at 3:56 p.m.

#8 of an unidentified postcard series. Distinctive "N.º" prefix. Collotype print.



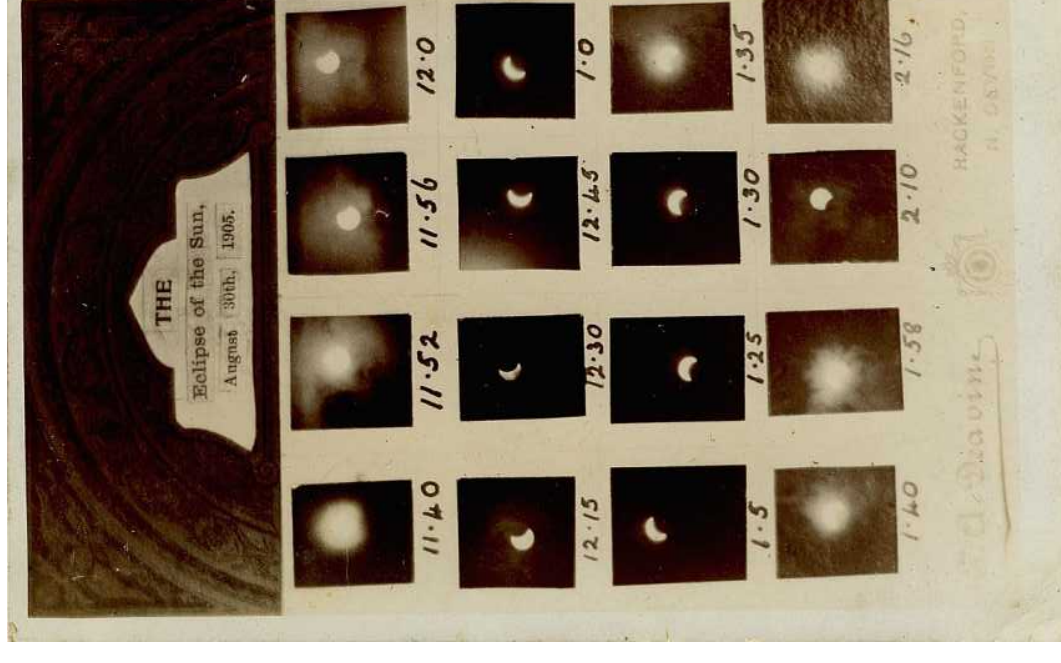
Malvern, England, 1905

The moon is obscuring the lower right portion of the sun.

Malvern experienced a 79% partial eclipse at 12:59 p.m., 30 Aug 1905.

Only one seen by exhibitor.

Photographed by E. Smith, North Malvern, England. Real photo postcard locally produced. Text scratched on photo negative, resulting in white letters. Divided back for including a message, but "For Inland Postage ONLY".



Rackenford, England, 1905

This sequence of photos shows the progression of the eclipse from 11:40 a.m. to 2:16 p.m., in Rackenford, England. A maximum coverage of 83% occurred at 12:59 p.m. **Only one seen by exhibitor.**

Locally produced consisting of individual photos mounted on a poster and then photographed. Real photo postcard. Ernest A. Deavin was an amateur photographer and the schoolmaster in Rackenford.

Exhibit Plan

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| A. 1905 Eclipse | |
| 1. Viewing the Eclipse | Pg 2-3 |
| 2. Related Items | Pg 4 |
| B. 1912 Eclipse | |
| 1. Viewing the Eclipse | Pg 5-6 |
| 2. Observation Methods | Pg 7 |
| 3. Related Items | Pg 8 |

In the "Viewing the Eclipse" sections, postcards are organized by country along the direction of the eclipse path.

Statements like "Earliest known" or

"Only one seen" are based on the exhibitor's extensive research. Other copies may actually exist.

Since so many postcards are essential and/or scarce, there is no special indicator for Key Items, except to identify cards where the exhibitor has seen only one. There are 12 of those.

Exhibit Synopsis

The Solar Eclipses of 1905 and 1912

Background. The 1905 and 1912 solar eclipses occurred during the “Golden Age of Postcards” and took place primarily in postcard producing European countries. As such, these two events were well-covered by picture postcards. Although several other eclipses occurred during this period, the exhibitor has seen no more than one postcard for any of those additional events.

Treatment. This exhibit tells the story of the 1905 and 1912 eclipses by displaying postcards of the eclipsed sun, people who viewed it, viewing techniques, eclipse celebrations, and ads that took advantage of eclipse popularity. It follows the Plan described on the Title Page, providing a balanced, flowing story-line.

Detailed information about the eclipse is provided for each postcard location. Specific deltiological info is included, although it is often sparse for locally produced postcards.

The exhibit includes postcards from eight countries. Although all are paper products (i.e., no known wood, leather, or metal postcards), there are specialty postcards such as trade cards, stereograph cards, composite images, colored postcards, plus a variety of printing techniques.

Importance. Solar eclipses were, and still are, extremely popular! A June 1906 Popular Science Monthly stated, “More interest was shown in the 1905 eclipse than ever before.” For the 1912 eclipse, Popular Astronomy reported that it evoked an interest probably unsurpassed in the history of annular eclipses. Recently, the 2017 eclipse was observed by an estimated 216 million Americans.

Picture postcards were an ideal means of capturing the awe and excitement of the eclipse and sharing the experience with others. In addition, this is the only postcard exhibit that focuses on an eclipse.

Knowledge and Research. Original research consisted of learning about the solar eclipses and discovering postcard deltiological information.

Select References:

1. Specific Eclipse Information, www.eclipsewise.com/solar/SEprime/1901-2000/SE1905Aug30Tprime.html and www.eclipsewise.com/solar/SEprime/1901-2000/SE1912Apr17Hprime.html
2. Eclipse Interactive Maps, <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/map/1905-august-30> and www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/map/1912-april-17
3. List of Postcard Publishers, vintagepostcards-archive.com/verlage-a.html
4. Types of Picture Postcard, www.sussexpostcards.info/index.php?page=3

For the eclipse story line, references 1&2 were invaluable. Each postcard location was examined as to the times and extent of the eclipse. Research was also done on viewing techniques (blackened glass, water buckets/pools, telescopes, etc.). Determining the date and location of a postcard photo often required extensive research, such as determining where in Spain (or Mexico!) the depicted "San Pedro Mártir" church existed.

Ref 3&4 are examples of the many web sites used to obtain deltiological knowledge, but most details were obtained by extensive detective sleuthing. For example, determining that the Ellis in the Sidmouth, England, postcard was not the well-known London photographer Alfred Ellis, but instead a local cinema owner. Much information was obtained by comparing an eclipse postcard to other cards of the same location, year, or publisher.

Rarity. Rarity of these postcards is only discoverable by availability. Availability was determined by an exhaustive search of many U.S. and foreign postcard web sites (including foreign eBays), plus postcard dealers and shows. Inventories of nearly 100 million postcards were searched.

The exhibitor has only seen one copy of many of this exhibit's postcards, especially the ones locally produced by the photographer. At most, six copies of a postcard were found, regardless of condition.

Condition. The condition is remarkably good given the postcards are more than 110 years old, and many are postally used. Exhibitor upgrades whenever possible, but few copies exist. Some key items, like the only known African postcard are included even though the condition is fair. Others, like the only known Austrian postcard aren't included due to its poor condition.

Presentation. Exhibit uses double-sized pages to provide flexibility and a visually pleasing layout. An 11pt font is used to tell the story, while a 10pt italic font provides deltiological information.