

The firm of Emil Pinkau & Co (Leipzig, Saxony) was probably the biggest German PPC manufacturer. This makes this firm worth studying as their story practically follows the story of PPCs in general.

I have previously given details of the *Capital Letter* and *“Dot and Dash”* codes that Pinkau used (see TPA #16). Even if the code details are ignored the mere presence of these codes in-

PINKAU

IN NORTH AMERICA

George Webber
with special thanks to Maggie Toms

dicate a Pinkau production. This major firm had a liking for secrecy and at the very least it is very useful to be able to pick out and identify their printings.

I have gathered quite a lot of material on Emil Pinkau & Co. in North America and I hope to publish it in this and future TPAs in separate parts. Part 1 follows.

Pinkau: Part One

The “201/202/203” Code

Even if you are bored by coding details, they are very useful for identifying Pinkau as the printer. This year a new Pinkau coding has come to light which as far as we know is confined to North America.

In early 1907, for a short time, Pinkau used a six figure number code. All coding known so far start with either 201 or 202 or 203. As said, this is very useful for singling out Pinkau printings. Oddly enough this immediately solves a printer puzzle problem posed by Helmfried back in TPA 9!

Maggie Toms of Canada has been by far the prime mover in discovering this “201/202/203” code and I have collaborated with her in trying to sort out the details. We got some helpful photo copies and sightings from *John McCuaig* and *Robert C. Smith* and Maggie found a New York example and many more of Canada and also some that had been previously pictured in the back issues of TPA 9 and 10. Helmfried has joined the hunt and he found an instantly recognisable Pinkau printing for St. Louis, with the 201 coding.

I give details of what has been found. The tables are not complete as sometimes only photocopies or reported sightings were available.

It is clear from the date clustering in the tables that these cards were issued in 1907, probably related to the change from U/B (undivided back) to D/B (divided back) in the USA. The repeat of 201175 in U/B and D/B (D/B permitted from March 1st 1907 in USA) is particularly relevant here. Maybe Pinkau was anticipating a big upsurge in USA cards and thought that individual card numbering might help in their factory?

It is very likely that these numbers were just regular production numbers and are not “secret” codes in the sense of the *Capital Letter Code* and the *Dot & Dash Codes*. It may be possible to link up these figure numbers with the 4 figure *Capital Letter Plate* code, if we assumed that Pinkau & Co. was printing 100 cards to a plate?

This is the start of an investigation and the following ideas/questions occur to me

1. Is there any example of these “201/202/203” codes outside North America?

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CANADA “201”, “202” & “203” Details of Cards Seen (all H/T Colour & U/B)

“201” Canadian Cards			
Number	Place	P/U Date	Notes
201241	Montreal	10. Sept 1907	3 rd Earliest P/U
201244	Can. Pac. Railway	Dec 1908	
201254	Niagara Falls		H/Tone Col
201271	Toronto	Sept 1909	
201283	Toronto	20 Nov 1907	H/T Col
201285	Toronto	17 Mar 1909	
201317	Toronto		
201331	Winnipeg (Can.Pac.Rly.)	24 June 1907	Earliest P/U
201342	Alberta	No date	
201344	W. Canada	No date	
201345	Alberta	No date	
201351	Canada	1912	
201352	Canada	Late p/u, 1926	
201356	Canada	Late p/u, 1916	
201359	Alberta	No date	
201361	Can.Pac.Railway	Feb 1908	
201632	St. Anne de Beaupre		H/Tone Col
201633	St. Anne de Beaupre		H/Tone Col
201651	Canada		
201652	Quebec		H/Tone Col
201653	Quebec	27 Aug 1907	2 nd Earliest P/U
201783	Winnipeg	19 Nov 1907	
201790	Winnipeg	22 Nov 1907	

“202” Canadian Cards

202278	Montreal	1909	
202561	Montreal	No date	
202565	Montreal	1912	Late P/U

“203” Canadian Cards

203011	Quebec		
203012	Quebec	1912	Late P/U

“201” Codes for USA Cards (all cards H/T Colour)

Note: D/B permitted March 1st 1907 in USA (but Dec. 18th 1903 in Canada)				
Number	Place	P/U Date	U/B or D/B	Notes
201168	New York		U/B	Pre 1908
201175	New York	25 May 1908	U/B	2 versions
201175 repeat	New York		D/B	2 versions
201713	St. Louis	3 Dec 1909	D/B	H/Tone Col

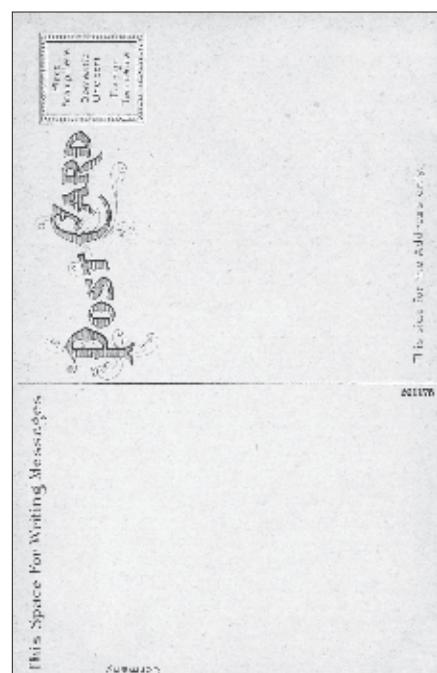
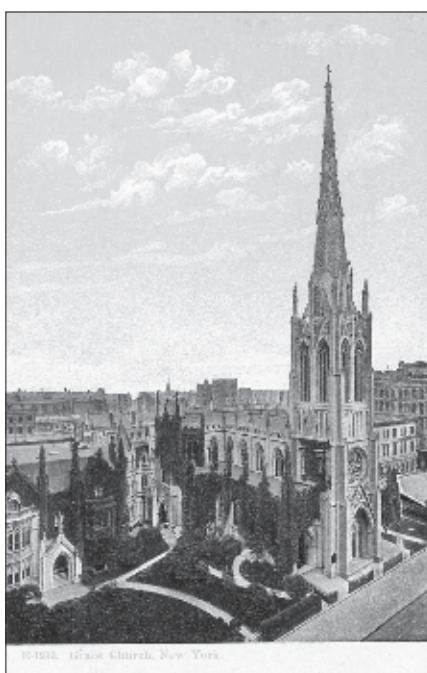
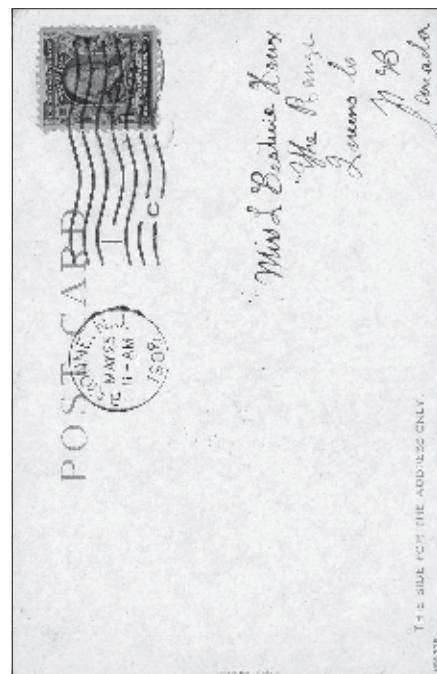
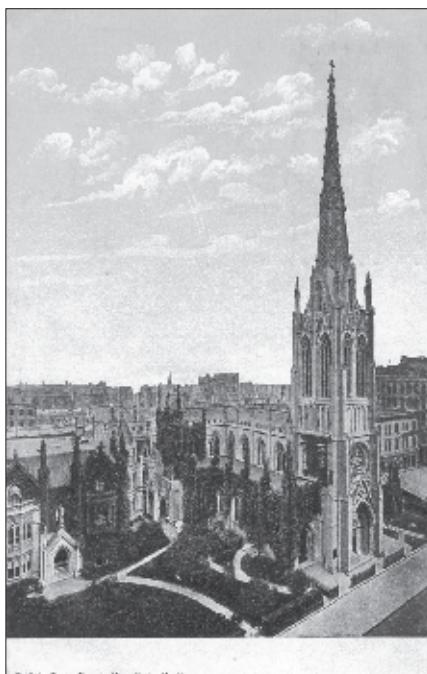
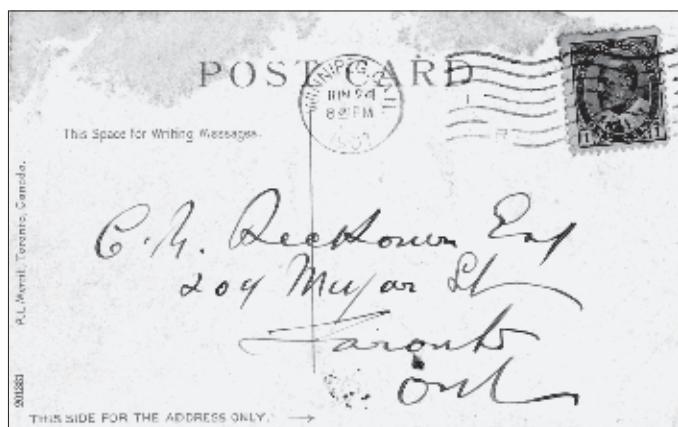
2. We have one example of this code following the vertical dividing line, are there any others or was this a one off specimen?
3. Can we link up these 1907 six figure codes with the start of the 4 letter Capital Letter Plate code?
4. Does the code extend outside 201/202/203 to 200 or 204?
5. I find it strange that a firm that was so very secretive should "break cover" and print actual production numbers.

As said I think our main use for this identification, could be the compilation of a listing of Pinkau styles in the USA and Canada. This will be done next time when more cards are available. If you find any of these cards, photocopies of front and back would be greatly appreciated. This particularly applies if you can extend the above number range or have an earlier P/U date than June 1907.

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➔ This pair of cards both numbered 201175 (Grace Church, New York) were discovered by Helmfried and are very important for dating this printing. Divided backs were permitted in the USA from March 1st 1907. One version of 201175 is the standard issue undivided back and the other looks like a trial design for the divided back version by Pinkau. I have not seen any other cards with this particular D/B design and assume that it was a Pinkau trial that was not followed up.

➔ This Canadian card (City of Winnipeg from City Hall) is P/U June 24 1907 and is the earliest date known for this "202/202/203" numbering. The number is at lower left but is printed vertically and not the usual horizontal. The printing and caption style is typically Pinkau. The faint red lettering for the front caption is typically Pinkau. In our limited search a number of CPR (Canadian Pacific Railway) cards have come to light and they must have been ordered in bulk.



➔ "203"s are scarce and confined to lower numbers for the last 3 numbers. Possibly there was no "204"s? This card (Quebec, Garrison Club) is an instantly recognisable Pinkau printing in colour half tone and the caption lettering is typical Pinkau.

