



Carl Spitzweg  
Der Klapperstorch  
1885 oil painting, Germany

### Purpose

Explore the myth surrounding the delivery of newborns by stork through post cards.

### Scope

Share the story with picture postcards from the early 20th century.

### Plan

1. Where Babies Come From
2. Personalities of Storks
3. Caring for Babies
4. Delivery Methods
5. Hope to Joy
6. Worldwide Myth
7. Welcome Arrival?
8. Overjoyed / Epilogue



# Special Delivery!



Hans Christian Andersen wrote a fairy tale called "The Storks," where storks deliver babies to couples. The mother stork tells her children, "I know the pond in which all the little children lie, waiting till the storks come to take them to their parents."



Item of special interest



In Greek mythology Hera, wife of Zeus, transformed his lover into a stork. The love affair between Zeus and Gerana resulted in a baby, which she saved by flying away with it swinging from her beak.





# 1. Where Babies Come From



1907 card addressed to French Gulch, CA named for French miners who founded the gold rush town in 1849. Undivided back.



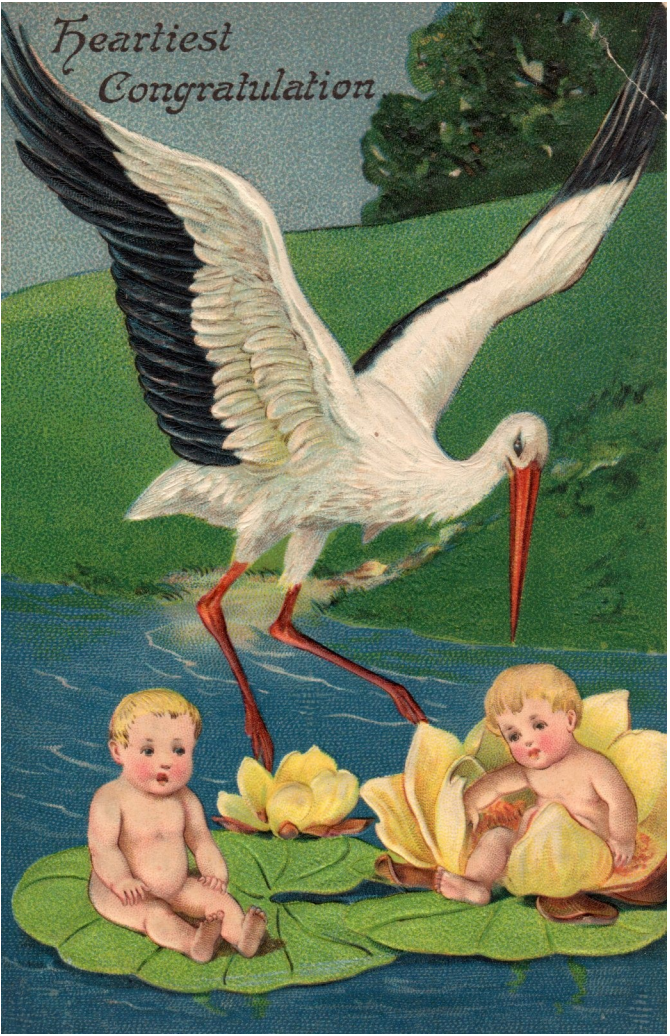
Printed in Germany and embossed. Addressed to Ontario side of Niagara Falls.



**United Art Publishing (1901-1918)**  
New York, NY

Publisher of tinted halftone and hand colored collotype postcards printed in Germany and the US. In 1915 and 1916 they published under the branding Stampkraft storybooks for children with poster stamps used as illustrations. The firm was purchased by Barse & Hopkins in 1919.

*Babies are born (or hatched) in marshlands. Here storks take babies to expecting parents around the world. Apparently babies can swim, play musical instruments, and sunbathe on lily pads awaiting their new families.*



**German-American Post Card Mfg. (1906-1918)**  
New York, NY

A publisher of hand colored and tinted halftone cards of the American northeast, especially southern New England.



1. Where Babies Come From

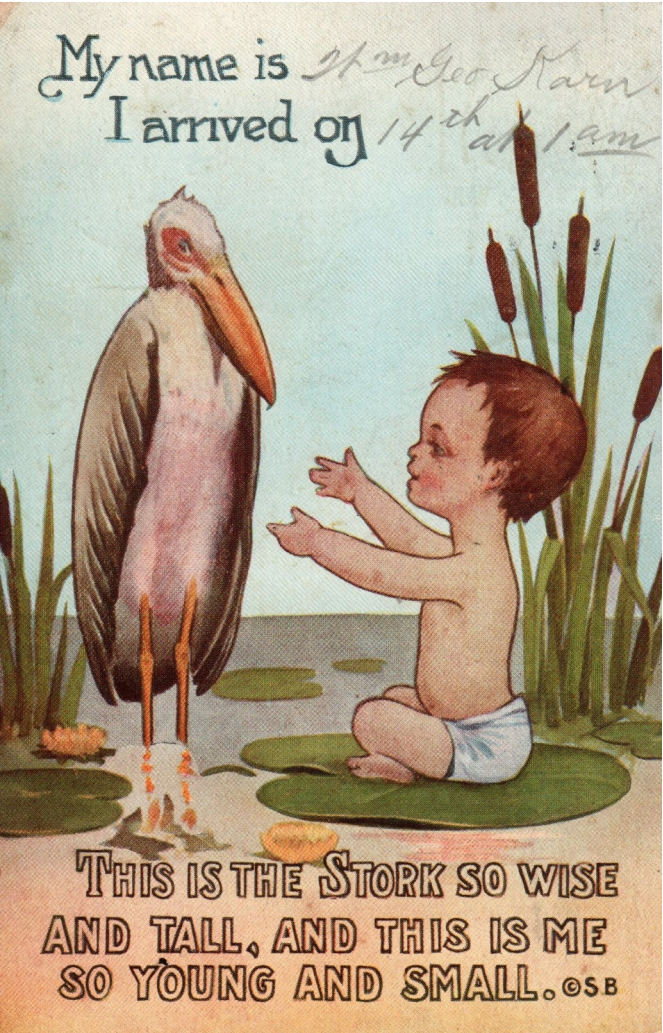


PFB printed in Germany and published by Richard Behrendt in San Francisco. Embossed.

Maguari Stork at left, White Stork below, and Wood Stork at right. All assist in transporting newborns from wetlands and marshes to expectant parents at the appointed time.



Unknown German publisher.



**Samson Brothers (1909-1919)**  
New York, NY

Printer and publisher of artist drawn post-cards that encompassed blacks, romance, greetings, holiday cards and humor. While greeting and holiday cards were printed in Germany, their halftone cards printed in the US included commemoratives for the Hudson-Fulton celebration.



*Who needs a pony when you have a good natured stork?*



Paul Finkenrath from Berlin      Series 9532



# 1. Where Babies Come From



PFB Series 8772  
undivided back.

*As everyone knows, babies are the result of fertilized eggs. What is less well know is that babies actually hatch from shells just like birds. It is unclear to what extent storks were responsible prior to the hatching of babies.*



PFB Series 3672  
undivided back.

# Which Came First—Baby or Egg?



Real photo postcard  
mailed from Denmark  
to California.



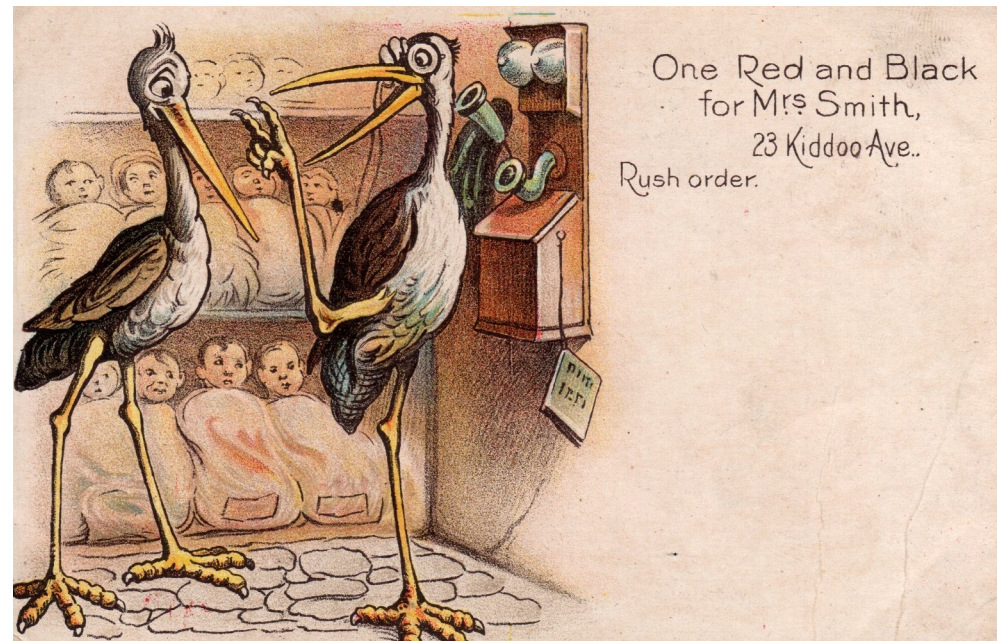
Published RL Wells, 1907

Artist Grace Harlow



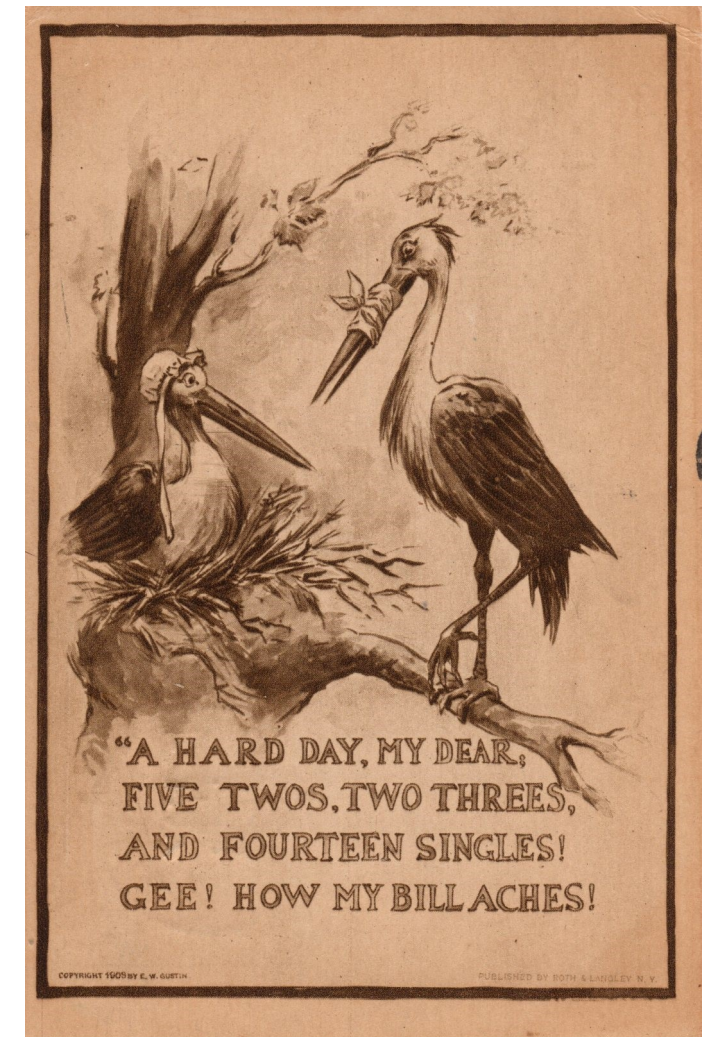
## 2. Personality Traits of Storks

There are four genus of storks—Open Billed, Ibis, Typical, and Giant Storks. Of the 19 species, most babies are delivered by the White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) which is clearly the most conscientious, punctual, nurturing, and serious minded storks. On the other end of the spectrum sits the Asian Open Billed Stork (*Anastomus oscitans*) which is often irreverent, jocular, and snarky.



Raphael Tuck & Sons

Stork Series 2768



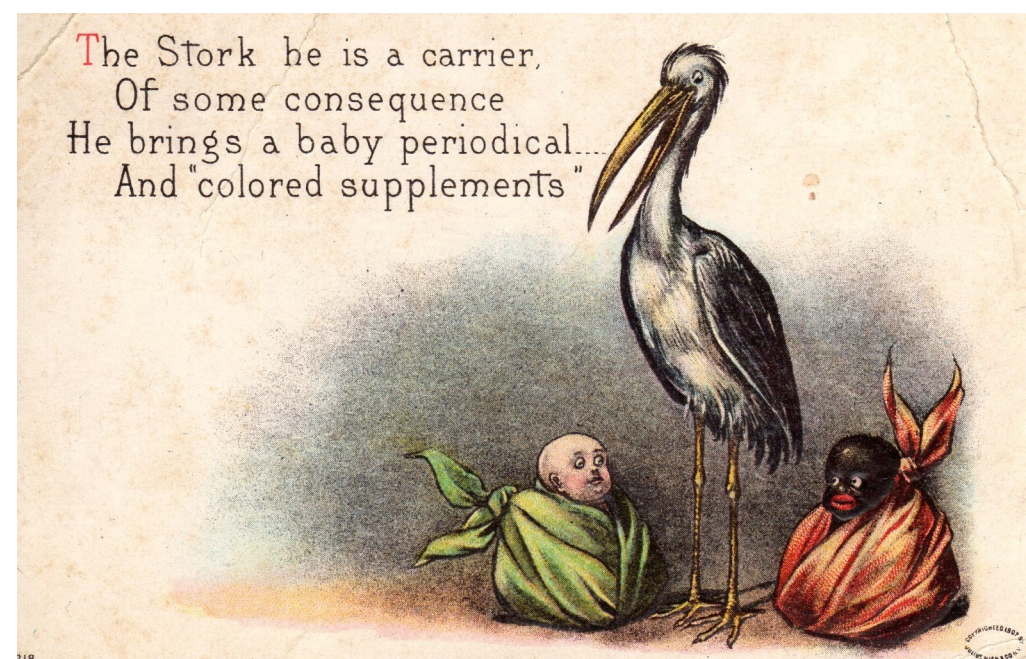
Roth & Langley, NY 1909

### Julius Bien & Co. (1850-1915) New York, NY



John James Audubon's youngest son, John Woodhouse Audubon, had Bien produce a new full-size edition of *The Birds of America*, an edition to be sold via subscription. Bien was a specialist in chromolithography, a specialty he had learned in Germany.

The firm expanded into printing a wide range of chromolithographic material including advertising, posters, and trade cards. This would latter further expand into sets of comic, holiday, patriotic, religious, and sentimental postcards, typified by a highly graphic style.



Embossed Comics Series 1907



Roth & Langley, NY 1910



## 2. Personality Traits of Storks



Series 211

**Taylor, Platt & Co. (1906-1916)**  
1161 Broadway, New York, NY

Published a wide variety of post-card types in series from national views, greetings, and artist signed to cards of Blacks and novelties. Their cards were produced in sepia and tinted halftone.

*There has been speculation where babies, who don't have drivers licenses (or can even walk) get toys, clothes, strollers, umbrellas, top hats or suitcases.*

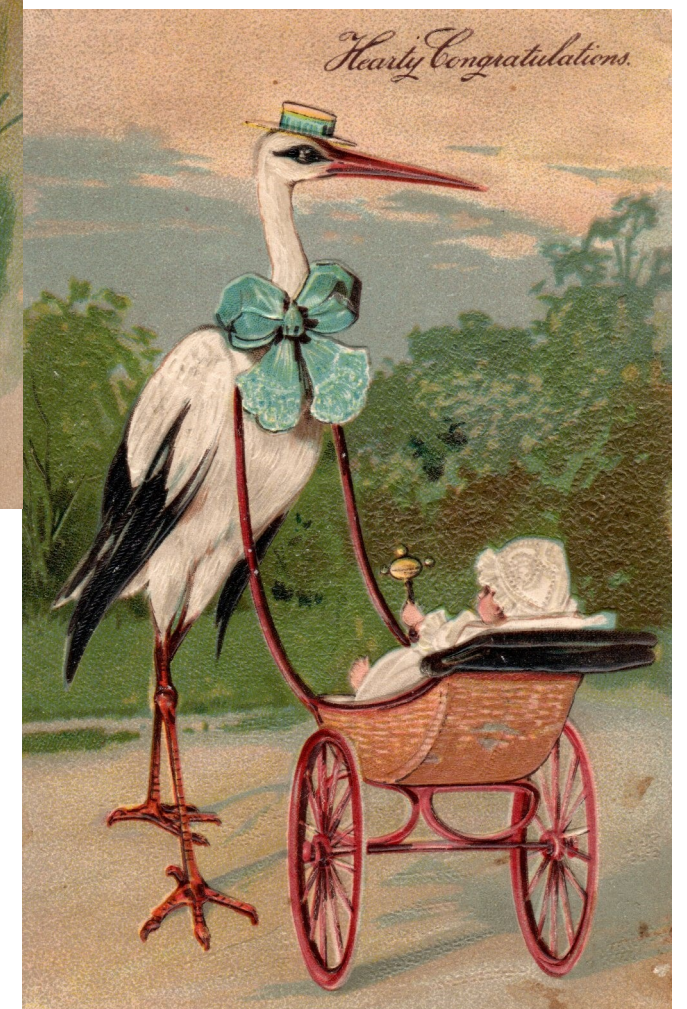
*Clearly, as adults with their own transportation, storks are buying these things and either carrying them back to the marsh or having them delivered (with a Amazon Prime account).*



*A revealing view of storks is found in what hats they choose to wear. A bonnet can reveal a nurturing tendency, a fez (or tarboosh) is indicative of the playful side that enjoys playing "horsey", while a boater (when paired with a fashionable bow) suggests the reserved (but elegant) wading bird that enjoys pushing a pram.*



*Other types include mortarboard (too smart for their own good), top hat (too ostentatious), or beret (too French).*



**Paul Finkenrath, Berlin (PFB) (1901-1911)**

Barmen, Germany



PFB was a typical German export orientated postcard company of the time. Published what customers desired, made good profits and closed the business when tariffs hindered export.

Finkenrath published and printed at least some 5,300 different designs during their 10 years of existence.



3. Cupid and Storks

**Lith-Artist. Anstalt Muenchen (1888-1929)**  
Munich, Germany

Formerly Gebr. Obpacher AG (founded in 1867), this printer as also a publisher. In 1921 it employed 600 workers and operated 46 litho flatbed, 50 hand litho, 5 flatbed and 10 platen letterpress, 2 collotype and some 200 other (mostly bookbinding etc.) machines.



G.O.M. printed the  
Winsch postcards



**John O. Winsch (1910-1915)**  
Stapleton, NY

John O. Winsch was a lithography clerk who co-managed the Art Lithographic Publishing Co from 1907-1915. Between 1910 and 1915 he began copyrighting his own artist signed cards, producing almost 4,000 different designs, many of which were issued in sets. He used European artists and German printers, with some cards printed in Philadelphia. It appears Lith-Artist (GOM) printed the cards.



3. Cupid and Storks

With his intimate knowledge of human desire (see “special hug” in Epilogue), Cupid is able to assist storks in identifying couples about to have babies.



Undivided back. Series 350

**Albrecht & Meister, Berlin (1909-?)**  
Berlin, Germany



Albrecht & Meister took over Aristophot in 1909, continued the Taucha factory for several years.

Bits & pieces of recent information on this German publisher.



Series 697 No 3

Why Cupid feels obligated to feed the baby while balanced atop a rotting tree is unclear. The stork at the base fueling up on insects, frogs, toads, tadpoles, fish, rodents, snakes, lizards, earthworms, mollusks, and crustaceans before delivering twins (see baskets).

Caring for Babies

While awaiting the proper time to deliver a baby, the child might be fed formula by Cupid, storks, or even frogs.



John O. Winsch



4. Delivery Methods

B.K.W.I. Series 765 No 5  
Undivided back.

Actual delivery can take many forms. This can vary from riding the stork, suspended by a ribbon or swaddle, presented in a flower box, or even airship powered by storks encased in a metal silo for some inexplicable reason.



Made in Bohemia. Series 1319



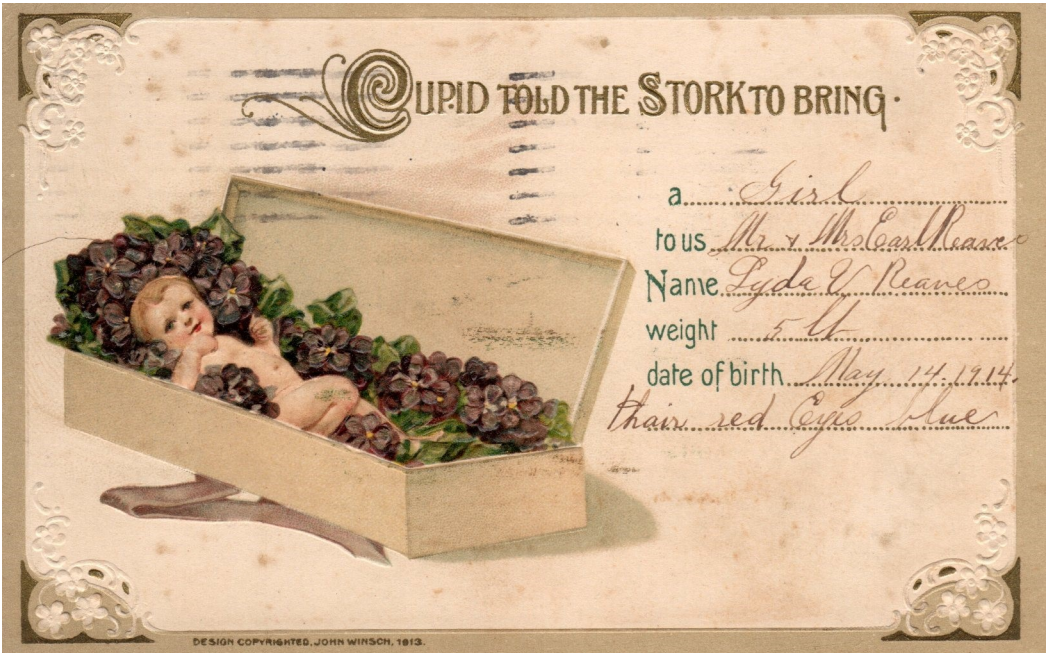
Series 697 No 1



P Sander , NY 1908 Series 255

**Brothers Kohn (B.K.W.I.) (1898-1938)**  
Vienna, Austria

Salomon Kohn together with his brothers Adolf and Alfred, founded the postcard publishing house Kohn Brothers in 1898 in the center of Vienna. They produced art postcards with Viennese motifs, celebrities and caricatures of well-known graphic artists. After the annexation of Austria he was transported to Auschwitz concentration camp where he was murdered.



John O. Winsch



4. Delivery Methods

Hand drawn pen and ink  
on reverse of postal card.



Sometimes a basket case (especially  
with quintuplets), a party hat  
(dunce cap?), or even clutched in  
the bird's beak.

On arrival the newborn is often  
dropped down the chimney (not  
while the fireplace is in use).



Divided back heavily embossed

**Copr E Nash (1908-1910)**

New York, NY

Complex, multicolored cards embossed.  
Printed in Germany with divided backs.  
Shown here are from Series 2.



Undivided back mailed from Norway.



## 5. Hope to Joy



Maguari Storks (*Ciconia maguari*) have longer legs than the more compact White Stork.



*Spanning the gamut from a woman's prayer, birth of the baby, wrapping the bundle of joy, instruction from Cupid on delivery, and a child getting a younger sibling.*



Maguari Storks have longer beaks than the White Stork and weigh an average of 9 lbs compared to the White Stork average of 7 lbs.



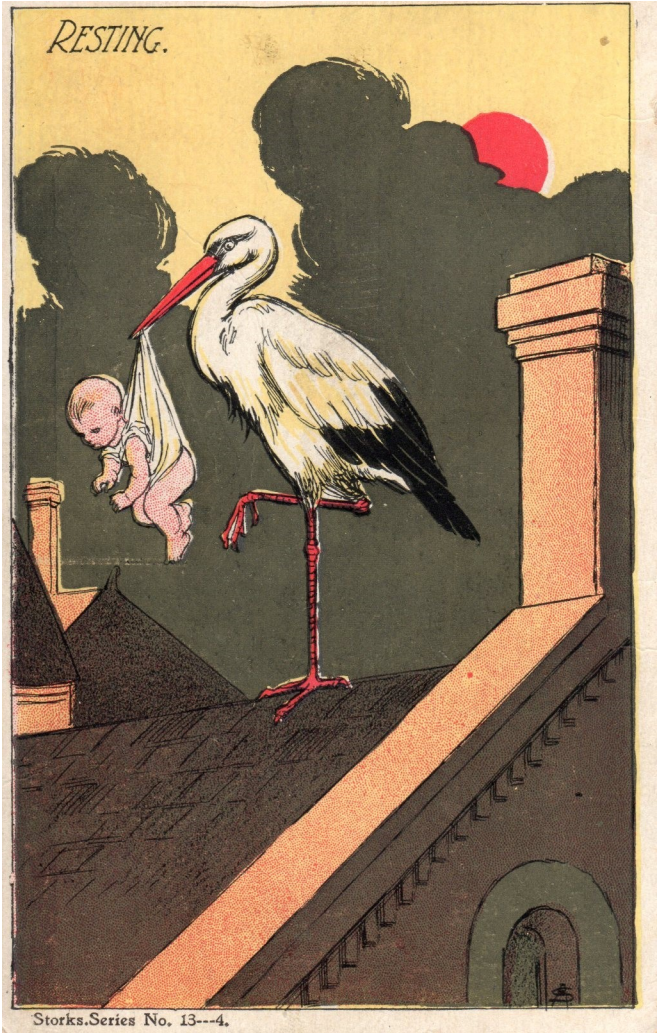
While both a part of the *Ciconia* (Typical) genus, the Maguari is found in South America east of the Andes while the White Stork is found throughout Europe, Africa, and parts of Asia.





5. Hope to Joy

While not a giant stork, Selige preferred to consign newborns to Oriental Storks (*Ciconia boyciana*) as they appear more graceful and have greater lifting capacity.



From Series 13 (Storks) six-card set published by Adolph Selige in 1905. Undivided backs.

**Adolph Selige (1900-1909)**  
Saint Louis, MO

The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* of 17 February 1901 reported St. Louis as the headquarters of the International Souvenir Card Exchange, and Adolf Selige of St. Louis as its secretary. When a local branch of the organization was formed a couple of years later, *The Republic* of 5 January 1903 reported that it had more than 100 members in St Louis and 6,000 worldwide.



## 5. Hope to Joy



### Raphael Tuck & Sons (1870-1959)

London, England and 122 Fifth Ave, New York, NY

In 1883, Queen Victoria granted the firm the Royal Warrant. By the end of 1903 Tuck had in production over 10,000 different cards. In 1899 Adolph Tuck ensured that his company was the first to publish picture postcards at full UPU size of five and half inches by three and a half. The postcard boom had begun.

The first postcards issued in the USA were the Private Mailing Cards. Tuck issued 10 sets of PMC's which covered the major cities including New York, St. Louis and Washington. The PMC's were issued in 1902 and 1903.

The president of the Royal Academy, expressed his opinion of Tuck's influence on art. He said, "The world's art galleries could only reach a few people while Mr. Tuck's postcards went to millions at every level of society".

During WWII Tuck produced 'Special brown paper' with gossamer thin tissue escape maps concealed between the two layers, which, when soaked in water would separate and release the map. This was an escape item sent into Prisoner of War camps in Occupied Europe by MI9, to aid the escape of Allied POWs.

Katherine Gassaway Peirson, an American artist who specialized in saccharine drawings of children.

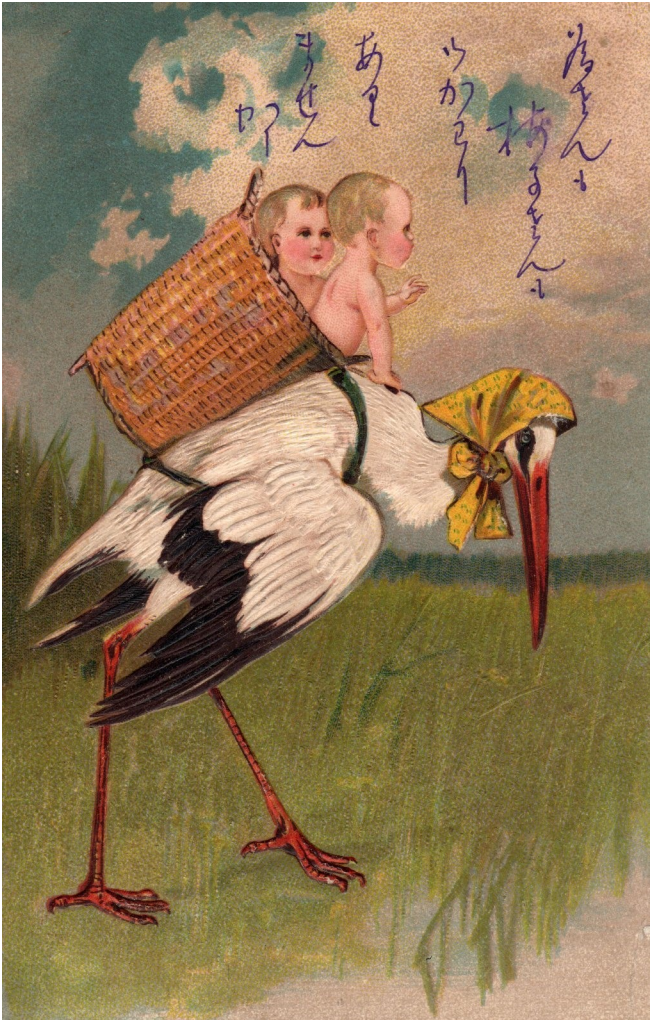




6. Worldwide Myth



Japan Paul Finkenrath , Berlin




Moriz & Barschall, Berlin

Switzerland 

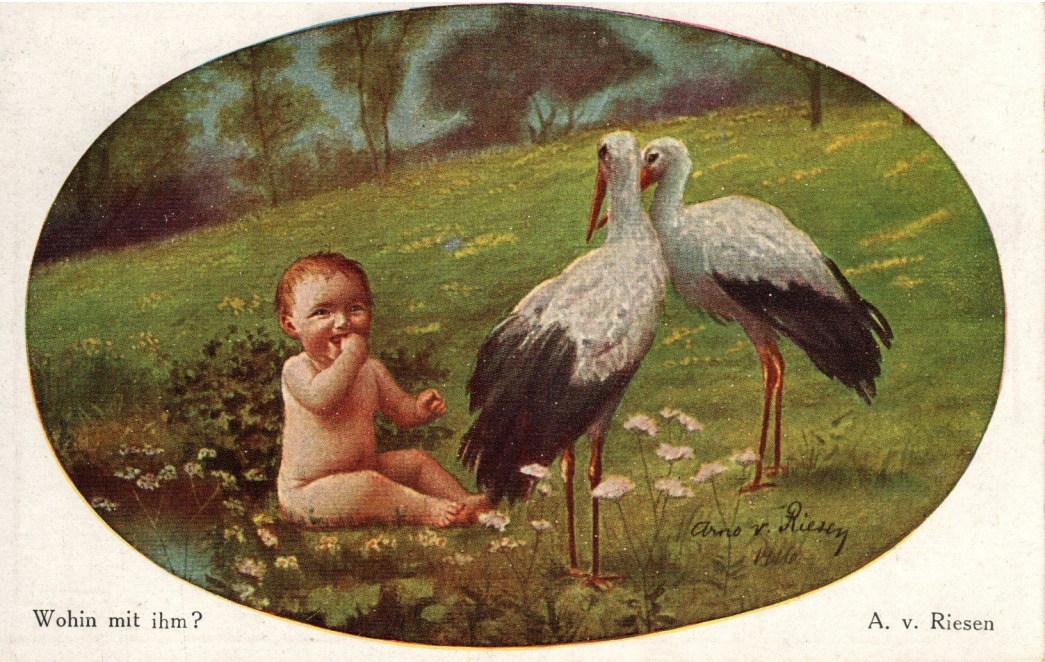


H S Spellman

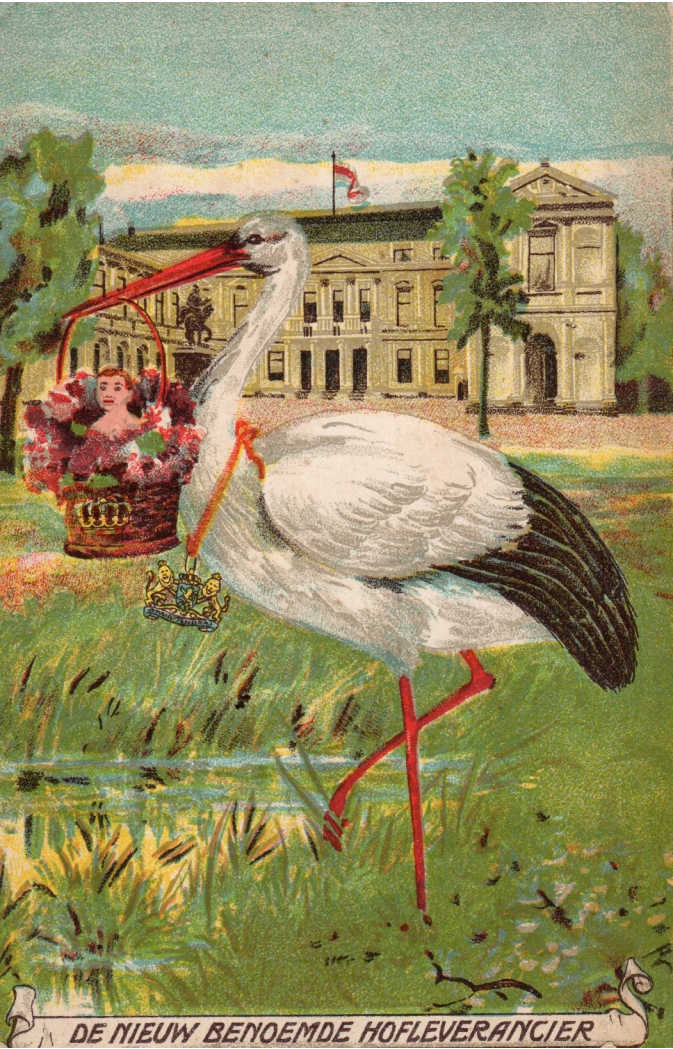
Netherlands 

E. A. Schwerdtfeger & Co. AG, Berlin

Austria 



Sweden

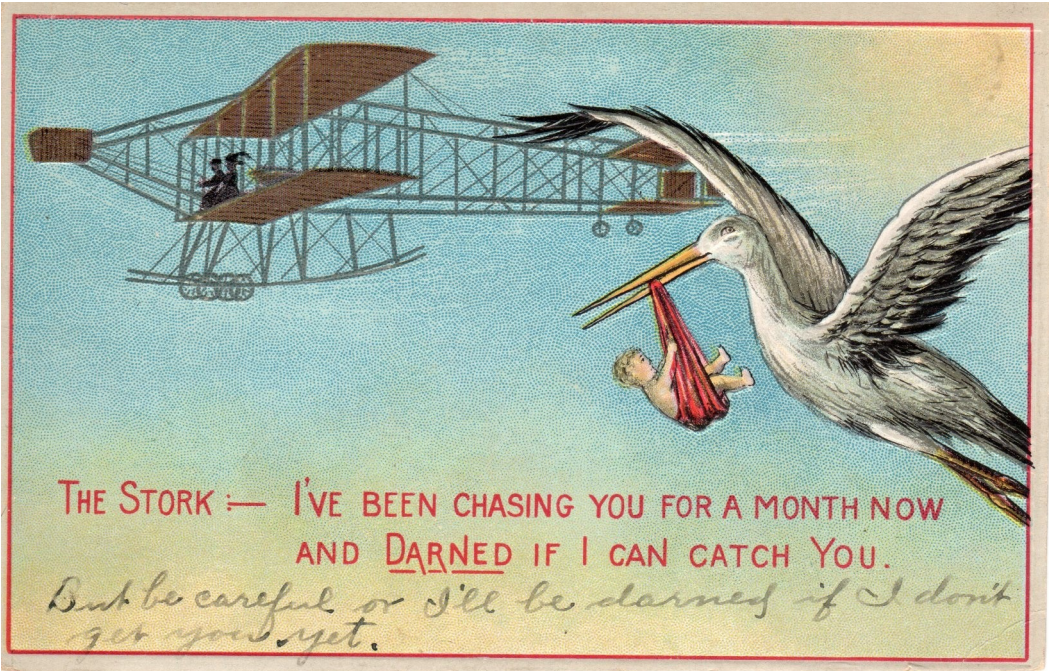


Denmark 

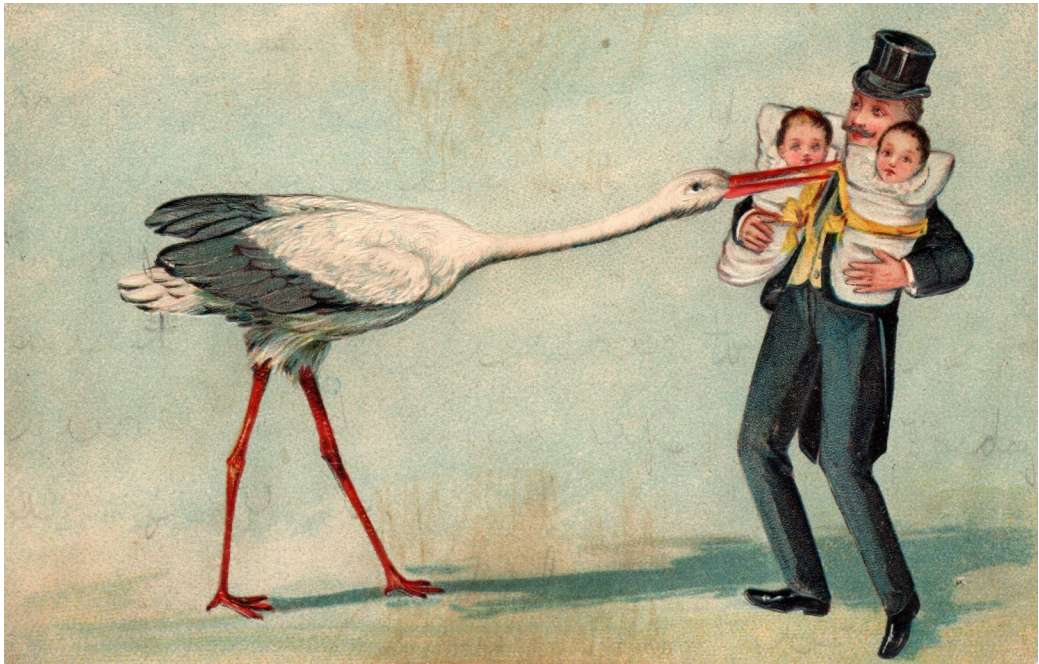




7. Welcome Arrival?



Some couples are not yet ready and are hounded by birds with blessed bundles in their beaks. Often this occurs with newlyweds or families with a handful of “blessings”. Whatever the situation, the stork, like a trusted mailman, is relentless in it’s determination to complete the Special Delivery.



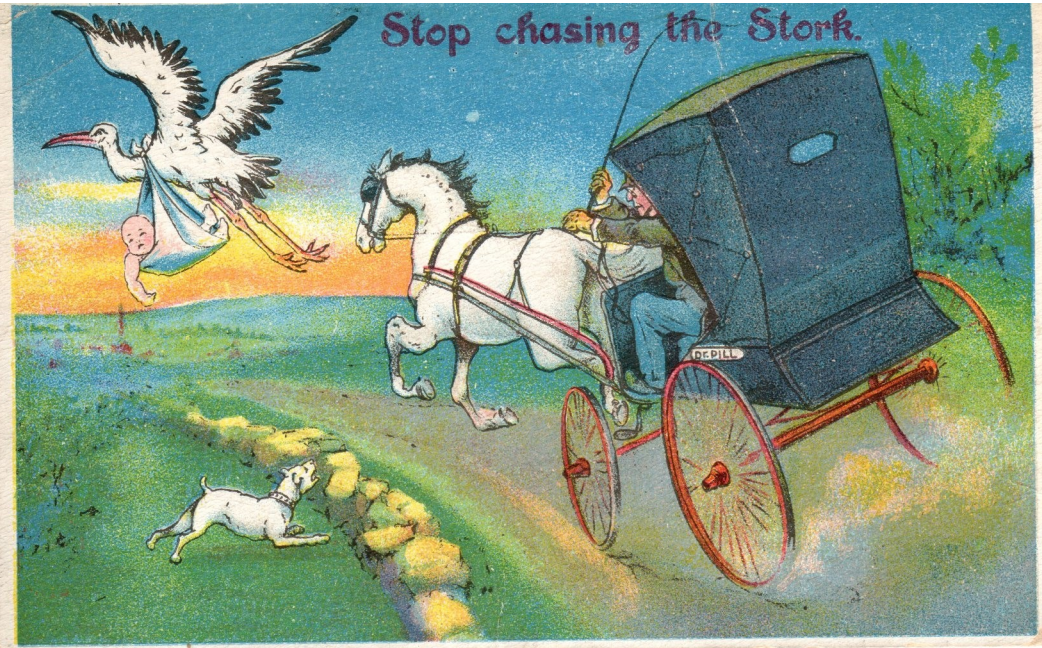
Undivided back. Series 120 No 3

**American News Company (1864-1957)**

New York, NY



The company distributed through network of more than 300 affiliated news agencies and dominated the distribution market in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth century. In addition to distributing postcards, the company published and printed postcards as well as serving as intermediary for smaller publishers. Most were printed in Germany before the First World War and thereafter in America and France.





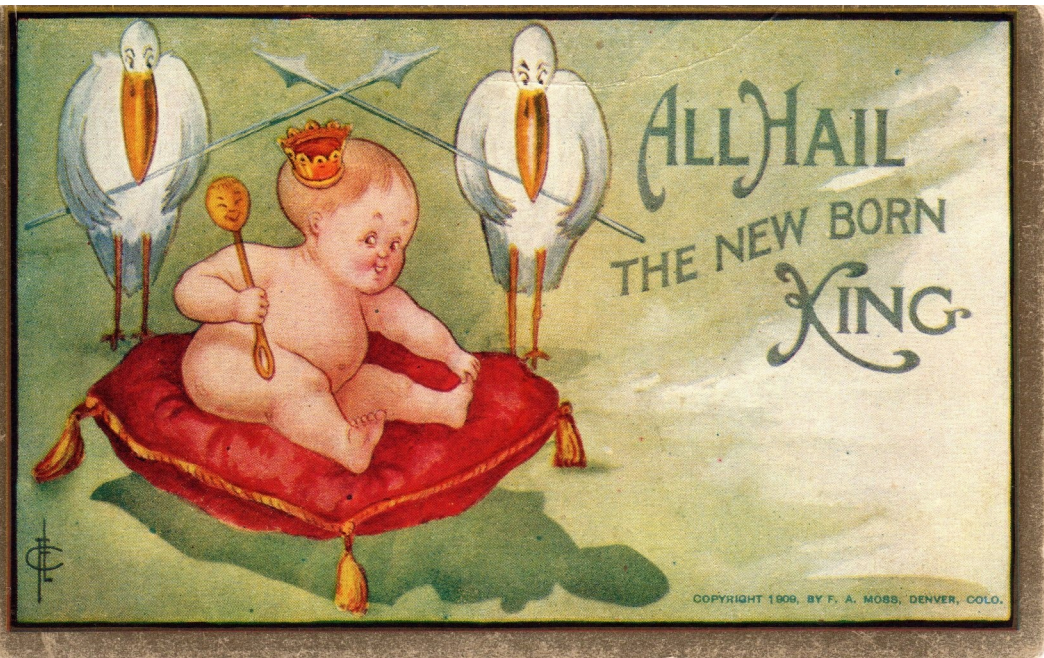
8. Overjoyed / Epilogue



H.A. & N. Co.



Artist signed by L. Peterson



Copyright 1909 F. A. Moss Denver, CO

**H.H. Tammen Co (1901-1915)**  
Denver, CO

Harry Heye Tammen was one of the largest publishers of postcards in Colorado. He acquired imagery from various photographers about the West, alongside botanical specimens, fossil fish, polished agates, relics, taxidermy and Pueblo Indian pottery, all of which were sold through his stores around Denver. Ever the consummate businessman, in 1895 Tammen became the co-owner and co-editor of the Denver Post.

Epilogue

**PG** PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED  
SOME MATERIAL MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN

When a man and woman love each other very much they give each other an extra special hug. Cupid, a friend of couples, instructs storks to sift through marshlands for human babies hatching from eggs and floating on lily pads.

At the appointed time, the stork wings the child to the expectant parents. A baby may be left in a basket on the stoop, arrive at the front door or through an open window, or even dropped down the chimney.

No need to wait for your parents to have “the talk” with you. Now you know where babies come from and how they are delivered.

