

This postcard was sent to three small children by their father, Captain James Nelson Richards, during World War I. In the 14th of the series, Capt. Richards tried to explain to his daughters what was happening in Europe and why he could not be with them. One of the daughters, Margaret, was Linda van Will's mother. The post cards can be viewed at www.mckague.com

A visit to the Antiques Roadshow

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Castleton resident Linda van Will recently attended the *Antiques Roadshow* which was held on October 3 at Casa Loma. She was accompanied by her sis-

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ter, Carla McKague, her daughter Sebastienne Moran, and Sebastienne's mother-in-law Louise Moran.

Among the items they selected take with them for appraisal was a set of vintage First War World postcards. The beautifully coloured and rendered postcards depict the nations involved in World War I as insects (the

beautiful butterfly shown at above is Rumania).

The postcards were sent to Ms. van Will's mother Margaret and her two sisters when they were just children by their father, who was stationed in Europe.

Also brought for appraisal was a pearl and sapphire necklace that the woman in the family had worn on their wedding day for five generations; an old cigar mold; and some silver pieces (a bowl and a napkin ring).

The four women spent close to 10 hours at the show.

"Anyone who was in the line between 1 and 4:30 p.m. was guaranteed to be seen," explains Ms. van Will.

"We were in line by noon and we didn't get inside until after 4 p.m. W e didn't get through the castle until almost six, and then we had to get in a new line up for each of the additional items we had. We were done about 9:45 p.m.

"The lineups were way too long and confused. The castle was a beautiful place to hold it but it was too small for all the people who were

there. Half the tickets were for the morning and half were for the afternoon, but a lot of the morning people weren't seen until the afternoon." Ms. van Will said.

Of the items the women took to be appraised, the pearl and sapphire necklace was the big surprise. Ms. van Will had had it appraised 35 years ago in Toronto for \$600. It is now worth \$5,000.

The collection of 226 postcards were worth about \$4,000, which was about what they had expected.

"It was a good day, I'm glad we went, but I wouldn't do it again." Ms. van Will says of her experience.

This segment of the *Antiques Roadshow*, along with one held in Ottawa on September 30, will be shown in January on *CBC Newsworld*. Neither Ms. van Will nor her companions made it on to TV.

Three years ago, we featured the story and reproductions of the postcards for our Remembrance Day issue.