

# THE MOB MUSEUM

National Museum of Organized Crime & Law Enforcement®

## Analyzing Prohibition Postcards

During Prohibition in the United States (1920-1933), illustrated postcards were created to represent the views of both Prohibition supporters and Prohibition opponents. Postcards, small cards that can be mailed without an envelope, were commonly used to keep in touch with friends and family before telephones and the internet.

Temperance reformers, people who supported Prohibition, used postcards to promote Prohibition. Opponents of Prohibition created humorous postcards that poked fun at the problems with the law.

Examine these Prohibition-era postcards. Think about the perspectives of the people who made and sent them. What can be learned about Prohibition from the images on these cards?



This postcard is from New Hampshire and was produced before Prohibition. It asks readers to repeal the license law. The license law was a state law allowing places to sell and serve alcohol. What argument does this postcard use to support repealing the license law?

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Is this postcard pro- or anti-Prohibition? Why?

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According to this postcard, why might someone travel to Canada during Prohibition?

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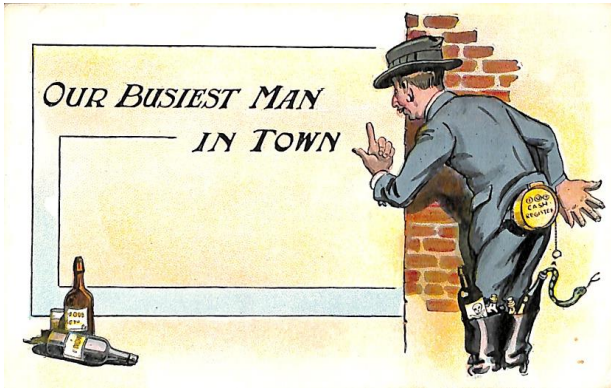
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Is this postcard pro- or anti-Prohibition? Why?

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This postcard shows a bootlegger, a person who sold illegal alcohol. What are the details that indicate he is a bootlegger?

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Why does the postcard call the bootlegger, "Our busiest man in town"?

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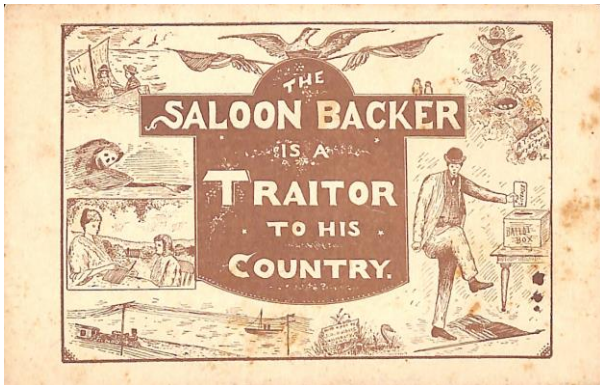
Is this postcard pro- or anti-Prohibition? Why?

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Analyze the statement, "The saloon backer is a traitor to his country." What does this mean?

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What are the illustrations used to support this position?

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Is this postcard pro- or anti-Prohibition? Why?

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