

THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF RECHABITES

Depicted through picture postcards and other related memorabilia, emanating predominantly from England, this exhibit provides a brief history on and the purpose for the Independent Order of Rechabites, a registered friendly benefits society. The Order existed in many countries around the world and still exists today in England under the trading name of Healthy Investment.

Over the last 200 years, many friendly societies have played an important part in providing pension, funeral, medical and sickness benefits for subscribing members to a common fund. They also provided a rich ceremonial life teaching respectable values. In some cases temperance (abstinence from alcoholic liquors) was a required part of membership, with applicants expected to sign a pledge as was the case with the Independent Order of Rechabites.

Founded on 25th August 1835 in Mrs. Meadowcroft's "Salford Temperance Coffee House" at No. 10 Bolton Street Salford. Lancashire, England, its name is taken from the Rechabites mentioned in the Bible (Jeremiah Chapter 35). When tempted by the Prophet to drink wine, they nobly replied as stated in Verse 6 - "We will drink no wine, for Jonadab, the son of Rechab our father, commanded us saying, 'Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye nor your sons forever'."

The Order is based along the lines of the Oddfellows but as the Rechabites in the Bible lived in tents, so their branches were called Tents and not Lodges.

A number of Tents made up a District. The Order was first introduced to Australia in 1842 (Sydney & Adelaide) with other states following in subsequent decades of the nineteenth century.

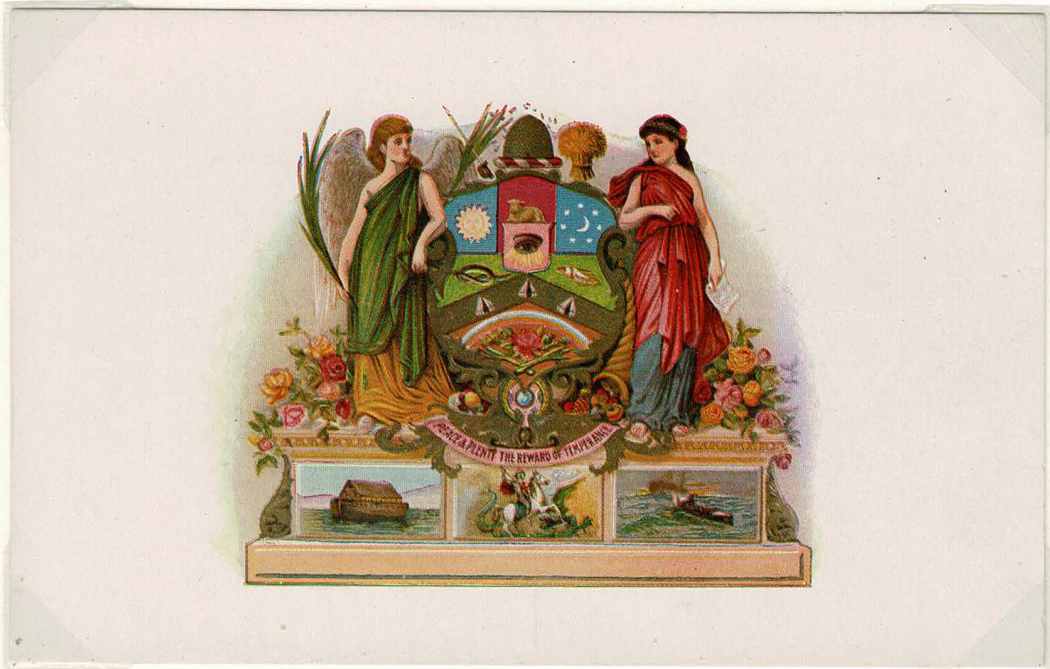


Houses in Bolton Street, Salford, where the Order was formed in 1835.

Bibliography

- (1) Rechabite History – A Record of the Origins, Rise & Progress of the Independent Order of Rechabites, Salford Unity by Richardson Campbell, FSS, High Secretary – Manchester 1911
- (2) Families and Friendly Societies by Dr Dan Weinbren, Friendly Societies Research Group Chair 2004
- (3) Internet References - (a) www.history.shelf.org/shelf/friend (b) www.rechabite.co.uk/history.asp (c) www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/history/socs (d) www.open.ac.uk/socialsciences/fsrg

THE RECHABITES LOGO



The logo has changed little since first issued by the Executive Council of the Order in 1836. A shield flanked by an angel (left) and maiden (right) and the slogan "Peace & Plenty the Reward of Temperance" has appeared underneath since its inception.

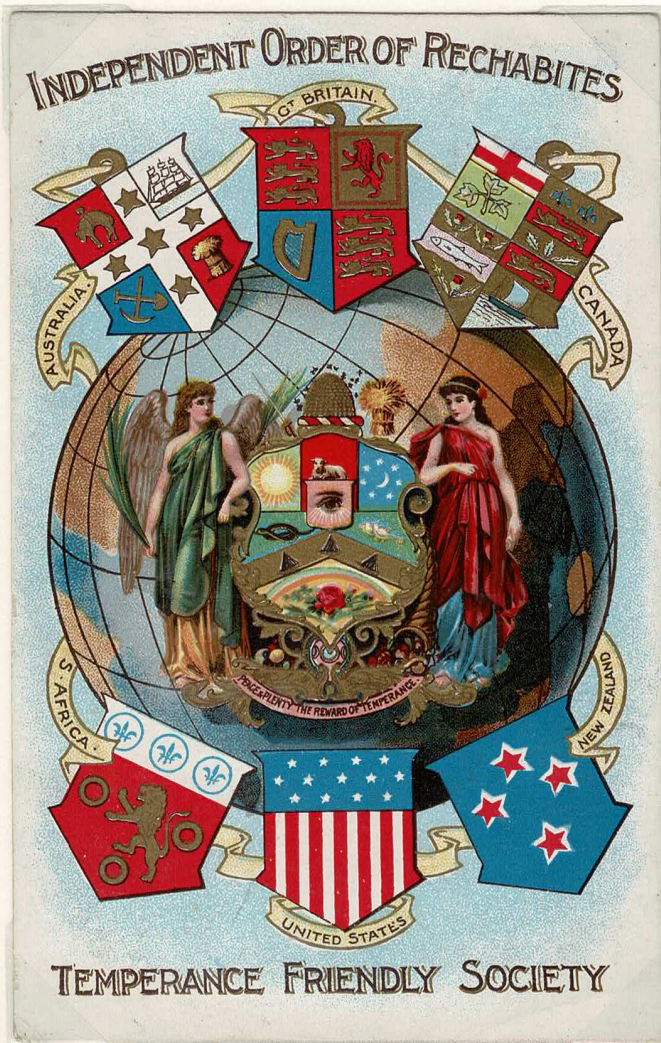
Photolithograph British Made Unused Printer or Publisher name unknown



Three tents of the Bible Rechabite tribe are depicted on the shield together with other symbols such as the sun, moon & stars, doves, serpent, lamb and sword.

As above but with overprint and reverse text "Rechabitism brings Happiness & Long Life"

RECHABITES AROUND THE WORLD



Left -

The Order spread quickly throughout the world, with Districts being established in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States of America and Canada.

*Photolithograph British Made
Postmarked 8 Feb 1912 Bradford on
Avon. No Printer/Publisher shown*

Below -

No doubt issued during WW I as it has a patriotic flavour – Truth, Fortitude & Justice as India, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand & England “Unite under One Flag”

*Photolithograph © Philipson & Son,
Newcastle on Tyne Used by Onward
Tent No. 1873 to advise of AGM*



RECHABITES AROUND THE WORLD



Programme from the SA
District No.81 Tent No.32 held
on 23 Sep 1917.

It marked the Unveiling
Ceremony of the Roll of Honor
to those members of the Tent
who had gone to the Front to
fight for King & Empire. The
flags of eleven nations are
shown.

Two further slogans which
were often used were
"Truth & Temperance" and
"Love & Purity". This card also
shows the date the Order was
established and that it was
registered pursuant to an Act of
Parliament.

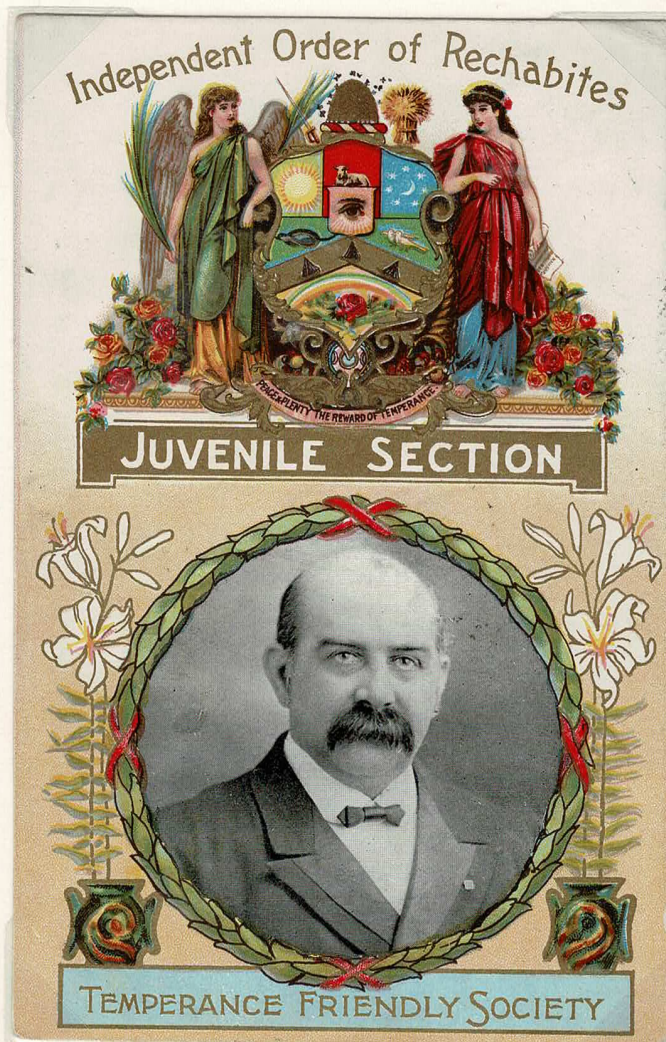
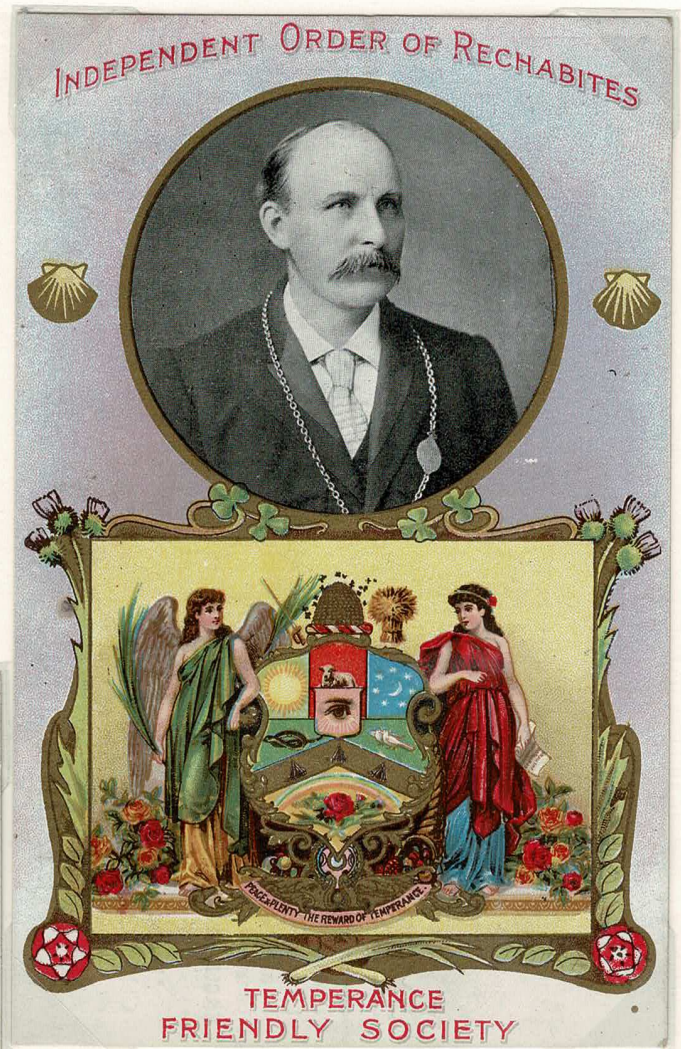
*Photolithograph British Made
Card postally used on 29 Jan 1907
by District #119 (Lincolnshire)*



HIGH CHIEF RULER & HIGH DEPUTY RULER

The overall Order was ruled by a High Chief Ruler, each District by a District Chief Ruler. There were also Deputy positions, Corresponding Secretaries, Treasurers, Sick Stewards, Tent Stewards, Inside & Outside Guardians and a Levite of the Tent.

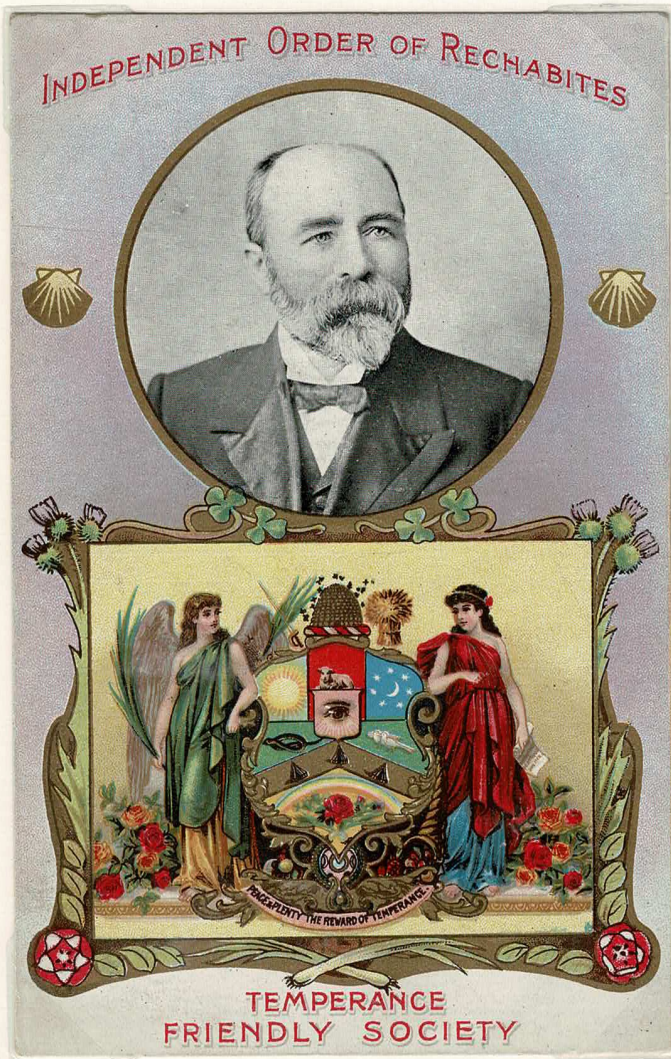
Photolithograph British Made Depicts Charles W Churchill who was HCR in 1905. Unused, but can be dated to 1909 as it advertises the 75th Anniversary Year and is signed by J Philipson, HCR appointed that year.



Each had their own regalia and insignia, their own place and role in meetings of the Tent, particularly surrounding the induction of new members.

Photolitho British Made Depicts William A Platt who was High Deputy Ruler in 1909. Unused.

HIGH SECRETARY & DUTIES OF OFFICE



National Insurance was introduced in the UK in 1911, which covered 12 million working men & women (but not their families). Both commercial insurance companies and friendly societies were able to insure people.

Unused postcard dated to early 1911 due to the text. Pre-addressed to the District Secretary.

Richardson Campbell (depicted) was appointed to the position of High Secretary at a meeting of the Board of Directors held on 8 Jun 1886 at Manchester. He was at least 25 years in office having authored the book *Rechabite History* in 1911

*Photolithograph British Made Unused
No printer or publishers name evident*

STATE INSURANCE

Comes into operation in July next, when most wage-earners will become Insured Persons eligible to receive Free Medical Attendance, Sick Pay, Maternity, and Sanatoria Benefits. These must be obtained through the Post Office or Friendly Societies. It is to your interest to join a Society. If, therefore, you are an Abstainer, or willing to become one, join the **Rechabites**. You may, if desirable, obtain through this Society other Benefits as Funeral Allowance or Sick Pay to meet your requirements for a small extra payment. Please fill in your name and address on front of this card and post it; it will immediately be sent to nearest Branch for enrolment.

JUVENILE BRANCHES.

Immediate Benefits from birth to 15 years of age.

HIGH MOVEABLE CONFERENCE (HMC)



In the early years, the HMC was held annually but by 1857 it was a biennial event. The above postcard was produced for the 42nd HMC who met in the Town Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne on Tuesday August 6th 1907 and following days. *Collotype card from the 1907 HMC. Postmarked 8 AUG 1907 during the Conference.*



The first High Moveable Conference was held in Stockport, UK for 3 days commencing Monday 26 Dec 1836 in the Temperance Hotel of Mr J Derbyshire. *This Real Photograph postcard is of the Delegates at a High Moveable Conference circa WW I*

ANNUAL MEETINGS OF RECHABITE DISTRICTS

THE MILITARY DISTRICT, No. III., I. O. RECHABITES.



Annual Meeting, Aldershot, Feb. 19th, 1906.

Each District represented at the HMCs also held separate annual council meetings. Military District No.111 in 1905, had 186 Adult members and 203 Juvenile members.
Chromolithograph card postally used and postmarked Aldershot, 22 May 1908



Wilkinson & Co. NORFOLK & SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL, I.O.R. 1907. Norwich.

The Norfolk & Suffolk District No.26 had 2,331 Adult members and 1,141 Juveniles in 1905. The District hosted the 35th HMC in Norwich on 8 Aug 1893 & following days
Chromolithograph. Printed by Wilkinson & Co, Norwich. Posted 16 Sep 1907 from Great Massingham

MEMORIAL HOMES & GUEST HOUSES



Bradford District Rechabites' Memorial Home, South Drive, St. Annes-on-the-Sea.

Besides providing hospital, medical, sickness & funeral benefits, some Districts invested surplus funds in other areas. The Bradford District No.20 ran a Memorial Home as a place of rest for members.
British origin Chromolithograph card postally used and postmarked St Annes on the Sea, 2 Oct 1923



"Templecombe" Rechabite Guest House, West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Templecombe was a Rechabite Guest House situated at St Leonards on Sea, near Hastings, County Sussex. Members received special rates over the general public.
British Made Collotype card. Unused with no evidence as to printer/publisher.

MEMORIAL HOMES & GUEST HOUSES



South aspect (overlooking the Channel) Rechabite Guest House, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Left -

The south aspect to the Templecombe Rechabite Guest House overlooked the English Channel. Whether it was District run or managed from Head Office in Manchester is not known.

*British Made Collotype card.
Unused with no evidence as to
printer/publisher.*

Below -

The Lounge of this Guest House was complete with an upright piano for those friendly evening sing songs. An open fireplace ensured a warm hospitality.

*British Made Collotype card
Unused with no evidence as to
printer/publisher.*



The Lounge, Rechabite Guest House, West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea

JUVENILE SECTION

The Order was very strong in promoting the virtues of abstinence, particularly to young people and so it is no surprise that their Juvenile Section produced numerous postcards and other ephemera aimed at attracting and keeping juniors through to adult membership.

This 1896 card contains a motto for the year "Be Thoughtful & Earnest, Kind Hearted & True"

Photolithograph. British Made but no printer or publisher name evident



Cinderella labels for a Campaign circa WW I calling for an extra 200,000 Juvenile Members. In 1910, the Order had 208,514 Juniors, thus looking at doubling its ranks

JUVENILE SECTION



Not really a motto, but in the Bible, Jeremiah Ch 35 v 6, are found the words reproduced on this 1897 card and upon which the Order was based back in 1835.

This card contains the text "We will drink no wine, for Jonadab, the son of Rechab our Father, commanded us saying Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye nor your sons forever"

Photolithograph. British Made but no printer or publisher name evident



More cinderella publicity labels and a Jubilee Medallion from 1885 marking the Golden Jubilee of the Order. Reverse bears the coat of arms or logo of the Order.

JUVENILE SECTION

Right –

A Temperance Knowledge Competition medal awarded to James Stobie in 1911. The obverse shows the coat of arms or logo of the Order.



Below –

"Work Wins Reward" was the motto for 1922. This wall hanging card also shows the Certificate which would have accompanied the medal won by recipients of the Temperance Knowledge Competition. Sent by District Superintendent (Mrs) M J Dodds, it does not state the District involved.



JUVENILE SECTION

This pair of postcards were sent to Alfred "With love from Uncle Alec" at Rechabite House, Grote Street, Adelaide. This card, depicting St George and the Dragon, is date stamped 5 Oct 1929 and would have been for his birthday.

Photolithograph. British Made but no printer or publisher name evident.



The card at left is date stamped 13 Dec 1929 and would have been a Christmas sending although it contains no such greeting.

Photolithograph. British Made but no printer or publisher name evident.

JUVENILE SECTION



Juvenile members also took part in processions organised by the Order in the early days. Judging by the clothing, this card would be close to one hundred years old.

Photolithograph. British Made but no printer or publisher name evident. Unused.

The Order welcomed members from all walks of life and had many adults and children from ordinary working class families. This card shows a father with his children and the family horse.

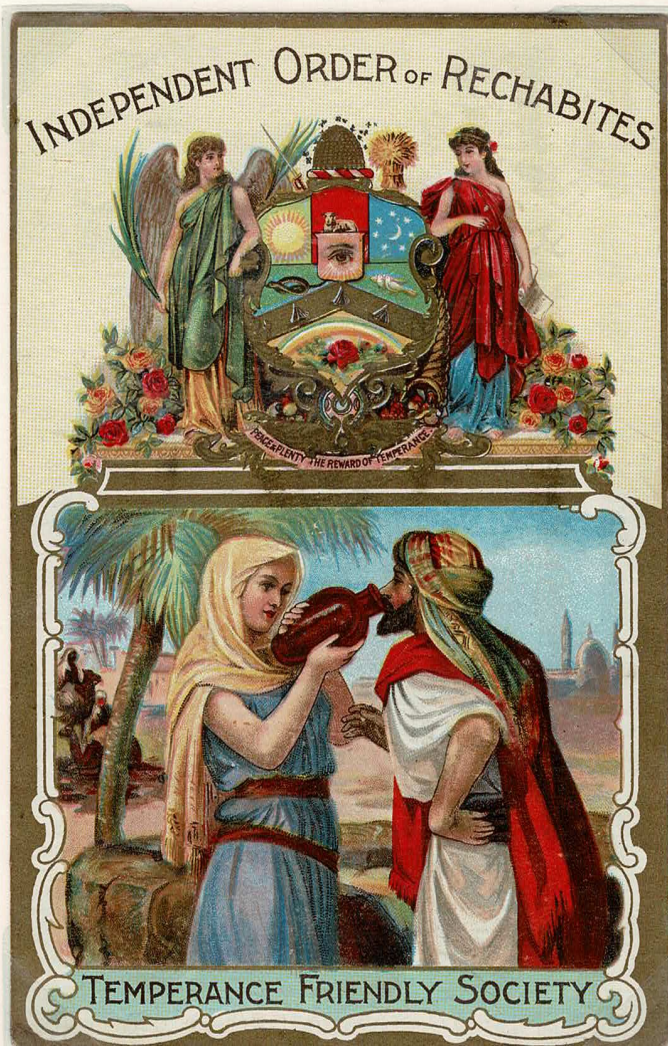
Photolithograph. British Made but no printer or publisher name evident. Unused.



POSTCARDS SENT ON RECHABITE BUSINESS

It wasn't only the Junior Members who received cards in the mail. This card for Our Future Hope Tent advised the recipient of amounts recorded per quarter in 1909/10.

*Photolithograph British Made
Used and postmarked St Austell,
Cornwall 12 Apr 1910*



A card sent by one Tent Secretary to another requesting to see a copy of his/her Annual Return before it was submitted to the District Secretary.

*Photolithograph British Made
Used and postmarked Lostwithiel
RSO, Cornwall 24 Jan 1907*