Rowing Postcards from Bryan Todd-Naylor, 1914

These postcards were given to the archives in September 2011 as Accession no. 971 by Christopher Wise of Massachusetts. Mr. Wise had inherited them from his grandmother Sheila, the sister of William Bryan Todd-Naylor (matr. 1912). Bryan Todd-Naylor was a member of the University College crew for Torpids and Eights Week 1914, going Head of the River in the latter. He was killed in action in France in 1916. In 2004 Mr. Wise presented his great-uncle’s Head of the River blade to the College Boat Club.

These postcards are unusual, in that they are based on photographs taken of the “Univ.” crew in action at Torpids and Eights Week, which had been turned into postcards within a matter of hours of their creation. Evidently George Davis, the Oxford photographer whose images were used here, were accustomed to creating postcards in this way, but these are the only examples of their kind so far encountered in the University College archives. See also Todd-Naylor’s photograph album (UC:P208) elsewhere in the archives.

Catalogued in September 2011.

UC:P286/C1/1 postmarked 1 Mar 1914
Postcard of the University College First VIII rowing in Torpids. On the back is a postcard from Bryan Todd-Naylor to his sister Sheila explaining that it shows them catching the Pembroke crew.

UC:P286/C1/2 postmarked 10 Mar 1914
Postcard of the University College First VIII rowing in Torpids. On the back is a postcard from Bryan Todd-Naylor to his sister Sheila reporting that term is ending soon, and that he will go and stay at “our Mission” for a few days. Presumably Todd-Naylor refers to the Devas Club, which was University College’s contribution to social work in the East End.

UC:P286/C1/3 Mar 1914
Postcard with the same photograph of the University College crew as on UC:P286/C1/2, but this one is unused.

UC:P286/C1/4 postmarked 22 May 1914
Postcard of the University College First VIII rowing in Eights Week. On the back is a postcard from Bryan Todd-Naylor to his sister Sheila, explaining that it shows the crew bumping Christ Church, and reporting that they are now second behind New College.