

## ASBESTOS GEEK PIC OF THE WEEK

March 6, 2024



A weekly post featuring pictures of asbestos-related artifacts from the private collection of Andy Rowland, CIH – Principal at IMPRIMIS Forensic Health & Safety.

There can be no doubt that the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago was one of the most important technological events of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Any gathering that includes George Washington Carver, Andrew Carnegie, Clara Barton, Clarence Darrow, Wyatt Earp, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Archduke Ferdinand, William Randolph Hearst, Henry Heinz, Milton Hershey, John Muir, John Rockefeller, Mark Twain, Booker T Washington, Josephine Cochrane, Frank Loyd Wright, 4 U.S. Presidents, 1 assassination, 1 serial killer, and Lizzie Bordon would be considered “noteworthy” by just about anyone.



While electricity was the primary focus of the event, those whose products were ancillary to the generation, delivery, and use of electricity were well represented at the fair. Among them was Henry Ward Johns whose company had already been in business for 35 years. His firm originally focused upon asbestos-containing roofing and coatings products, but now they were offering a full line of thermal system insulation products that the electricity industry would soon require.

The first photo (above) shows an *H.W. Johns Manufacturing Company* “trade card” from the 1893 fair. I managed to pick it up about 10 years ago. It is likely the oldest item in the collection, except for the minerals themselves.

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This photo shows the back of the same trade card. It provides additional information and the locations of each of their 6 exhibits at the fair.

**Imprimis FHS** – Specializing in Expert Witness Services in the field of Environmental Health & Safety. [andy@imprimisfhs.com](mailto:andy@imprimisfhs.com) (843) 209-2951.