

Bacchus from Legend to Legacy

Son of Jupiter - Zeus, the Father of Gods and of a Princess, Dionysus – Bacchus though not a Olympian God his popularity had surpassed all others.

Bacchus, the God of Wine and Joy, did not require his followers' worship, he was just asking for the people's participation in his frenzy feasts. Bacchus was open to everyone beyond the established aesthetic and social norms including the outcasts, the deformed as well as those with emotional disorders.

The adoration of Bacchus survived long after the "demise" of the ancient gods, despite the fact that Christianity had adopted and incorporated a number of bacchian symbols and practices.

The spirit of Bacchus still remains a "remedy" to the oppressive routine and infertile rationalism and that fully explains why the legacy of Bacchus still remains strong and active nowadays.



PLAN

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- Important and/or Rare PPCs are **Framed in Blue**

BACCHUS LEGEND : Life, Companions and Adventures 1



Jupiter and Semele

Bacchus also known as Dionysus was son of the King of the Olympian Gods Jupiter (Zeus) and princess Semele.

According to the Legend his pregnant mother was accidentally killed by his god-father who then saved him by sewing him up in his thigh and keeping him there until the right birth time. Jupiter then "gave birth" to Dionysus, thus making him twice-born.

PPC of a coloured Engraving
 Jupiter et Semele
 Wiener Rotophot, Serie Nr. 2633
 Made in Austria
 Divided back
 Dimensions : 13,6H x 8,8W

Hermes holding baby Dionysus (Bacchus)

This classical masterpiece of Praxiteles is showing Bacchus half-brother Hermes holding him whilst baby Bacchus is trying to reach a bunch of grapes (a missing part of the original statue).

BW RPPC
 Postally Used (PU) 24 VIII 60
 Olympia Museum - Hermes of Praxiteles
 nr. 65495 - 4 II 60
 Copyright V. & N. Tompazi - Psychico Athens
 Divided back
 Dimensions : 14,7H x 10,4W



BACCHUS LEGEND : Life, Companions and Adventures 2

Silenus and Bacchus

Bacchus being a beloved but illegal son of Jupiter could not stay with his father in Mount Olympus and was being nurtured by Silenus, the old and sage Satyr, as shown at this Louvre 1st century A.D Roman statue.

B/W RPPC
 Postally Used (PU) 4/6/18
 Louvre Museum
 Silenus holding baby Bacchus (Roman 1st c. A.D)
 nr. 1008
 Divided back
 Dimensions : 13,9H x 9,1W



Bacchus and Satyrs at grape pressing

Bacchus the God of Wine, being an "outcast" deity was associated with creatures and activities "out of the norm".

The Satyrs his loyal companions were male nature spirits with ears and a tail resembling those of a horse, sometimes depicted also with horse-like legs.

B/W RPPC
 National Museum Athens
 Crater : Satyrs and Bacchus
 Greek Industry - Made in Greece
 Divided back
 Dimensions : 13,9H x 9,3W



UNCOMMON DEPICTIONS OF AN UNUSUAL GOD
as a Child...

The God is shown in this Gallo-Roman statue as a healthy-looking, plump and merry child looking for his companions



BW RPPC
Chatillon-sur-Seine Museum
Child Bacchus
Gallo-Roman Bronze statue from Vertillum
Cliche Chambon
Divided back
Dimensions : 14,8H x 10,5W

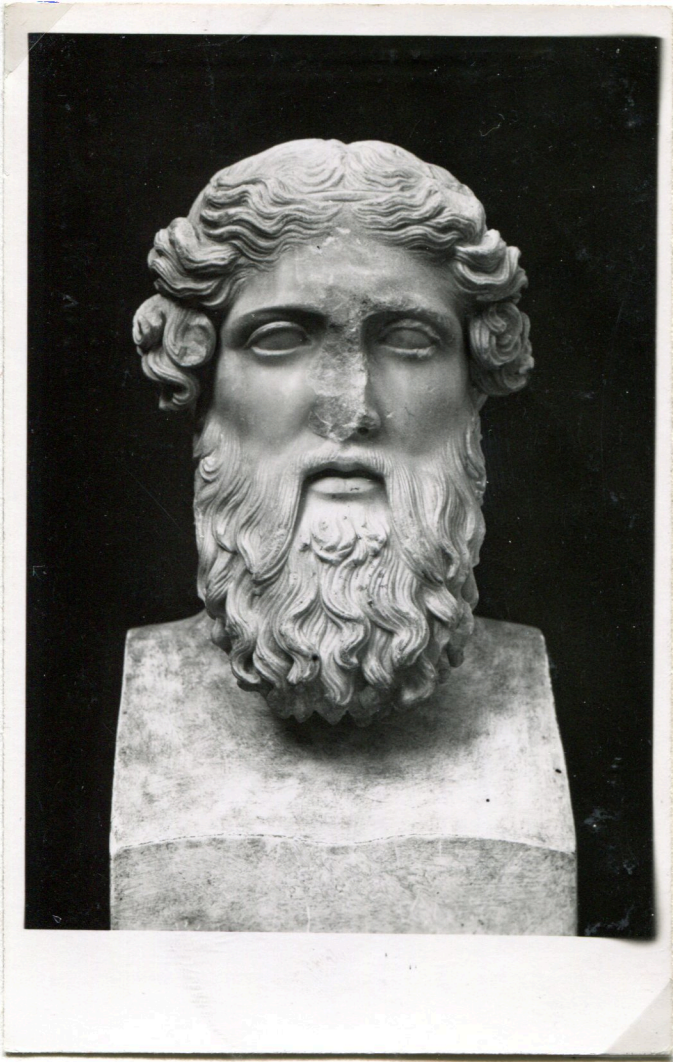
UNCOMMON DEPICTIONS OF AN UNUSUAL GOD
as a Young Man...

The marble head of Dionysus - Bacchus shows a confident young man who is watching something happening far away...

BW RPPC
Postally Used (PU) ? DEC 18 with Censorship Round Cancel
Head of Dionysus at Delphi
Aurann Marseille Print
Divided back
Dimensions : 13,9H x 8,9W



DELPHI - Tête de Dionysos - Head of Dionysos, Delphi
Imp Aurann Marseille



UNCOMMON DEPICTIONS OF AN UNUSUAL GOD
and as an Old Man

The bearded old Bacchus is looking straight to the eyes having nothing to hide and being ready to accept anyone as his companion to his merry partying.

*BW RPPC
Musee National d'Athenes
Head of Piraeus Dionysus, nr. 3478
Edition de la Societe Archeologique
Leonar 12566
Divided back
Dimensions : 13,9H x 8,9W*

Bacchus - Asdoules

The influence and popularity of Bacchus expanded to other cultures, thus the Thracian God Asdoules was assimilated with Bacchus at this 3rd century A.D marble stele with relief.

*BW RPPC
Postally Used (PU)
Musee de Cinquantenaire, Bruxelles
No 23 Ex-Voto to Dionysus-Asdoules, Melnik, 215 A.D
Ste An Belge de Phototypie Brux
Divided back
Dimensions : 13,6H x 8,9W*



The unusual God



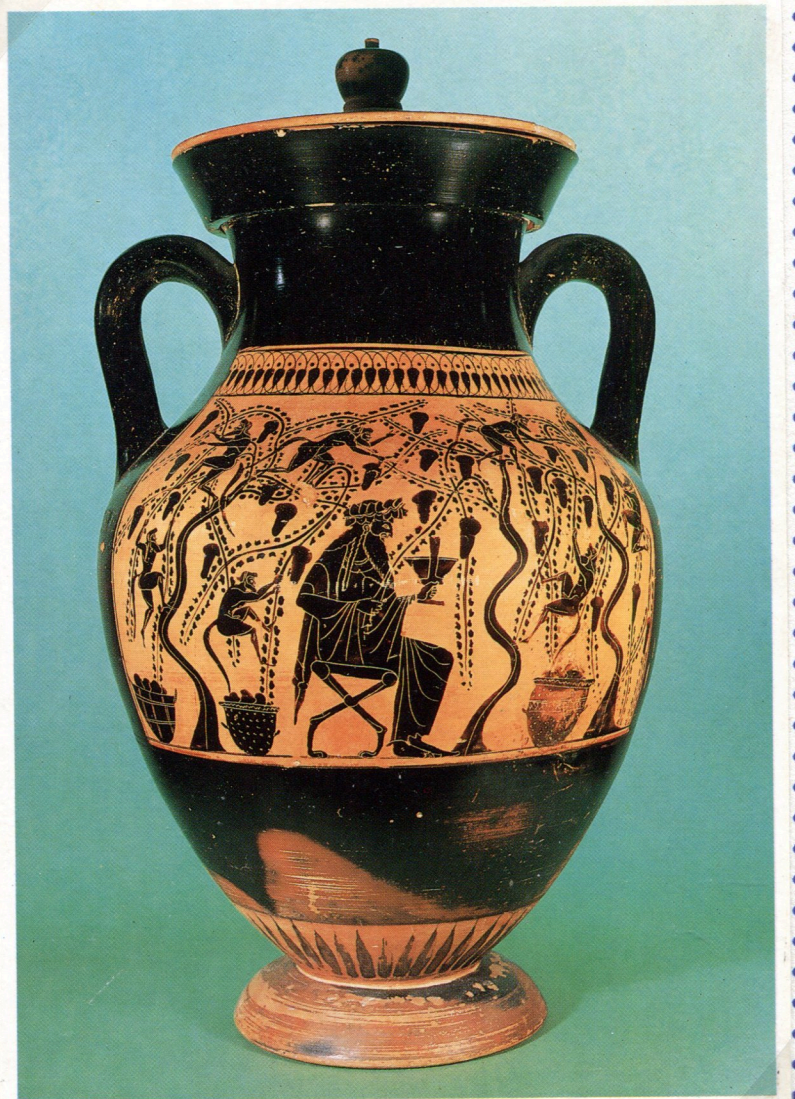
Deities are associated with model behaviour and acting, Bacchus was in many aspects a renegade-god, an excessive non-conformist and because of that he was a survivor to the Christian era as he had "conquered" the hearts of people.

Colour PC
Museum of Gallo-Romain Civilisation in Lyon
Mosaic of Drunk Bacchus (detail)
discovered in Vienne in 1840
Edition of Association des Amis
du Musee
Audin - Tixier Print, Lyon Color
Divided back
Dimensions : 14,5W x 10,3H

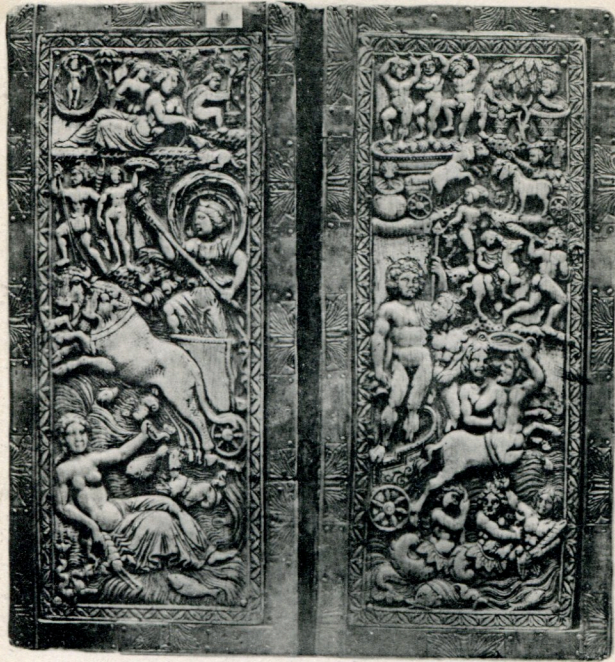
His Legend continuing beyond Life

Bacchus' divine potion, the wine, due to its rejoicing and soothing powers was an indispensable feature of ancient burial customs.

Colour PC
Villa Giulia National Etruscan Museum, Rome
Black-figure Attica Amphora with Dionysus at Cerveteri
Edizioni Arno Tevere
VG 121 - 1982 Scalla, Antella, Firenze
Divided back
Dimensions : 15H x 10,4W



BACCHUS LEGEND : from Antiquity to Christianity 1



Musée de SENS (Yonne) — Dyptiques romains du Missel de l'Ane (II^e siècle de l'Ère chrétienne).

L'ensemble de la composition de ces deux plaques d'ivoire figure le Triomphe de Bacchus Hélios sortant de l'Océan pour éclairer le monde et présider aux Vendanges.

Collection J. D., Sens

The Triumph of Bacchus

According to the Orphic Legend, the infant Zagreus / Bacchus was torn to pieces by the evil Titans. Goddess Athena (Minerva) saved Bacchus' heart and he was resurrected by his father Jupiter through Semele.

The Triumph of Bacchus is both over Death and in succeeding to spread his cult.

B/W RPPC
 Postally Used (PU) 4/6/18
 Louvre Museum
 Silenus holding baby Bacchus (Roman 1st c. A.D)
 nr. 1008
 Divided back
 Dimensions : 13,9H x 9,1W

Christianity starts to prevail but...

After the 4th century A.D Christianity gradually starts to prevail but Bacchus and his followers have to go undercover to escape prosecution.

A most extraordinary artifact is the pictured sarcophagus with Bacchian decoration used as a Christian Baptismal Font.

B/W RPPC
 Postally Used (PU) 31.8.26 Vacluse
 Baptismal Font at Cadenet (Luberon)
 from a converted Roman sarcophagus
 showing the Triumph of Bacchus and Ariadne
 Printing - Photo : A. Thiriart & H. Basuyau - Toulouse
 Mariand Editions
 Divided back
 Dimensions : 14,1H x 8,7W



Cadenet — Fonds Baptismaux - Sarcophage Romain
 Triomphe de Bacchus et d'Ariadne

Bacchus stands in front of the Church



This RPPC shows Bacchus' statue is in front of the Church Square in Domerat, Allier. A clear sign of the cosmic dominance of Bacchus in the hearts of the people.

BW RPPC
Place de l'Eglise
Comber Macon
Divided back
Dimensions : 14W x 9H

The fight between Carnival and Lent

In mid-16th century, Pieter Brueghel the Elder in his remarkable painting depicts the clashing forces the bacchian celebration and social disorder of the Carnival - that the Church was "forced" to incorporate after failing to eliminate it into the pre-Easter period - and the "religious righteousness" of the calvinist austerity of Lent.



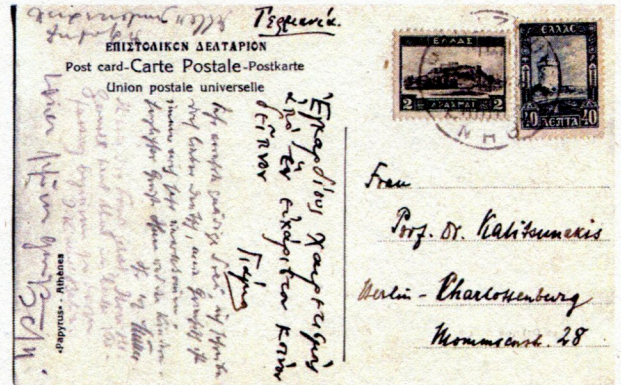
Colour PC
Gallery - Historical Museum of Vienna
Pieter Brueghel the Elder
The Fight between Carnival and the Lent
"Art Painting" Editions, Moscow 1973
printing nr. 9-400, circulation 35.000, price 3 kopeks
Divided back
Dimensions : 14,8W x 10,5H



The Spirit of Bacchus - Dionysus

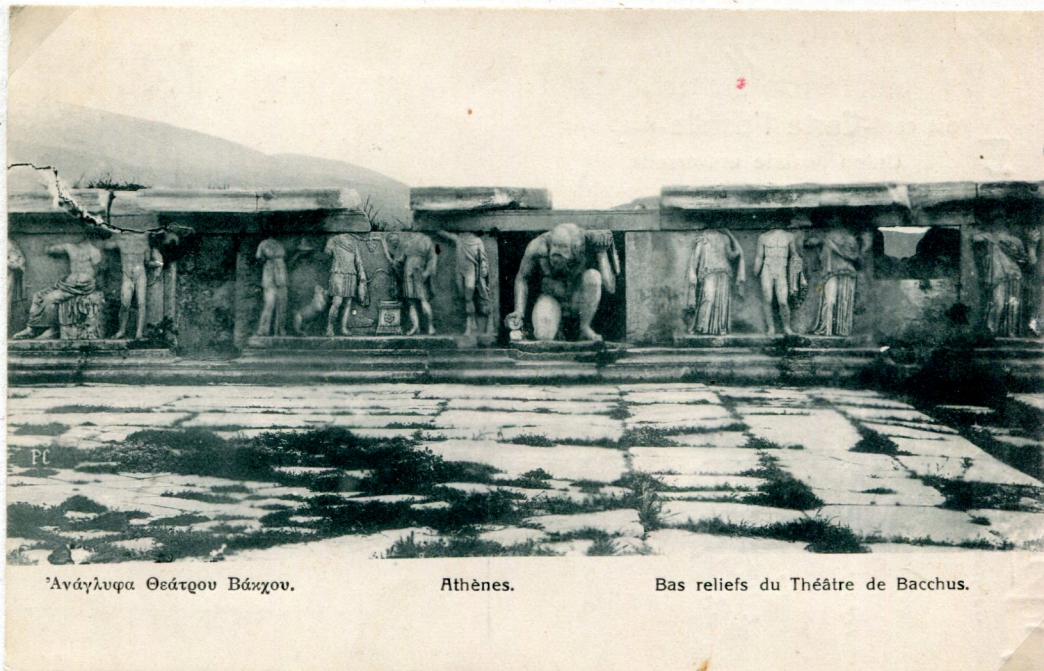
Managing to survive the intellectual darkness of the Middle Ages re-emerges as the depiction and the evocation of Bacchus becomes a central theme of free artistic expression.

BW RPPC
 Florence Archeology Museum
 Bacchus and his Spirit
 Etruscan Bronze statue - 5th c. B.C
 Editor : "I.D.E.A" Fratelli Alinari Co, Florence
 Nr. 17055
 Divided back
 Dimensions : 13,8H x 8,7W



The God of Wine, birth giver of Theatre

Theatre was born in ancient Athens as a means of publicly re-acting the adventures and deeds of Bacchus. The 6th century A.D Theatre of Dionysus - Bacchus, just below the Athens Acropolis was the cradle of theatrical acting.



BW RPPC
 Postally Used (PU) ? July 38
 Low Relief Carvings at the Theatre of Bacchus (Athens)
 Papyrus Editions - Athens
 Divided back
 Dimensions : 13,8W x 8,9H

Ἀνάγλυφα Θεάτρου Βάκχου.

Athènes.

Bas reliefs du Théâtre de Bacchus.

The Re-acting of Bacchus' Triumph



(8102) FÊTES DES VENDANGES EN GIRONDE.
 GRAND THÉÂTRE DES QUINCONCES.
 REPRÉSENTATION DE BACCHUS TRIOMPHANT

(Cl. SERENI.)

- The Legacy of Bacchus
- remains mighty among
- public feasts following the
- steps of the Joyful God.

B/W RPPC
 Harvest Fair at Gironde,
 Great Theatre of Quinconces
 Re-acting of Triumphant Bacchus
 Henri Guiliier Editions, nr 8102
 Divided back
 Dimensions : 14,1W x 9,1H



The King of Carnival

The origins of modern Carnival are found in the ancient Athens "Great Dionysia" that evolved into the Roman "Saturnalia". A period that social classes were "abolished", people freely expressed their anger and frustrations against their rulers and everybody was equal without social conventions and restrictions.



Coil Jaussaud, Aix

632. Carnaval d'Aix - Harmonie de Bacchus

B/W RPPC
 handwritten use date : 19.4.13
 Carnival at Aix
 Harmony of Bacchus
 Coil Jaussaud Editions, Aix - nr. 632
 Divided back
 Dimensions : 13,7W x 8,7H



The Renaissance of Bacchus

If Praxiteles' Hermes holding baby Bacchus is the pinnacle of all classical depictions, it is then Michelangelo's statue that "brings" the Legacy of Bacchus to modern times depicting an androgynous god.

Bacchus served during Renaissance as a "convenient means" to free artistic expression.

*BW RPPC
Bargello Museum at Florence
Michelangelo's Bacchus
Photo Alinari - Fernand Hezan editions
Printed in Florence
Divided back
Dimensions : 14,9H x 10,5W*

A God "permitting" to be shown in a Grotesque manner

Depictions of Deities were always confined within strict artistic stereotypes. Bacchus was an exception as this nonconformist god was associated with "unconventional" companions : the half-human, half-animal Satyrs, the ecstatically maniac Maenads, the poor and the deformed.

*BW RPPC
Boboli Gardens, Florence
Bacchus - Pietro Barbino by Valerio di Settignano
Gino Giusi Editing-House, Florence
nr. 236/6499-48
Divided back
Dimensions : 14,9H x 10,5W*



FIRENZE - GIARDINO DI BOBOLI - BACCO - PIETRO BARBINO
(VALERIO DA SETTIGNANO 1560)

Caravaggio's Young Sick Bacchus

Michelangelo Merisi from Caravaggio, a daring painter was often in trouble with the Church due to his unconventional religious paintings.

Bacchus was his "liberating vehicle" to attain his true artistic freedom, depicting a young sick Bacchus with pale skin colour, tinted blue lips lacking vigour and nourishment and eyes expressing weakness and suffering. A true masterpiece of Tenebrism art style.

*B/W RPPC - Neutral Density (ND Photo)
Bacchus statue by A. M. Pêche
1909 Salon, nr. 3761 DT
Divided back
Dimensions : 14H x 8,7W*



A skinny, joyous young boy-god

An Art Deco statue of Bacchus "breaking the rules" of the well-formed depiction of Deities.

*Colour PC
Borghese Gallery, Rome
Little Bacchus ill bt Caravaggio
E. Richter editions, Rome
Divided back
Dimensions: 14,8H x 10,4W*



3761 Dt. Salon de 1909. — Bacchus, par A.-M. Pêche. — ND Phot.

The inter-temporal Bacchus

The Legend of Bacchus transcends antiquity and retains his popular appeal long after the demise of the ancient deities.

The reason is obvious, in the painting of Velazquez Bacchus joins the drinking group of 17th century Spanish peasants and this masterpiece is rightly entitled as "The Triumph of Bacchus"



Colour PC
Prado Museum, Madrid
Bacchus by Diego Velazquez
Benedict Taschen Publishing, Coln
Divided back
Dimensions : 16,1W x 11,2H

The omnipresence of Bacchus

The enormous popularity of Bacchus' spirit and essence has placed him as a timeless symbol of Joy, Togetherness, Celebration in every aspect of life. The Versailles fountain is a fine artwork of Baroque style.

B/W RPPC
Postally Used (PU) FM 5.6.16
Bacchus pool at Versailles, nr. 21
J. Bellamy Editions, Versailles
Divided back
Dimensions : 13,9W x 8,9H



21 - VERSAILLES — Bassin de Bacchus ou Allée de l'Automne

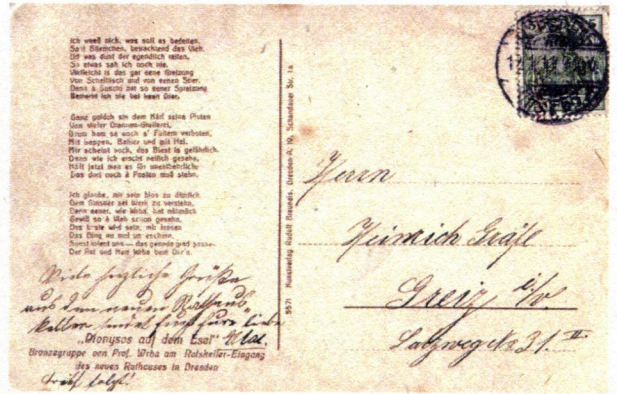


Riding a Donkey

Ancient depictions of Bacchus show him riding a donkey expressing his humility and brotherhood to the unprivileged.

This exquisite artwork of Werkband style (associated with Bauhaus) stood at the entrance of the Cellar at the Dresden New City Hall.

BW RPPC
 Postally Used (PU) 12.1.11
 Bacchus on a Donkey
 Bronze statue by Professor Wrba
 at the Cellar Entrance of the New City Hall of Dresden
 Divided back
 Dimensions : 14H x 9,1W



Bacchus presides over St. John's Festival

June 24th marks the Feast Day of Saint John the Baptist, the day that the Summer Solstice was celebrated, and at the centre of the celebrations is the omnipresent Bacchus.

BW RPPC
 St. John's Cavalcade, Boen
 Bacchus Cart, organized by A. Gauthier, Wines and Liqueurs
 Printing Commarmond, CI (-che) A. Durand
 Divided back
 Dimensions : 13,7W x 8,8H



BOËN. — Cavalcade de la Saint-Jean
 Char de Bacchus, organisé par A. GAUTHIER, VINS ET LIQUEURS



Toasting in Public to all

The Legacy of Bacchus is undisguised, as a symbol of acceptance, understanding and liberation that never demands and always shares his unrestrained joy.

Colour PC
Postally Used (PU) 5.6.19
Bacchus statue at Liege Garden
Grand Bazar Editions at Saint Lambert, nr. 12
Divided back
Dimensions : 13,9H x 8,9W

“Vivat Bacchus” Cart

The people celebrating Bacchus' Legacy of freeing them from social conventions and offering them new ways of thinking and acting, on every merry occasion and important event they are declaring loudly

Vivat Bachhus -
Long Live Bacchus !

BW RPPC
Bacchus Char (Coopers' Society)
Macon - Fairs on 29, 30 & 31 May 1909
Collection Prudon, Macon
Divided back
Dimensions : 14W x 9H

