

Paris: **Moulin Rouge**, Birthplace of the Cancan



No border, real photograph, glossy finish, part of series #590 Paris Le Moulin Rouge, ItalcOLOR, with logo, couleurs naturelles, printed in France, sent to a grandmother in 1970

The Moulin Rouge

The Moulin Rouge pioneered cabaret shows. It opened in 1889, the same year as the Eiffel Tower. The iconic red windmill is all that remains of the original 15 windmills in Montmartre that used to grind wheat and grapes. The Moulin Rouge was the first building to illuminate its façade with electric lights. The attractions of the demimonde included elaborate chorus lines that featured risqué high energy cancan dancing.

Cancan dancers

Cancan dancers carried on the French feminist dance tradition of kicking up their legs to show they were free of long skirts and did not need a man as a dance partner. The dance features high kicks, the splits and cartwheels. The women wore pantalettes, with an open crotch, and thus the dance was considered very scandalous although the management said revealing underwear was not permitted.

No border, titled Paris French Cancan, part of a series; made of 2 cards glued together, chromolithography, lavishly embellished by green ribbon, white lace, beads and red and green feathers; the dancer's legs are on top of the lace, modèle déposé, Pilo Paris, signed by the artist Janicotte, sent to a grandfather in 1970

