

ENMITY and GRATITUDE in WORLD WAR II

SYNOPSIS

Philatelic Significance:

The exhibit has a patriotic and a propaganda theme, depicting three elements of war: animosity, hatred and gratitude, all of which had been exploited prior to the Declarations of War for World War II. The three did not subside in the ensuing years after the Armistice. Composed of Anti-Axis, artist-signed postcards, including industry issues, satirical private letters and postcards, vignettes, and cachet covers that were sold as a fund raiser for the veterans.

The respective frankings and cancellations have become an interesting study as to location.

Exhibition Plan:

The FIP Grex has been used, allowing for a balanced complement of the larger items and accompanying texts.

To keep the exhibit congruent, it has been organized by date. Occupations and battle sites were all over the globe, not singled out by country.

Scarcity and Difficulty of Acquisition:

The artist-signed postcards are very scarce. The lack of 'quality' card stock during wartime had limited the printings, reproduction and distribution modes;

- to find the cards postally used has been serendipitous;
- reference catalogues for the local issues do not exist. Have to rely on Google and Ebay;
- no true monetary values can be assigned. Buyer beware!!

**The French government is presently demolishing wartime housing. Demolition crews are finding these postcards and other collectibles squirreled away within wall crevices or attics. Even today, ownership of anything featuring the atrocities of the war, is legally taboo to sell within many of the European countries. To preserve wartime history, items are being clandestinely moved out of the respective countries.

** Maybe of interest: a German philatelist who is collecting wartime items, propaganda items or even wanting to sell, must be registered as a collector with their federal government. Even myself, a Canadian citizen, whenever I have been searching for wartime information or perusing Ebay, a notice would pop up, to which I had to acknowledge, that whatever I am looking at will not be used or sold for propaganda purposes. Later, making an inquiry as to this legitimacy. I was informed by a European auction house that I had to be preregistered by them, before my German collection could be

2.

accepted on consignment. Naturally, the purchaser(s) had to also be registered with their national government.

I have not wanted to pursue this edict.

Bibliography References:

- periodical or write-up references have been identified;
- respective artists and/or publishers have been identified;
- Wikipedia was used to verify some of the historical events;
- Choices in Vichy France – The French Under Nazi Occupation (John F. Sweets)
- The Second World War Experiences Series (Richard Overy)
- My appreciation for the translations by Mr. Hervé Millett and Mr. Vladym Samoylenko.

** Most important references will be your knowledge of W.W. II, plus your imagination.