

LAMPOONING THE THREE AXIS OMEGOS

EXHIBIT SYNOPSIS

Philatelic Significance:

This is a patriotic reciprocal propaganda exhibit depicting the animosities toward the Axis powers. It is composed of forgotten philatelic postal history produced by the local citizens of many nations. Not by their national governments. They were first printed as posters, then reprinted as note cards, vignettes, and/or cachet covers. These reprints were then published in mass as postcards. Included are four non-card items that relate to this theme of propaganda. The anti-Axis postcards produced by the American citizens had been reproduced in colour with comic caricature texts. The black & white reprints were each numbered and retailed like a boxed deck of cards. Publishers used their own postcard backing formats. Their cachet covers were commercially printed for distribution. This has become an interesting study of how philately and propaganda have become so entwined.

Exhibition Plan:

The FIP GREX has been used. The exhibit has been organized by date to follow the anti-Axis depictions, with texts as a refresher for the 'history challenged'.

As an aside: a critique received was that there is too much white space: "Fill it in."

To balance the item(s), the history text and the irregular sized items, the white spaces are essential to complement the presentation, rather than cramming the pages with other items not related to the theme.

Reciprocal propaganda issues consisting of forgeries, Hitler head skull series, the deliberate printing errors, etc. were issued under the auspices of both the Axis and the Allies military powers. The local citizens were not involved in this clandestine fraud. This reciprocal propaganda angle will be addressed with a future exhibit.

Scarcity and Difficulty of Acquisition:

- to find original issues has been a lost cause;
- reprints are still available;
- reference publications for the World War II civilians' *local issues* do not exist;
- therefore, a monetary value cannot be fathomed.

Bibliography References:

- periodical write ups have been identified within the exhibit;
- respective artists/publications have been identified using the information found on the card;
- Wikipedia was used to verify some of the historical events;
- appreciation of the volunteer's translation assistance, especially with the Cyrillic script.

**The most important references will be your imagination and your recollection of the Axis powers atrocities.

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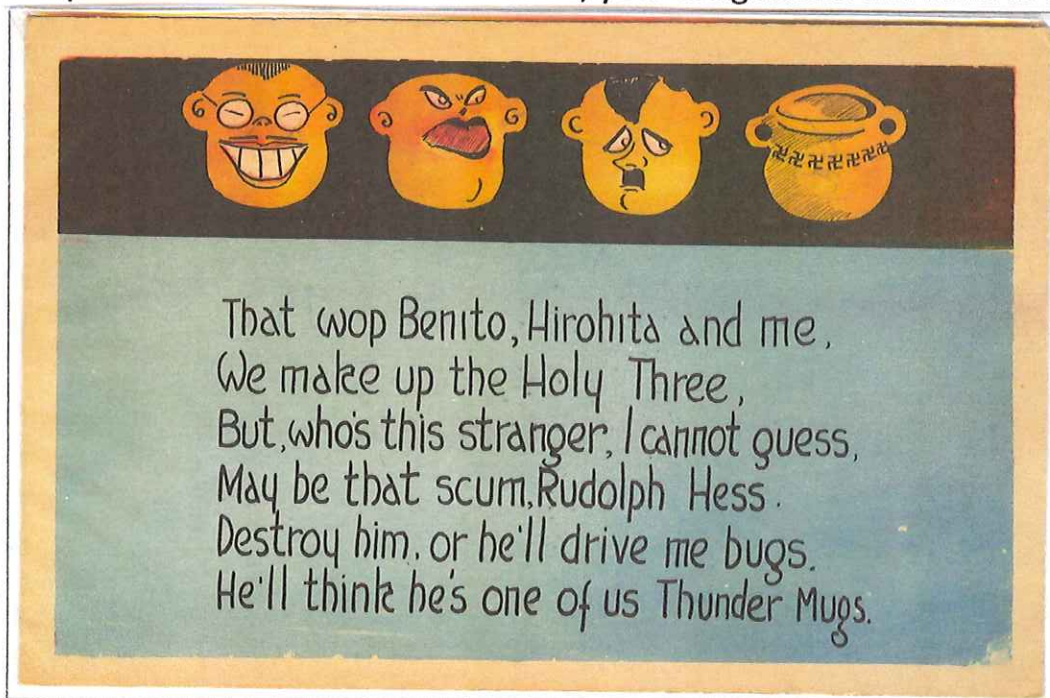
PURPOSE and STRUCTURE: this is a postal history and patriotic propaganda exhibit chronologically formatted to depict the global local citizens' animosities of the three Axis powers.

BACKGROUND: the patriotic posters, postcards, vignettes and covers issued during this period have a propaganda value only. True propaganda items contain a nasty "anti-enemy" message.

In retaliation, local citizens issued home-made cards and cachet covers which were eventually reprinted as postcards and stationery cards.

To find originals in either mint or in used conditions would be serendipitous.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: to my knowledge, no reference publications exist other than periodical submissions. Therefore, your imagination will have to suffice.



Publisher
PECO,
Ottawa

MICHINOMILA HIROHITO

- the 124th Emperor of Japan;
- born 29 April 1901;
- signed the "Tripartite Pact" with Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, in agreement to assist one another if attacked by a country not involved in war.

BENITO AMILCARE ANDREA MUSSOLINI

- an Italian born 29 July 1883;
- involved in socialist politics;
- served in the army;
- formed the Fascist Party;
- his Black Shirts marched into Rome forcing a coup d'état;
- appointed himself as Dictator.

ADOLF SCHICKLGRUBER

- an Austrian, born 20 April 1889;
- immigrated to Germany;
- changed surname to Hitler;
- served in the army;
- union affiliations led him into the political arena;
- with the Nazi party's rise to power, President Hindenburg was forced to appoint Hitler as the Chancellor in 1933.