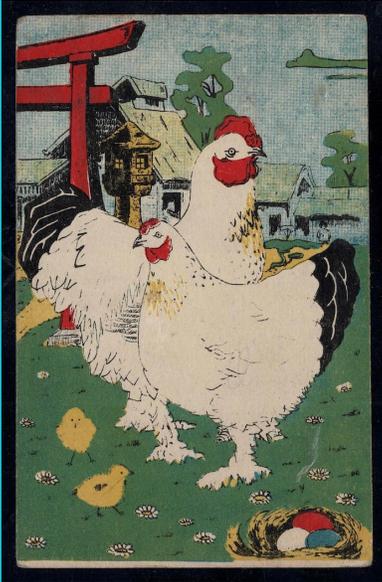


SYNOPSIS

Sarasota National
Stamp Expo 2022

Literature Exhibition



Happy Easter from Japan

Published in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* Volume 100 No. 4 July/August 2021, pages 222-236 and featured on the cover of that edition.

Goals:

- To identify the key contextual elements supporting development of POW designed and printed Easter postcards in Japanese camps during WWI;
- To document the evolution of POW Easter postcards and the associated Easter greeting markings using a broad range of examples from various POW camps;
- To share census data accumulated by the author on the Easter hand-stamps and POW designed and camp printed Easter postcards;
- To demonstrate the value of postal history in facilitating understandings and impacts of internment upon POWs through their cultural representations.

Background, Knowledge and Significance

The author has been collecting and researching Japanese WWI POW camp postal history for more than 35 years and presented on this area at the 2018 Smithsonian Postal History Symposium. He has developed a census database of Easter postcards including the 149 in his own collection. Documentation of the development of POW designed & printed Easter postcards is very significant as it identifies cultural constructs of the time (including camp conditions) and reveals impacts of long term internment upon the perceptions of POWs designing these cards. Many resources related to Japanese POW camps of WWI were lost during WWII bombings that impacted both Bonn and Hiroshima. Thus, such postal history affords rich insights, valuable not just to the philatelic realm, but to history in general.

Originality and Research

Key challenges compiling information for this article include limited access to records related to camp printed postcards and camp printers, as well as the infrequent appearance in the marketplace of the scarcer cards. Research included extensive examination of camp publications, programs for camp events, POW letters, auction catalogues and careful review of POW lists. This research enabled identification of some postcard designers and printers while facilitating compilation of census data shared in the article (Table 1 & 2). It is interesting to note that card recipients include a high percentage of fellow POWs rivalling mail to family and relatives and reflecting the close bonds shaped during military service. The article also introduces previously unrecorded card designs (front cover) and design variations as depicted with Figure 14 & 15.

Technical

The formatting and layout of the article were completed by the editor. All materials illustrated in the article are from the author's own collection. References have been included at the end of the article to denote other useful sources that contributed to perspectives represented in the article.