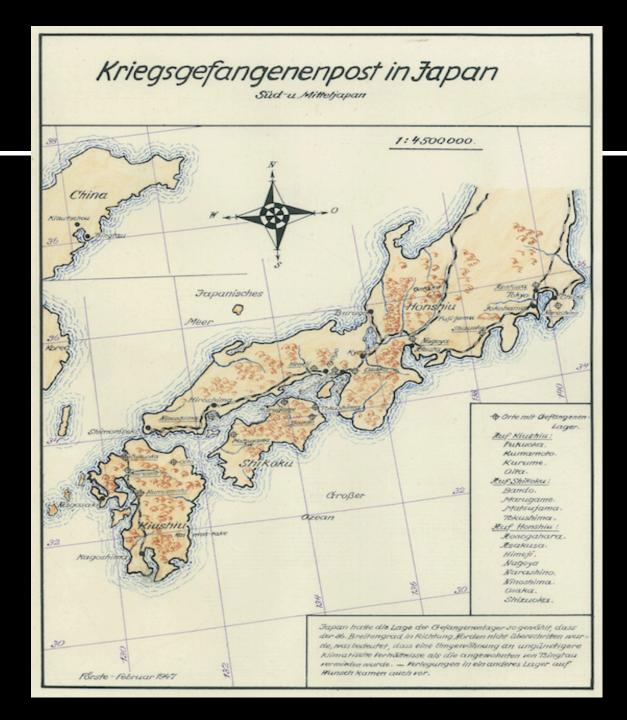
Harold Krische

# The Ninoshima Exhibition, 1914-20

A presentation for the Tenth Winton M. Blount Postal History Symposium 2018
Smithsonian National Postal Museum

# Background

- Aug 23/14 Japan declares war on Germany
- Nov 7, 1914
   Waldeck surrender
- Approx 4700 POW
- 16 Camps in Japan



### Contextual elements...

- Japan seeking to join the rank of first world countries, thus mindful of international treaties and expectations
- Japan conquering, occupying German territory & interning German soldiers and civilians introduces a unique racial-cultural dimension

#### Contextual elements...

- Germany strongly embraced nationalism, patriotism & cultural constructs
- The 'Golden Age' of the postcard afforded a valued communication device, one that could reflect circumstances and ideology

# The Ninoshima Camp

- Ninoshima Camp is on a small island across the bay from Hiroshima
- Ninoshima Camp opened Feb 19, 1917 and closed April 1, 1920
- 536 German & 9 Austrian POWs were transferred from the closing Osaka camp

# The Ninoshima Camp

- Various concerts, performances, sports competitions & exhibitions were known to have taken place in the Osaka & Ninoshima camps
- Ninoshima included facilities for breadmaking, sausage making, printing, tennis & soccer

# The Ninoshima Camp Exhibition of 1919

- An exhibition proposal was made to Camp commander Suganumarai
- The exhibition was hosted in the Bussan Exhibition Hall in Hiroshima

 16,000 Japanese citizens attended over 9 days in the early Spring of 1919

### Exhibition 1919

Bilingual handstamp, the two outside Japanese characters designating "Hiroshima", then 'Ninoshima Furyo Seisakuhin Tenrankai' (Exhibition of Handiwork from Ninoshima prisoners)

- POW #4708 Woserau was exhibition chair
- Produced a series of exhibition postcards
- POW #4532 Haupt coordinated program production



#### Produced by camp printer POW # 4703 Rudolf Scholz

#### Exhibition Card #1

Designed by POW #4608 Paul Schubert



#### Exhibition Card #1

- Reverse of card used to relative in Germany (Apr 7)
- "Exhibition of technical products of German POWs in Ninoshima" (vertical Japanese characters)



#### Designed by POW #3970 Eugen Liesenfeld

#### Exhibition Card #2

Liesenfeld had several paintings in the exhibition



#### Exhibition Card #2

- Reverse of card to Germany (Apr 7, earliest usage)
- Card printed by Rudolf Scholz



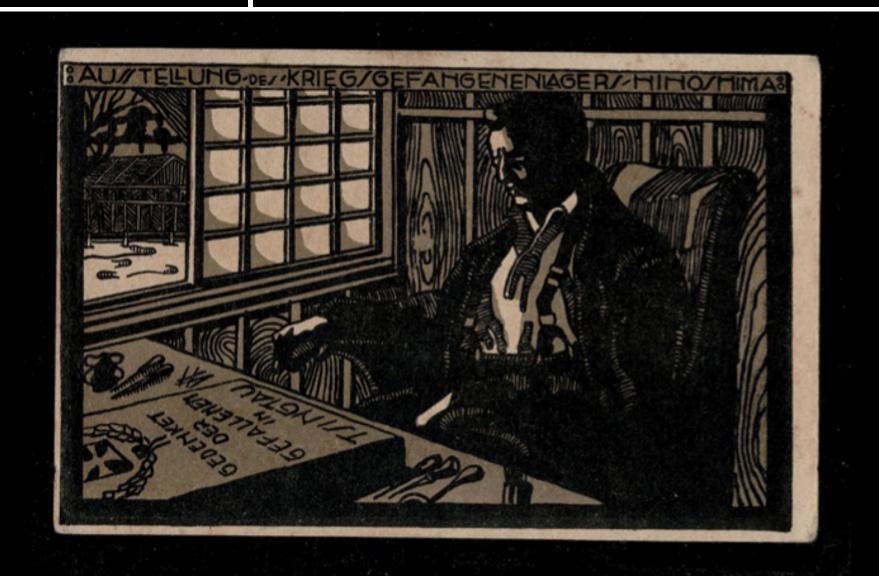
#### Exhibition Card #3

- Liesenfeld designed card commemorating those fallen in Tsingtau
- Card printed by Rudolf Scholz



#### Exhibition Card #3a

- Card printed printed by Wilhelm & Holona
- Darker tone, lacking details of previous card



- Reverse of card 3a (Apr 19, 1919 latest use)
- Intercamp usage to Narashino camp



#### Exhibition Card #4

- Depicting the Osaka lager in 1915
- Printing around design NOT underlined



#### Exhibition Card #4a

- Printing around design <u>IS</u> underlined (R. Scholz)
- Designed by POW #3841 Joseph Brilmayer

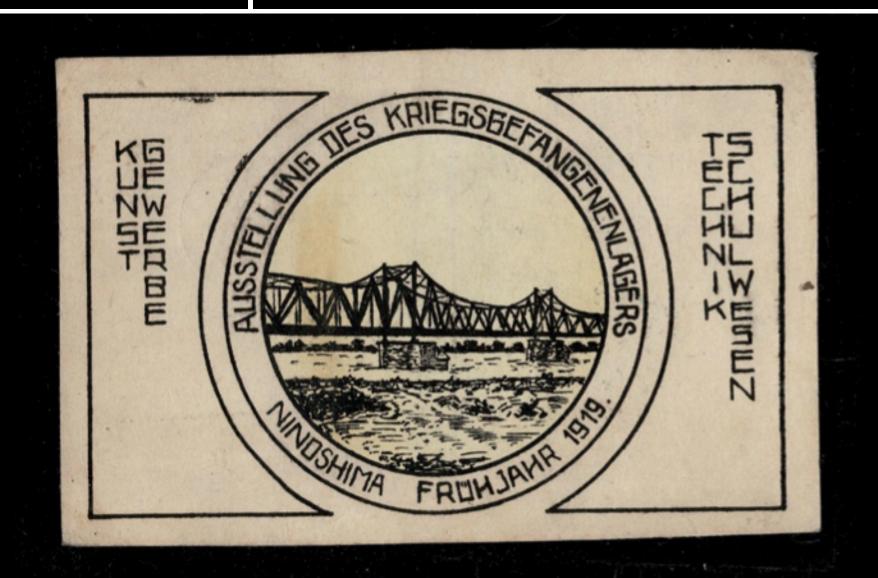


• Sent by POW # 1595 Tietz to family in Germany



#### Exhibition Card #5

- "KUNST GEWERBE" ARTS TRADE
- "TECHNIK SCHULWESEN" TECHNOLOGY SCHOOLING



- Sent by POW to family in Germany
- Card designed by POW Brilmayer



## Exhibition card #6 & 6a: 'The Magistrate'

DESIGNER: GUSTAV WILHELM

PRINTER VARIATION





# Exhibition Program Cover

- POW Gustav
   Wilhelm, postcard
   designer and artist
   was successful in the
   competition for the
   cover design
- The program is 38
   pages, listing 321
   exhibition entries
   with contributions
   from over 100 POWs



#### Exhibition Program Back

- Paintings 86 entries
- Handiwork 142
   entries
- Industrial 39 entries
- Education 25
   entries



#### **Exhibition Program**

The Program has four main sections featuring POW displays including: The Arts

Unser besonderer Dank sei an diese Kameraden gerichtet sowie an Herrn W. Haupt der bereitwillig die Herstellung der Decke des Führers und einiger Postkarten in seiner Lagerdruckerei übernahm und Herrn R. Scholz für die Herstellung der übrigen Karten.

Als Dolmetscher haben sich die Kameraden Albrecht, Bothe, Hastedt, Kult, Liessfeldfund Wendler zur Verfügung gestellt.

#### Erklärung der Zeichen:

V. bedeutet verkäuflich

Nachbestellungen werden

angenommen.

V.N. " verkäuflich und Nachbestel= lungen werden angenommen.

Verkauf von Ausstellungsgegenständen nur durch die Vermittlung der Ausstellungsleitung. Auskunft hierüber im Geschäftszimmer.

Die verkauften Gegenstände werden erst nach Schluss der Ausstellung abgeliefert.

DIE AUSSTELLUNGSLEITUNG.



#### Handicrafts: including woodworking & metal works

#### **Exhibition Program**

#### Lichtbildkunst

Leiter: Schiffbauer H. Ahlers.

Sthiffbauer Ahlers.H.

78, 40 Bilder (13x18) Lagerb.Innenaufn.Porträts, Sportb. Theaterb. (ausser Porträts V.)

79.

Matr. Artl. Caspari, F.

79. 50 Bilber (4x6\fracta Taschenformat) Lagerb.
aus Osaka (V. IN.)

Artl, Mt. Huber, Aug. 80. 20 Bilder (9x12) Lagerb. Porträts, Sportb. Lampenlichtaufn.

(ausser Porträts V.)

Ob. Matr. Artl. Huber, Ad. 81. 10 Bilder (9x12) Lagerb.aus Osaka

Oblt. z.S. v. Martin, H.

(9x12)

82. 5 Lagerb. 83. 7 Tennisb. 84. 5 Sportb. 85. 3 Theaterb.

Artl. Mt.d.R. Wendler, G.

86. 20 Bilder (9x12) Lagerb.aus Osaka



#### Technology: including electronics, construction, machines and operational models

#### **Exhibition Program**

Ob.Matr.Artl. Rasch,A.

222. Fertiger Anzug. 223. Jacket & Weste zur Probe.geheftet.

Kürschnermst. Willuda, A. 224. Militärmützen, Achselstücke für Offiz. Deckoff. Mannschaften, Orden.

N.N.

225. Rattenfalle. 226. Gartengerate.

A. Mändler.

227. Versch. Liköre, Mediz. Zubereitungen, Toilletteartikel

Mau, K.Ob. Matr. Artl. d. R. Röper, M.
228. Versch. Liköre, Mediz. Zubereitungen
Toillettenartikel.



Learning Aspects: including learning materials, collections, cartography, lessons, etc.

#### **Exhibition Program**

# Abt. Schulwesen.

73% der Lagerbewohner ha = ben sich während der Kriegefangenschaft an irgend einem Unterricht beteiligt, zu dessen Bewältigung 46 Lehrer wirkten. Der Höhepunkt der Unterrichtstätigkeit lag in Ni= noshima, da eine eigene Bararke mit angegliedertem Bühnenraum grosse Vortelle bot, zu deren Errichtung der Hilfsfond To-kyo in dankens werter Weise die Mittel zur Verfügung stellte. Hier wurden 47 verschiedene Kurse abgehalten. Die Teilnehmerzahl an den einzelnen Fächern lag zwischen 3 und 52. Die höchsten Schülerzahlen erreichten: Deutsch, Japa= hisch, Mathematik, Maschinen-Kunde, Chemie, Staatsverfassung, Erdkunde & Buth= führung. Grössere Smülerkreise fanden sich ausserdem zusammen in Chinesisch, English, Französish, Russish, Spanish, Geschichte, Rechnen, Stenographie, Schon-schreiben, Maschinenschreiben, sowie in besonderen Kursen für Baugewerbe, Maschinenbau & Elektrotechnik , Landwirtschaft, Volkswirtschaftslehre, und Rechtswissen= schaft.

Ausgestellt sind innerhalb dieses Absthnittes:

Matr. Arl. Bormather, J. Sthulte, Fr. 269-271. 3 Kasten Tagsthmetterlinge. Nathlfalter Käfer & Sthmetterlinge.

Masth Mstr. König, Ew. 272-280. 9 Kasten Schmetterlinge und

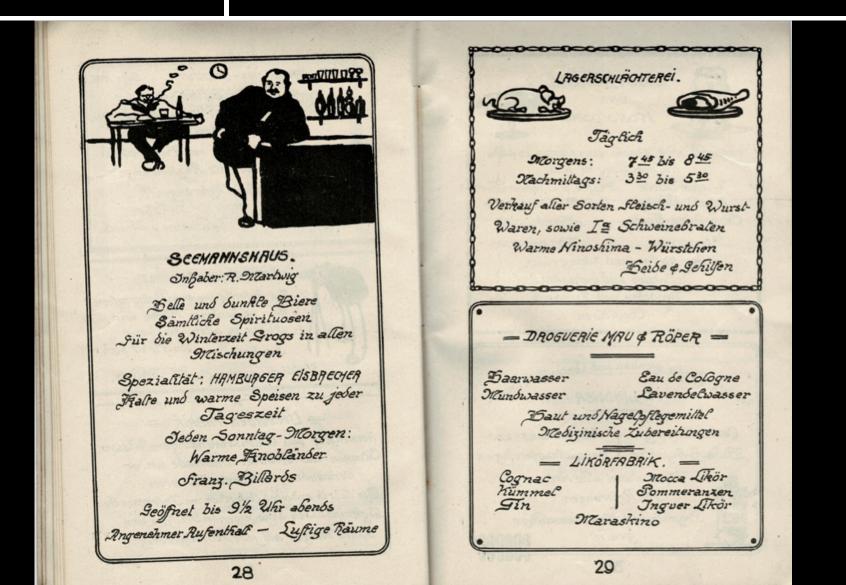


# Camp Education Programs

- 73% of camp POWs participated in education programs developed & provided by 46 POW 'teachers'
- Participants ranging from 3 to 52 per class were to be found in 47 different courses
- Popular courses included: German, Japanese, Math, Chem, Machinery, Government, Geography & Bookkeeping
- Specialty courses in electronics, engines, agriculture economics & jurisprudence were also offered

#### **Exhibition Program**

 The program featured advertising for services and products that were available at the exhibition.



# References of interest....

- Barkhof, S. (2017) German Prisoners of War in Japan During the First World War: Letters from the Colonial Frontline. Journal of War & Culture Studies, 10:3, 253-265, DOI 10.1080/17526272.2017.1309225
- Ninoshima German POWs' Camp. Retrieved from http:// www.cf.city.hiroshima.jp/rinkai/heiwa/heiwaoo8/german%2oprisoners %2ocamp.html
- Schmidt, H-J. *Historisch-biographisches Projekt von Hans-Joachim Schmidt* (seit 2002). Retrieved from www.tsingtau.info
- Seitz, L. (1998) Die Post der Tsingtauer in japanischer Gefangenschaft.
   Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Sammler deutscher Kolonialpostwertzeichen.