

JAPAN COMMEMORATES PEARL HARBOR

Synopsis
Single Frame (Display) Exhibit
VAPEX 2008

Introduction

This exhibit shows Japan's wartime philatelic commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Because Japan and Hawaii are separated by the International Date Line, the attack took place on 8 December Japanese time and on 7 December American time. Japan called the war the Greater East Asia War, which is the term used on these stamps and/or cancellations commemorating the Pearl Harbor attack, i.e. the start of the Greater East Asia War.

On 8 December 1942, Japan issued a semi-postal stamp (Sc B7) commemorating the first anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. This was part of a two-stamp set, the other value (Sc B6) commemorating the Battle of Bataan in the Philippine Islands.

The Pearl Harbor stamp vignette is from a picture taken by a Japanese aviator during the attack.

An original, WWII Japanese print of this photo is shown.

Also on 8 December 1942, Japan issued overprinted stamps commemorating the attack on Philippines (Sc N9) and Manchukuo (Sc 148-9). *The pages showing this material are new to the exhibit*, being shown for the first time.

On 8 December 1943, the second anniversary, Japan Post issued a set of three picture postal cards, one in commemoration of Pearl Harbor. The other two were in recognition of battles at Hong Kong and Singapore.

Difficulty/Challenge in Material Acquisition

It has taken over 12 years to acquire the material shown. *All exhibited material is from WWII era*; there are no postwar items shown.

With the exception of the stamps themselves and the Philippines N9 FDC, *all of the material shown in the exhibit is quite scarce/uncommon*. Most of the material was acquired directly from Japan.

The two non-philatelic, commercial covers franked with the Pearl Harbor stamp (B6) are the only such examples the exhibitor has seen.

References

- . *Japanese Philately*, October, 1991. pp. 217-231.
- "A Pilot's View". *Japanese Philately*, August, 1992. p. 117.
- . *Japanese Philately*, April, 1964. pp. 68-69.

Content

- Japan Pearl Harbor first anniversary commemorative semi-postal stamp.
- Japan Pearl Harbor second anniversary commemorative picture postal card.
- Commercial, non-philatelic covers (2).
- Cached First Day Covers and cards.
- Picture post cards.
- Commemorative booklet (exploded) showing both first anniversary stamps (B6-7).
- War bond commemorating first anniversary of Pearl Harbor attack.
- Original, wartime Japanese photo from which the Pearl Harbor stamp vignette is derived.
- Occupied Philippines first anniversary overprinted stamp and FDCs.
- Manchukuo first anniversary overprinted stamps and FDC.