

ORADOUR-SUR-GLANE

Synopsis
Single Frame (Display) Exhibit

Philatelic Show 2010

Introduction

On 10 June 1944, German troops massacred the residents of the small French village of Oradour-sur-Glane. Almost all of the residents--women and children as well as men--were murdered and the village looted and burned.

On 13 October 1945 France issued a commemorative semi-postal stamp in honor of Oradour and its residents. This exhibit shows this stamp.

This exhibit is a result of a phone conversation with Peter McCann following The Plymouth Show, 2004.

Content

Philatelic

Die proof signed by artist/engraver.
Imperf stamp (1000 issued)
“Proofs of History” block-of-four die proof
Remembrance Committee blocks
First day cover
First day souvenir folder
Souvenir cards (first day & other)
Maximum cards (first day & other)
Commemorative postmarks
50th anniversary souvenir page

Collateral

de Gaulle Oradour visit postcard
1945 press photo
Human ashes postcard
Aerial view postcard
French brochures
Ship Oradour postcard
2006 memorial medallion

Difficulty/Challenge in Material Acquisition

The challenge in collecting this material is that it is relatively uncommon and doesn't fit into a dealer's specific collecting category. Most material has been found searching through French postal history inventories and/or on eBay.

No material shown was particularly expensive to obtain.

It took nearly five years to acquire sufficient material for the initial showing of this single frame exhibit (Plymouth 2008). My *The Murder of Lidice* exhibit was being shown in 5+ frames after the same time period. Other than postcards showing Oradour ruins, there appears to be minimal immediate postwar collateral material available. Exhibitor speculates that this is because, unlike Lidice, Oradour was not widely publicized when it happened.

References

Dear, I.C.B., editor. The Oxford Companion to World War II. Oxford University Press, Oxford. 1995. (concise history of Oradour)

J.M.S. Roberts. Oradour-sur-Glane. France and Colonies Philatelic Society, UK. June, 1994. pp. 55-56.

Other than the article above and the usual philatelic catalogs, I am not aware of any specific references regarding the French Oradour stamp.