All items are subject to prior sale and are at the discretion of the vendor. Possession of the item(s) does not pass to the client until the invoice has been paid in full. Prices are in Euros. All items are subject to return within 1 month of date or invoice, provided the item is returned in the same condition as which it was sold. The vendor offers free worldwide shipping.
“no other press in the world has paid such a high price”

This catalogue presents the largest and finest collection of printed works made by the Yugoslav Partisans ever to be showcased internationally. The Yugoslav Partisans were the most successful resistance movement against the Axis occupation of Europe during World War II. During the four years of their existence they formed a complete underground society, with their own distinct propaganda, social customs, visual culture, literature, performing arts, schools, legal and governmental systems, communication networks and methods of conducting guerrilla and conventional warfare. Amazingly, most of their publications were printed by clandestine, or underground, presses hidden from their enemies within occupied Yugoslavia. The corpus of their surviving prints is diverse, highly sophisticated in content, and often of considerable artistic virtue. These pamphlets, broadsides and newsheets were of an ephemeral nature and are today rare, many exceedingly so. They are of profound historical importance as ingenious and authentic expressions of the human condition during one of the most trying and dramatic periods in history.

The Yugoslav Partisans were the most successful armed resistance movement against the Axis occupation of Europe during World War II. Over the four years of their existence, from 1941 to 1945, they made the transformation from being a guerrilla movement to a conventional army to forming a national government. The Partisans comprised a sophisticated underground society, complete with their own distinct culture, organization and customs. They produced their own unique literature, music, poetry and visual art. They devised their own political philosophy, as well as educational, legal and financial systems. The Partisans adapted to their challenging environment by developing their own novelties of education, field medicine, engineering, and communication systems, as well as innovations in military science that allowed them to perfect the art of guerrilla warfare in the modern age. They also developed an impressive propaganda apparatus to boost the morale of their own supporters and to intimidate their opposition. Poignantly, they also recorded moving accounts of human survival against unimaginable adversity. The Partisans were multi-ethnic, counting sizable numbers of Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Montenegrins and Bosniaks amongst their ranks. While a Communist-dominated movement, many of its members were practicing Christians, Moslems and Jews. Always short of personnel, their imperatives caused them to have a progressive attitude towards the role of women, who occupied leadership positions and participated in front-line combat.

The story of the Partisans is best told by the rare, but extremely diverse and sophisticated corpus of surviving publications that they created. Importantly, most of these prints were made under extraordinary unusual and dangerous circumstances, issued by clandestine, or underground presses, hidden from the Axis forces and their collaborators. Most of these presses were secreted away in the mountains and forests of Partisan-controlled rural areas, positions that were still perilous, as they could be subject to enemy raids at any moment.
Other clandestine Partisan presses were located in the heart of Axis-controlled cities and towns, mere metres away from enemy positions, and only a single small mistake from detection. Ingenious means were invented to conceal the printing workshops and the means by which the prints were distributed. Partisan printers often had to work on the fly, under great pressure, coping with shortages of supplies, limited time and unpleasant surprises. Thus, most Partisan prints have an unusual, ephemeral quality, often the product of improvised printing techniques. That being said, much effort went into the design and content of the publications, creating works of great practical utility and profound cultural merit.

Partisan prints tend to be rare, many exceedingly so, due to their limited production, their ephemeral nature, their destruction in a wartime environment, as well as neglect due to ignorance in the decades following the conflict. Indeed, many of the works presented in this catalogue are known in only a single surviving example.

Today these rare prints are of remarkable historical value as they are primary documents relating dramatic human experiences, featuring a greater richness and authenticity than are generally expressed in World War II documents. Each work is close to history, containing veritable insights into warfare, industry, artistic creativity, communications, philosophy, religion, and gender relations during an epic fight for liberation.

The stories related by the Partisans’ prints deserve to be told to a global audience, and this catalogue represents the first occasion that a comprehensive body of these works has been showcased outside of the former Yugoslavia.

The Rise of the Partisans

This catalogue focuses specifically on the Yugoslav Partisans during World War II, although the term ‘partisan’ has existed since the 18th Century to generically refer to an irregular military force formed to oppose the occupation of a country by a foreign power. During World War II, resistance movements against Axis occupation in several other nations were also often referred to as ‘Partisans’. That being said, the Yugoslav Partisans were by far the largest, most successful and famous to assume the name.

Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy invaded the Kingdom of Yugoslavia on April 6, 1941, and the royal government capitulated only eleven days later, after minimal resistance. Yugoslavia was carved up into different zones of control. Germany made much of Serbia into the ‘Territory of the Military Commander in Serbia’, a directly occupied land under martial law. Germany also annexed most of northern and eastern Slovenia to the German Reich. Much of Croatia, all of Bosnia, parts of Serbia and a sliver of Slovenia became the Independent State of Croatia (Nezavisna Država Hrvatska, NDH), an Axis-puppet state ruled by Ante Pavelić’s Ustaše regime. Hungary annexed part of the Vojvodina region from Serbia and the Prekmurje region from Slovenia. Italy, which since World War I had controlled Istria and the western quarter of Slovenia, annexed large parts of Dalmatia, most of Montenegro plus the southern part of Slovenia, Carniola, including Ljubljana. The Italian protectorate of Albania occupied parts of Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia, while Bulgaria, an Axis-ally, occupied parts of Macedonia and Serbia.

What occurred thereafter is highly complicated, and at the risk of generalization, we will summarize here. Within weeks of the Axis invasion, Yugoslavia fell into a traumatic and fluid state that became a hybrid of a brutal foreign occupation, a multi-sided civil war and a war of liberation. Resistance to the Axis occupation developed independently in both Serbia and Slovenia.

The Yugoslav Partisans were formed in June 1941 by the Communist Party of Yugoslavia (KPJ) to violently oppose the Axis occupation. The organization was led by Marshal Josip Broz Tito (1892 – 1980), a charismatic and hard-charging Croatian-Slovenian veteran of both World War I and dramatic adventures in the Soviet Union. The Partisan armed forces were formally founded under the name, the National Liberation Partisan Detachments of Yugoslavia, thus giving rise to the name ‘Partisans’, although it was latterly officially named the National Liberation Army (Narodnooslobodilačka vojska, NOV).

There were several factors that made the Yugoslav Partisans onto Europe’s most successful armed resistance movement. In a land of ancient ethnic cleavages, the Partisans broadened their appeal by basing their raison d’être on (Communist and liberation) ideology and not on nationalism or secularism. This ensured that they were able to gain significant levels of support across all regions of Yugoslavia. The ranks of the Partisans were also swelled by the extreme brutality of the Axis occupation, which was typified by severe material deprivation and genocide. For members of certain ethnic groups in many areas, membership in the Partisans provided the only realistic possibility of survival.

Women, who were normally excluded from combat roles in Europe, were not only recruited by the Partisans to fight on the front lines, but some were even given leadership roles. By 1944, an estimated 17% of Partisan fighters were women. While most of the Partisan volunteers initially had little or no military training, the movement did benefit from the experience of those who had fought in World War I or with the Soviet Red Army (like Tito). However, the most relevant expertise came from the seasoned guerrilla fighters who had had opposed the Italian control of western Slovenia and Istria in the years before the war, as well as the small cadre of Partisans who had fought in the Spanish Civil War. Broadly speaking, the Partisans were able to maintain discipline and cohesion, managed to cope with scarce resources, proved able to learn from their mistakes, and, perhaps most of all, were able to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances.
The German high command was frequently shocked by how the Partisans could sustain massive casualties, escape from well-laid traps, and live to fight another day.

It must be noted that the Partisans initially had an, albeit ill-suited, ally. The Chetniks, led by Draža Mihailović, were a Serbian nationalist and royalist militia that did not accept Yugoslavia’s capitulation. From June to October 1941, they cooperated uneasily with the Partisans, fighting against the Nazis and the Ustaše. However, the ideological and ethnic differences between the groups proved incompatible and by November the Partisans and the Chetniks had turned on each other. The course of the Chetniks thereafter is highly complicated, however, near the end of the war they ended up cooperating with the Germans, as mortal enemies of the Partisans.

The Partisans, whose active forces in the summer of 1941 numbered around 55,000, were compelled to live off of the land. They were reliant on food, ammunition and supplies that were either given to them by civilian sympathizers or acquired during raids upon Axis positions. They made their first great stand in Užice, in a mountainous region of western Serbia. From July to December 1941 they formed the ‘Užice Republic’, but the Wehrmacht soon drove the Partisans out of Serbia and into the mountains of Bosnia and Montenegro.

By the middle of 1942, the Partisans’ combat-ready ranks had grown to over 200,000, although these forces were spread over large areas of discontinuous territory. On November 16, 1942, the Partisans formed the Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Yugoslavia, (Yugoslav abbreviation: AVNOJ), and umbrella organization for their movement that would, in time, evolve into the post-war Yugoslavian government.

While Partisan units continued to engage in irregular warfare for the rest of the war, over the period from 1942 to 1944, Tito’s forces made the transition from being a guerrilla movement into a regular army. The Wehrmacht launched seven major offensives that each sought to annihilate the bulk of Tito’s forces in Bosnia. However, the Partisans’ skills in maneuvering and evasion allowed them to escape from well-laid traps and continue fighting.

The most dramatic showdown was the Battle of Sutjeska (May 15–June 16, 1943), during which Axis forces of 127,000 men backed by 300 aircraft attempted to encircle and wipe out Tito’s force of 22,000. While the Partisans lost over a third of their troops, the bulk of the force and their high command eluded capture.

By the end of the war, the Partisans had become a fully-fledged army, with a regular command structure and well-trained guerrilla fighters whose skills would be invaluable in the larger struggle to come.

The Slovenian Partisans

The Partisans in Slovenia deserve special mention. While never comprising more than 10% of the Yugoslav Partisans by personnel they had a far larger impact on the movement than their numbers would suggest. They also produced a disproportionately large percentage of the Yugoslav Partisan publications.

The Slovenian Partisans were founded separately from the movement formed by Marshal Tito, although the two forces always cooperated and eventually merged. Historically, most of what would become Slovenia was traditionally a part of Austria, but following World War I, the western quarter of the Slovenian lands, being the territory near the Adriatic Sea (home to a quarter of the Slovenian population) was handed to Italy. While Slovenian and Italian speakers had peacefully coexisted for centuries, the Fascist regime under Benito Mussolini embarked upon a policy of forced ‘Italization’ of the Slovenian population. These policies were adamantly resisted by the Slovenes and, in 1927, the militant anti-Fascist resistance group TIGR, (an abbreviation for the main places in the region: Št (Trieste), Istra (Istria), Gorica (Gorizia) and Reka (Rijeka)) was founded. TIGR conducted assassinations of Italian officials and was a major headache for the Fascist regime, although it came nowhere close to threatening Italian rule in the region. By the beginning of World War II, it had been largely neutralized by Italian agents. That being said, TIGR left a surviving corps of well-trained guerrilla fighters whose skills would be invaluable in the larger struggle to come.

The Partisan movement formally began in Slovenia when the Liberation Front of the Slovene Nation (Osvobodilna fronta, acronym: OF) was established in Ljubljana on April 26, 1941, shortly after the Italians gained control over what they called the ‘Province of Ljubljana’. While the OF had a left-wing disposition, it did not start out as a Communist movement, being an alliance of Communists and Christian Socialists, united in what they saw an existential struggle to save the Slovene nation. Led by a civilian council headed by Boris Kidrič and Edvard Kardelj, the OF formed a highly effective military arm, including many veterans of the TIGR. While the OF was closely aligned with Tito’s Partisans, for some time they resisted the later’s attempts to subordinate them, retaining their own command structure. With the Dolomiti Declaration of March 1, 1943, the Slovene Partisans formally became a Communist organization, but it was not until the following year that they were merged into the command structure of the Yugoslav Partisans.

The Slovenian Partisans fought in a theatre geographically distinct from the main region of operations of the Yugoslav Partisans in Bosnia and Montenegro. Unlike their comrades further south, they were largely confined to guerrilla operations until the final stages of the war. Slovenia is an extremely mountainous and heavily forested land, and there the Partisans controlled increasingly large
tracts of countryside, although most major cities, towns, as well as key transport corridors, remained in the possession of the Axis powers. The Slovenian Partisans formed complete underground societies deep in the forest, while maintaining secret cells within cities, all connected by ingenious clandestine communication networks.

The oppression of Slovenians within the Italian occupied zone was especially severe, with 25,000 citizens (or 7.5% of the population) being sent to concentration camps. This spurred recruitment of both Partisan fighters and active sympathizers. While they were never a large force, they enjoyed considerable and constant growth. The ranks of combat-ready Slovenian Partisans rose from around 800 in August 1941 to 2,000 by the end of the year. By the autumn of 1943, the Slovenian Partisans had 20,000 fighters, before increasing their strength to a high of 38,000 in early 1945.

In a microcosm of the events further south, innumerable German attempts to flush Slovenian Partisan detachments out of the hills were almost invariably unsuccessful. While the Partisans did not have the strength to seize major cities, they nevertheless pinned the Germans down in their urban bases, denying them free movement across the country.

Just as Tito’s Partisans had to fight something of a civil war against the Chetniks in Serbia and Bosnia, the Slovenian Partisans faced serious domestic opposition. A significant minority of the Slovene population collaborated with the Axis powers. During the Italian occupation of western Slovenia, the collaborators were organized into the ‘Village Sentries’ (Vilike straže), local militias that battled the Partisans. In September 1943, upon the German occupation of the entire country, SS General Erwin Rösener ordered the foundation of the Slovene Home Guard (Domobranci, SD). This well organized and well-armed Slovenian militia vigorously opposed the Partisans. Its ranks grew quickly from around 3,000 in the autumn of 1943 to a peak of 21,000 near the end of the war.

The Partisans’ Road to Victory

In late 1943 and early 1944, overall the war had been fought to something of a stalemate in both the Bosnia-Montenegro and Slovenian theatres. The Partisans were unable to gain control of major cities and transport corridors, being relegated to mountainous rural areas. At the same time, the Axis and collaborationist forces proved unable to dislodge the Partisans from their strongholds.

However, as 1944 progressed, the tide decisively turned in the Partisans’ favour. In spite of heavy casualties, the Partisan ranks swelled through the year to exceed 650,000 fighters, organized into 52 divisions, capable of conventional warfare. Their civilian supporters were thought to number 6 million. Statistics from May 1944 show that the multi-ethnic composition of the Partisan army, being 44% Serb, 30% Croat, 10% Slovene, 5% Montenegrin, 2.5% Macedonian, and 2.5% Bosnian Muslim. Additionally, over 20,000 Communist Italian fighters also supported them.

By this time, the Partisans also came to receive significant assistance from the Allies. Britain and the U.S.A. sent the Partisans large quantities of arms and supplies, while the Partisans were permitted to set up bases in Allied controlled parts of Italy.

By the summer of 1944, the Wehrmacht, which was already losing the war virtually everywhere else, started to lose control of Yugoslavia. Their supply lines were breaking down, as the Partisans armies gained more and more of the countryside.

In September 1944, the Soviet Red Army advanced into Serbia from the east, while the Partisans advanced into Serbia from Bosnia. After what was known as the Belgrade Offensive, the Soviet-Partisan forces gained control of the Yugoslav capital by October 20, 1944. The fall of the Axis occupation of Yugoslavia was now only a matter of time, as the Germans, Ustaše and their local affiliates lost ground everywhere.

Certain of ultimate victory, in March 1945, Marshal Tito created the Temporary Government of the Democratic Federal Yugoslavia, a national entity that would be ready to immediately replace the occupying forces and their puppet regimes as soon as they were vanquished. At the same time, the Partisans became the Yugoslav Army (Jugoslovenska Armija), in order to transition towards becoming a conventional national defence force.

By April 1945, the Partisan forces, which numbered over 800,000, had the Axis forces on the run, as town-by-town, city-by-city fell to Tito’s divisions. Germany unconditionally surrendered on May 7, 1945, and Yugoslav forces assumed control of the entire country the following day. Remnants of the German army, the Ustaše regime and many Domobranci and Chetnik units fled northwards towards Austria. Tito’s forces captured some of these individuals, while the Allies subsequently returned others to Yugoslavia. Many of those who came into Yugoslav custody met grim fates. However, many others escaped entirely, with some immigrating to the Americas.

Partisan Printing in Focus

Printed works were not only manifestations of the Partisan movement, they were integral to sustaining the underground society through the most trying of times. The purpose of Partisan publications was variously to advance military operations, to educate, to inform, to aid administration, to facilitate artistic expression, to promote recruitment and raise morale, as well as to intimidate adversaries.
As the Partisans operated in lands that were occupied by various Axis powers, they had to establish underground presses that could clandestinely print and distribute publications in dangerous circumstances, while coping with chronic logistical and supply challenges. The Nazi forces, in particular, were keenly aware of the importance of printing to the resistance, and specifically went to great efforts to locate and destroy Partisan printing operations.

The Partisans benefitted from the fact that within their ranks they had an unusually large number of people with extensive pre-war experience in writing, artistic design, and the technical aspects of publishing. Beyond that, many promising young Yugoslavians with talent in these areas cut their teeth in the underground presses, and emerged from the conflict with value experience and great reputations, forming the basis of successful careers.

There were two main types of underground Partisan presses. First, were the urban presses that operated within Axis-controlled cities and towns. These printing establishments existed in an environment of clear and present danger, being located in the cramped basements or hidden back rooms of shops and private homes, often only metres away from enemy premises or patrol routes. While it may have been easier to gain access to skilled labour, supplies and distribution networks in urban areas, underground Partisan printers and their runners were always only one minor mistake away from being caught.

However, most underground Partisan presses were located in rural locations, deep in the forests and mountains, in areas that were under Partisan control. The precise locations of these printing operations were kept top secret, only known to the local Partisan high command, the printers themselves, and a small network of support staff. Often elaborate means were made to conceal these printing operations, which were frequently built amidst dense brush in ravines, or in spaces carved into cliff sides. Some underground presses were subterranean, so literally underground.

While it may have sometimes been difficult to recruit skilled staff, marshal supplies and set up logistical networks, these rural locations were, relatively speaking, less dangerous than the urban print shops. Moreover, they often had ample space to facilitate larger operations. That being said, these rural locations were far from safe, as finding and destroying these operations was a priority for the Nazis.

Whether operating an urban or rural underground press, Partisan printing was a risky business, a point best expressed by the Partisan publisher Cene Kranjc who lamented, “no other press in the world has paid such a high price”.

While the Partisans possessed a couple of printing operations that employed modern, professional presses, run on electricity, the vast majority of Partisan underground prints were made through more rudimentary means. First, modern presses required significant amounts of electricity, which was in short supply in rural areas, and far too risky to employ in urban printing operations. In cities and towns, Axis officials monitored electricity use and a spike in power due to a modern press would have been a red flag. Moreover, electric presses were too noisy to be concealed in small, secret spaces.

Thus, underground Partisan printers were relegated to employing techniques that were done by hand or involved simple, mechanical devices. These techniques included the mimeograph, hectograph, heliotype, typewriting and linocuts, with works sometimes being augmented by manuscript. Moreover, shortages of paper and inks in the wartime environment often caused the printers to improvise with unusual materials. While these circumstances ensured that many underground Partisan works had a crude appearance, the same limitations also led to a distinct Partisan style of typography and decorative art, sometimes resulting in pieces of great beauty.

The underground Partisan presses tended to be well organized and, in some cases, highly detailed records exist of the operations of individual presses and the publication of specific titles. In fact, until March 12, 1944, every Partisan press was required by the movement’s high command to send one example of each publication to the local commander and another to a central secret archive to be preserved for posterity. From that date onward, the second copy of each title was to be preserved in the intended central archive of the future Yugoslavian state.
While not all titles survived, due to these measures, at the end of the war at least one example of most titles was preserved in public institutions, either in the national Yugoslav archives in Belgrade, or in various regional state institutions. Unfortunately, during the disintegration of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, many of these examples were de-accessioned by institutions, and then destroyed by neglect or wartime conditions.

The underground Partisan presses also had highly efficient and sophisticated logistical (for bringing in supplies) and distribution networks (for disseminating the prints). Moreover, many prints were syndicated, such a single title sometimes appeared from multiple presses.

As the Partisans transitioned from being a guerrilla insurgency to a conventional army to a government in waiting, their needs required them to publish an increasingly diverse and sophisticated body of practical and cultural publications.

Propaganda pieces were vital to maintaining morale, boosting recruitment, and warning supporters of threats, as well as discouraging Axis and collaborationist elements. Works on news and current events were vital to informing people as to what was really going on, both in Yugoslavia and internationally, in a region where the mainstream media was under Axis censorship. Parallel to the military conflict, the Partisans and the Axis-collaborationist entities engaged in fierce propaganda wars, fought with newspapers, pamphlets and posters, in the place of guns and steel.

Publications on military science and guerrilla warfare were crucial to educating Partisan fighters on the techniques of asymmetric warfare that were integral to their success, as well as the conventional tactics that permitted them to defeat Axis armies later in the war. Works on field medicine allowed the small, but spirited, Partisan forces to save precious lives with limited resources.

Governmental and social institutions were critical to sustaining the Partisans, maintaining discipline and cohesion. Works by Marshal Tito and other leaders gave direction to an ethnically diverse and geographically diffuse movement. Treatises on administration, law and economics were necessary to set the rules for the underground society that would evolve into the national government upon liberation. Tomes on Marxism and Communism provided the philosophical underpinnings for the movement, giving it a raison d’être beyond just fighting the Axis occupation. This ideology also served to unify the Partisans, neutralizing the ethnic and religious cleavages that ran through Yugoslavia.

Publications on the arts and entertainment were rare celebrations of the human spirit and creativity in a time of misery and hardship. Theatre, music, poems and literature were not only morale-raising diversions from the grind of war, but were also a medium for conveying important political and social messages, as well as engendering camaraderie. It is said that adversity and extraordinary situations breed good and original art, and the surreal world of the Partisans produced unique literary and musical works of enduring merit.

Evident throughout Partisan printing, regardless of its subject or purpose, is visual art. Often executed by established and aspiring pre-war professional artists, many Partisan prints are fabulously decorated, influenced by a variety of styles, including Art Deco, Agitprop, Secessionism, Soviet Modernism, as well as traditional Yugoslav ethnic motifs. The frequent lack of conventional printing materials often compelled artists to employ improvised and unusual media that had the consequence of creating visual art of a wonderfully distinct aesthetic. Stunning artwork had the critical effect of drawing the reader into the text, as well as being a source of pride for all of those who risked their lives to publish the work.

The Partisans published many works extolling the crucial and socially progressive role of women in the movement. Before the war, women were relegated to traditional roles in most parts of Yugoslavia. The war changed that, as the Partisans’ manpower shortages and Communist ideology dictated that women should be given larger and broader roles. The Partisans trained female soldiers to fight in combat on the front lines, serve as doctors and instructors, and to assume senior command responsibilities. This went well beyond the role of women in the Western Allied societies at war. Partisan pamphlets sent the message that women were not only capable of doing jobs traditionally limited to men, but must fulfill these roles. The rhetorical thrust was to remind men that, in spite of their traditional upbringing, they must support women in these new roles, as well as encouraging women themselves to rise to the challenge. These progressive social changes revolutionized women’s rights in many parts of Yugoslavia extending into the post-war era.

Education was an important focus of Partisan printing, ranging from teaching children the basics, to advanced technical manuals for soldiers on the front line. Often non-technical educational materials were combined with propaganda to form a potent mix.

As a testament to the diversity of the Partisan movement, it may surprise many to learn that religious publications were a notable element of Partisan print culture. Many observant religious people, including Christians (both Roman Catholic and Orthodox), Muslims and Jews, including clergymen, joined the Partisans. While the Partisans were increasingly under the atheist philosophy of the Communist Party, there remained some degree of (sometimes awkward) tolerance for religious figures as long as they did not seek to interfere with the leadership of the movement. Religious Partisan works often focused on the social democratic elements of their faiths, while severely criticizing the many religious figures that sided with the Axis powers.
While many Partisans who had the misfortune to be captured by Axis forces could expect summary execution, many others were sent to concentration camps. The most emotionally moving of all Partisan prints are those that feature survivor’s first-hand accounts of the unparalleled horrors of life and death in the camps. Most of these recollections are disturbingly graphic and provide details and personal touches that appear nowhere else. Importantly, some of these publications were both written and published by the survivors themselves, placing them very close to the terrible experiences they recount. Contemporarily, these accounts had the effect of redoubling the zeal of the Partisan fighters to defeat the enemy; while perhaps giving second thoughts to the Yugoslavians who were tempted to collaborate with the Axis side.

Partisan prints are today rare, many extremely so, due to their ephemeral nature. Many were produced in only very limited quantities, while even titles that had sizable print runs tend to have very low survival rates. Not only did these works, usually published on thin, fragile paper, perish due to wear and tear in an active war zone, but also their recipients would often have intentionally discarded them shortly after reading them. Axis troops frequently searched people for ‘offensive’ documents and other contraband, and being caught possessing Partisan prints could result in severe punishment, even death. As such, few people wanted to risk carrying around Partisan prints, preferring to read them quickly, take in their messages, and then move on.

In the early 1960s, the Yugoslavian government commissioned an excellent bibliography and census of known Partisan prints in institutions, resulting in the publication of the Bibliografija (Belgrade, 1964). It remains the only comprehensive bibliography of Partisan works, listing 9,303 entries. However, it appears that there are at least hundreds, if not thousands of more titles that were so rare that they escaped this very thorough endeavour. Moreover, many of the examples recorded in the early 1960s are no longer to be found in these institutions. Many titles were de-accessioned in the 1990s, as Partisan prints temporarily fell out of fashion due to a spike in nationalist, anti-Communist, and anti-pan-Yugoslav sentiment. Unwisely, many libraries simply discarded their collections, while anecdotes tell of institutions being offered fine collections of Partisan prints, only to turn them down, as they would result in ‘too much cataloguing for the staff’. Today the appreciation of the immense cultural and historical value of Partisan prints is, once again, on the rise, and those who discarded or forsook these prints now surely regret their decisions, as today they are generally irreplaceable.

A mimeographed title page for a pamphlet, showing a Partisan printing shop, hidden in the mountains (1944). Item #11.
Anti-Partisan Prints: The Voices of the Occupying & Collaborationist Forces

Also showcased in this catalogue are works published by the Partisans’ adversaries: the German and Italian occupying regimes; the Ustaše government of the Independent State of Croatia; as well as various regional collaborationist entities, such as the Slovene Home Guard (Domobranci). They are important to consider in relation to the Partisan prints, so as to gain a more complete impression of what transpired in Yugoslavia during World War II.

Most of these prints that were intended for public consumption were propagandist in nature, featuring sharp attacks on the Partisans, the Allies or Jews, or some combination of these targets. While the German and Italian works tended to focus on the strength of their power and authority, and the supposed weakness of the Partisans, works made by the Yugoslavian collaborationist entities tended to be far more fanciful in both their content and design. For instance, the Ustaše and Domobranci tended to paint the Partisans as puppets of a vast global Anglo-American-Bolshevik-Jewish conspiracy. They were quick to point out atrocities against civilians supposedly committed by the Partisans and made them out to be a mortal threat to the Catholic Church, a very important institution in the daily lives of most Slovenes and Croats. While their messages may be offensive and/or ridiculous to the modern viewer, some works were admittedly cleverly designed, featuring well-executed artwork.

There are radical differences between Partisan prints, which were generally published by underground presses, and prints made by the Axis forces and their Yugoslav collaborators. Not only were the content and the tone of the works markedly different, but also Axis-collaborationist prints tended to have been published by sophisticated, modern presses in professional printing houses, within cities and towns safely under Axis control. Many of these prints were also issued in bilingual form, in German or Italian, in addition to a Yugoslavian language, directed towards both the occupiers and a local audience. Thus the Axis-collaborationist prints have a physical and visual appearance markedly different than that of the Partisan prints. That being said, many of these works are still rare, as they were produced in small numbers and are of an ephemeral nature.

The End of the War & the New Yugoslavia

After the end of World War II, the Partisan high command formed the basis of the government of the new state of Yugoslavia, which would be ruled by Marshal Josip Broz Tito for the next 35 years. The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was officially constituted on November 29, 1945. The new nation initially attempted to follow the Soviet Stalinist model, but soon broke away to form its own unique and more moderate socialist order, ‘Titoism’. While Yugoslavia left the Soviet orbit, it did not join the West, preferring to follow a third path, eventually leading Marshal Tito to become one of the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Partisan cultural customs, literature, songs, theatre, artistic styles and propaganda themes remained highly influential in Yugoslavia and its successor states for decades, in some instances, all the way up to the present time.

While the Partisans’ prints focus on events that occurred in occupied Yugoslavia and bordering lands during a particular traumatic period, they all address larger matters of the human condition that resonate globally, transcending time. For this reason, it is critical that institutions and private collectors should care for them for the benefit of future generations.
Nemščina napadla Jugoslavijo na slovenški in bolgarski meji


Ljubljana, Monday April 7, 1941.

Folio Newspaper: 2 pp. printed on both sides (Good, slightly age-toned and stained, soft folds with tiny tears and holes). (20111)

An example of a major Slovenian newspaper issued the morning after the beginning of the Axis invasion of Yugoslavia, replete with shocking headlines.

This April 7, 1941 issue of Slovenski dom announces the Axis invasion of Yugoslavia, which commenced the day previous. It is replete with numerous explosive stories, including on the movement of German, Italian, and other Axis forces upon Yugoslavian territory, as well as the German aerial bombardment of Belgrade. It notes that while the Soviet Union (then still involved in a non-aggression pact with the Nazis) had agreed not to join the attack, this was of little consolation, as the Yugoslav forces were being routed everywhere. In the power vacuum, the paper announces that the local governments had proclaimed the death penalty for all thieves, including those who stole bicycles. The paper also asks its readers to remain calm, and not to embrace false news. Its coverage of events abroad notes the German attack upon Greece and the British victory over the Italians at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It also mourns the first Slovenian victim of the war, Dr. Frane Kulovec, a priest and member of parliament, who died during the bombing of Belgrade.

Interestingly, while the editors of Slovenski dom do not seem here to be delighted by the Axis invasion, during the course of the war, the popular conservative daily came to be aligned with the collaborationist Slovene Home Guard (Domobranci). As such, the paper was shutdown by the post-war Yugoslav regime. Copies of the paper are today rare, as it was not considered to be politic to possess examples during the socialist era in Yugoslavia.
[CROATIA – DECLARATION OF THE FOUNDING OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF CROATIA:]
Zagreb, April 10, 1941.
Broadside (56 x 38.5 cm / 22 x 15.1 inches), printed on both sides in red and black (Fair, restored, repaired vertical and horizontal tears and tiny losses to paper, paper fragile, small marginal tears). (20110)

Extremely rare and historically important – the original official broadside announcing the foundation of the Independent State of Croatia, an Axis-puppet state ruled by Ante Pavelić’s Ustaše regime.

This rare, yet famous broadside was printed in Zagreb on April 10, 1941, to announce the foundation of the Independent State of Croatia (Nezavisna Hrvatska Država, NDH). Following the Axis invasion of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia on April 6, 1941, by the agreement of Italy and Germany, their Croatian fascist allies, the Ustaše, under the leadership of Ante Pavelić, were permitted to form a state that comprised much of Croatia, all of Bosnia, parts of Serbia and a sliver of Slovenia. While nominally ‘independent’, the NDH was, in reality, a puppet state of Italy and Germany, largely defended by the Wehrmacht.

The present broadside was officially issued on the orders of the new regime. It is decorated with the distinctive orange wove pattern favoured by the Ustaše, and features a photograph of Ante Pavelić, the head of government, who held the title of ‘Poglavnik’.

It also features the text of the famous speech of Slavko Kvaternik, the Armed Forces Minister, announcing the creation of the NDH on the radio. Also noted are lists of important figures in the new regime.

The broadside is today extremely rare; it almost never appears on the market and only a few examples are cited in institutional holdings worldwide.
3. [AXIS 'ETHNIC CLEANSING' PLAN for SLOVENIA:]
Listo prisotnih na konveenciji of 4. VI. 1941 v nemškem poslanstvu v Zagrebu. [List of the Present at a Convention on 4. VI. 1941 in the German Office in Zagreb].
Zagreb: June 4th 1941.
4°: 7 hand-typed pp. (single-sided), original tan wrappers with hand-typed title, stapled. (Very Good, soft vertical folds, first 4 pp. with tiny worm holes in the lower part, year of creation corrected to ‘1941’ on the title). (20034)

A chilling, yet highly important, historical document, the original hand-typed official Slovenian translation of the Axis master plan to ‘ethnically cleanse’ parts of Slovenia, Austria and Croatia shortly after the Nazi invasion of Yugoslavia.

This disturbing, yet highly important, document is the original hand-typed Slovenian official translation of the minutes of a key meeting held in Zagreb on June 4, 1941, during which the Axis powers finalised their master plan to ‘ethnically cleanse’ much of Slovenia, as well as parts of Austria and Croatia.

To set the ugly scene, following the conclusion of World War I, the traditional Austrian Habsburg duchies of Styria and Carinthia were divided between the new nations of the Republic of Austria and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The line of division was, and remained, highly contentious, as Yugoslavia was awarded Lower (southern) Styria (which had a large German-speaking minority); while Austria retained almost all of Carinthia, even though many of its southern areas were majority ethnic Slovene.

Following the Axis invasion of Yugoslavia in April 1941, virtually all of Lower Styria, in addition to some adjacent territories, was annexed to Nazi Germany. Hitler, upon his visit to Maribor (German: Marburg am Drau), the main city of Lower Styria, declared that he ‘wanted to make Styria German again’. The Nazis then embarked upon a dastardly design to ‘remove’ the majority of ethnic Slovenes, as well as other non-Germans, from both Lower Styria and Carinthia. In their place, ethnic Germans would be resettled into the regions, giving them German demographic super-majorities.

Heinrich Himmler, the heinous head of the SS, was charged with devising the basic plan. He decided that all non-Germans who had moved to Lower Styria and Carinthia after 1914 (the start of World War I) should automatically be deported from the region (many people from other parts of Yugoslavia had moved to Lower Styria since then). Additionally, Nazi doctors should examine all ethnically “suspicious” people, and if they did not meet their racial criteria, they should also be deported. Next, all Slovenian and non-German intellectuals and political activists should be removed. This would have the effect of decapitating the local society, removing virtually all of its leadership and, supposedly with it,
the possibility for organized resistance. Finally, Himmler would remove most Slovenian farmers, so that their land could be given to German settlers. The only Slovenes and others who would be exempt from deportation would be mine workers (necessary for the Nazi war effort) and collaborators. If followed, this diabolical plan would establish ethnic German super-majorities in both Lower Styria and all parts of Carinthia.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Himmler’s plan for Lower Styria and Carinthia was similar in many respects to the ones he had already instigated to ethnically cleanse parts of the Czech Republic and Poland, although the details are unique to this situation.

The Nazi high command decided that the ethnic cleansing programme for Styria and Carinthia would be orchestrated in collaboration with the newly established Axis-puppet Ustaše regime in the Independent State of Croatia. The Ustaše had their agenda that dovetailed into the Nazi programme. The Croatians desired to remove ethnic Serbians, who were overwhelmingly Orthodox Christians, from their territory, particularly in Slavonia and Bosnia, populations that they wanted to replace with either ethnic Croatians or Roman Catholics of other nationalities.

The overarching principles of this horrific programme were devised in Berlin and approved by Hitler on May 25, 1941 in his telegraph no. 344 to Zagreb; however, the mechanisms of its implementation were to be decided locally.

On June 4, 1941, a group of nineteen German and Croatian officials met in the Nazi Office in Zagreb to work out the particulars of ethnically cleansing Lower Styria, Carinthia and parts of Croatia, which are recorded in the present document.

Their plan called for the entire operation, deporting hundreds of thousands of people, to be completed within five months. Lower Styria and Carinthia were to be ethnically cleansed in three waves. The 1st wave, to be accomplished by July 5, 1941, was for 5,000 ‘high risk’ individuals, being intellectuals and political activists, to be deported to the ‘Territory of the Military Commander in Serbia’. In a new twist, virtually all Slovenian Roman Catholic parish priests were to be deported to Croatia (many parish priests were thought to be antagonistic to the Nazi occupation). The Croatians would use these priests to service the new parishes of Croatian migrants, which had been vacated by deported Serbian Orthodox priests and their parishioners.

The 2nd wave, to be implemented between July 10 and August 30, would deport to Serbia the 25,000 Slovenes and other Yugoslavians who had moved to Lower Styria since 1914.

The 3rd wave, to be accomplished between September 15 and October 31, 1941, called for 65,000 Slovenian farmers from Lower Styria and 80,000 Slovenian farmers from Carinthia to be deported to Serbia. While the plan called for the deportees to be sent to Serbia, in truth, the Nazis and the Ustaše probably intended to kill many of these people, either violently or through starvation.

Next, the meeting considered the mechanics of the operation. What follows is truly chilling, as acts of great cruelty were discussed in such a cold, matter of fact fashion, that even three generations later, one is overcome by the horror of the banality of evil. It was decided that most deportees would be transported by train. Each individual would be permitted to take with them only 50 kg of possessions, plus 500 dinars in money. However, farmers would be permitted to take their own carriages, but would, in aggregate, be permitted to take out of Lower Styria and Carinthia, only the amount that the deported Serb farmers would take out of the Independent State of Croatia.

The attendees of this wretched meeting desired to fit as many people on to each train as possible without anyone dying en route. Consequently, they decided that their officials would conduct a series of depraved experiments, to be held from June 7 to July 1, 1941, in which two trains per week, each with 300 deportees would be sent from Styria and Carinthia to Serbia. Officials would monitor how often the trains would have to stop, at a minimum, in order to provide the extreme minimal amount of sustenance (food, water, rest breaks) to the passengers so that they survive the ordeal. Nazi doctors would monitor the passengers’ health, not so as to assist them, but to record how much they suffered along the way. It was determined that the entire trip to Serbia would last 4 days.

Fortunately, the Nazi-Ustaše design did not go to plan, and was largely unfulfilled in Lower Styria. Curiously, the Serbian terminus of the design was not well coordinated, as first deportees to arrive in Serbia found that no provision had been made for them, causing great panic amongst the deportees and considerable confusion amongst the local German forces. More, importantly, however, during the summer of 1941, the Partisans suddenly rose as a force in both Lower Styria and Serbia, and they sought to actively obstruct the ethnic cleansing programme. Many of the intended deportees disappeared from their homes to join the Partisans in the hills, while the Partisans attacked innumerable Axis positions, progressively tying up so many German troops that the occupying administration lacked the manpower to implement their designs.

While thousands of ethnic Slovenians and others were deported from their homes, and some were even murdered, the Axis plan to ethnically cleanse Lower Styria was largely a failure. However, the programmes in Carinthia, Slavonia and Bosnia were more successful, although not as much so as the criminals perpetrating the designs had hoped.

The document lists the nineteen attendees of the meeting, which reads as a Who’s Who of villains overseeing the subjugation of Yugoslavia. Amongst
others, the meeting included: Heinz Hummitzsch (1910-75), the Nazi chief of the police of Maribor. He was later responsible for transporting Belgian Jews to Auschwitz. He escaped prosecution during his lifetime, but was posthumously convicted of war crimes.Slavko Kvaternik (1878 - 1947) was one of the founders of the Ustaše movement, and one of the main architects of the Holocaust in the Independent State of Croatia. Siegfried Uiberreither (1908-84) (here erroneously written as ‘Ueberreither’) was the Nazi Governor of Styria. Dr. Josip Dumandžić, was the Ustaše Minister of Corporations, and later the mayor of Zagreb. After the war he escaped to Buenos Aires, where he remained active in supporting the Ustaše movement in exile. Mladen Lorković (1909-45) was a senior Ustaše cabinet minister, variously holding the foreign affairs and interior ministry portfolios.

He was executed near the end of the war on the orders of his own regime for attempting to negotiate with the Allies. Willhelm Fuchs (1898 - 1947) was a Nazi Einsatzkommando commander in Serbia; he was executed after the war by the new Yugoslavian government. Dr. Helmut Carstanjen was the Director of the Southeast German Institute in Graz, a Nazi think-tank. He was to provide the twisted so-called ‘intellectual’ justification for the ethnic cleansing programme. In 1936, he wrote a book under the nom de plume ‘Gerhard Werner’ in which he tried to show that Slovenians were actually ‘Wenden’ or ‘Windisch’, a people who spoke a language that derived from German, as opposed to being a Slavic language. While utterly ridiculous, his ideas were admired by Nazi academics.

The meeting would have been conducted primarily in German, with simultaneous Croatian translation. Likewise the real-time minutes would have been taken in these languages. The present document would have been quickly translated and typed up by Axis officials for the use of senior Slovenian-speaking Axis collaborators. As this was a top secret operational document, for the use of a small number of high-level officials, there was no need for it to be stamped or signed.

This disturbing, yet highly important, document is rare. We have not been able to trace any other examples of the document in any language. The document has an august provenance, being from the estate of Ivan Maček (1908-93), a Slovenian Partisan General and later a leading politician, who was a major collector of Yugoslav historical documents and memorabilia (please see item no. 32 following).

4. [CROATIAN PARTISAN NEWSPAPER:]

Partizan, Glasilo Glavnog Štaba Narodno-oslobodilačke partizanske vojske
Hrvatske, broj 5, studeni 1942. (broj posvećen 25. obljetnici Oktobarske revolucije)
[Partisan, News of the Headquarters of the National-Liberation Army of
Croatia, nr. 5., November 1942. Dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the
October Revolution].
[Bunić, Lika, Croatia], 1942.
Large 8°: 40 pp., with illustrations in text, original illustrated covers, stapled
(Very Good, slightly stained, cover with small marginal tears with faded red-star
stamp in the corner, staples rusty). (20067)

A rare Croatian Partisan newspaper published especially to commemorate the 25th
Anniversary of the Red October Revolution in Russia.

This is a rare special edition of a Croatian Partisan newspaper, issued to
commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the 1917 Communist Revolution in
Russia, which led to the creation of the U.S.S.R.

The paper focuses on events of the war in Croatia, as well as pan-Communist
topics such as events in Russia and Partisan-U.S.S.R. relations. The work is richly
illustrated with woodcuts, including a portrait of Joseph Stalin.

The work was printed clandestinely, although evidently by a professional press.
Curiously, subsequent editions of the same paper were crudely mimeographed.

References: Bibliografija, no. 3476.
5.

[COLLECTION OF SLOVENIAN PARTISAN NEWSPAPERS:]

Pregled dogodkov. Vojnih in političnih [News. War and Politics].

[Ljubljana]: Odsek za informac. in prop. pri SNOS [Department for Information and Propaganda at the Slovene National Liberation Committee], 1944.

35 newspapers, all from 4° to large 4°: 2 of which are professionally printed; 33 of which are mimeographed. 5 newspapers loose, others bound together in a ca 1950s binding. (Loose newspapers good, slightly age-toned and stained, small marginal tears, soft folds. Bound newspapers good, with small marginal tears and some tears in the inner part, some pencil notes in the upper areas, cancelled library stamp, binding rubbed and stained, marks of white colour). (24002)

A collection of rare Slovenian Partisan newspapers, printed clandestinely in Nazi occupied Ljubljana.

This collection of five Partisan newspapers was printed clandestinely in Nazi occupied Ljubljana in 1944. The papers feature stories on current global events as well as news from the home front.

Pregled dogodkov. Vojnih in političnih was first published in December 1943, with issues subsequently appearing twice a week. The present collection includes papers dated: 22. IV. 1944; 12. V. 1944; 29. 5. 1944; 2. 6. 1944; 4. 6. 1944; and all the issues between 24. 8. 1944 and 24. 9. 1944. Each issue has between 1 and 9 pp. The issues were secretly sold to Partisan supporters at a cost of 1 lira each, with all proceeds going to fund the Partisan war effort.

All issues of the paper were printed by underground Partisan presses. That being said, the present collection illustrates the Partisan’s variable access to equipment and supplies, as some of the present papers were printed with sophisticated modern machinery, while other issues were printed ‘home style’ through crude mimeographed methods. Also the colour, quality and size of the paper differs from example to example, as the printers had to use any type of paper available. Some numbers are printed only on the recto, because the paper was too thin to print it on both sides.

References: Gradivo, p. 668; Bibliografija, no. 8798.
The final wartime issue of the most famous Slovenian Partisan newspaper, 'Delo', printed by an underground press in Italian-occupied Ljubljana, with a magnificently illustrated cover.

This newspaper was issued by an underground Partisan press in Italian-occupied Ljubljana, and provided eagerly awaited information from the war front and abroad, as well as articles on Communism, mixed with stories for the common people. The paper was named Delo (Labour), a popular Communist theme.

Notably, the present issue features an exquisite and well known cover printed in red, depicting a young, smiling Partisan with a machine gun in hand, followed by common people carrying Soviet and Yugoslav flags. This cover is one of the most celebrated images of World War II in Yugoslavia. This edition is also the last issue of Delo to be printed before the end of the war.

After the war, the much beloved Delo was revived and printed as a daily, and is still today one of Slovenia’s major papers.

Returning to wartime Delo, the various issues were printed at different clandestine printing shops in Ljubljana during the Italian occupation, a city which was soon surrounded by a cordon of barbed wire to prevent its citizens from communicating with the Partisans. The quality of the printing is usually high for clandestine publishing operations. This is due to the fact that the main purpose of these presses was to forge Italian documents and food coupons for the Partisans and their spies.

From September 1941 to July 1942, some issues of Delo were printed by the Submarine (Podmornica) press, hidden in a hole, dug in the loamy grounds under a private house in the suburbs of Ljubljana. The entrance to the printing office was through the moveable floor of the restroom of the house. The press had to close down after the Italians placed their barbed wire fence right in front of the house, separating it from the city of Ljubljana.

The Tunnel (Tunel) press, active between February and July 1942, printed issues of Delo. It was located in the centre of Ljubljana, above a small cork factory. The press was set in a small 3 x 1.5 m (9.8 x 4.9 feet) tunnel-like room, accessible only through a 0.5 m (1.6 feet) high movable piece of wall, which was further disguised by a decorative wall painting. The press had to close down due to its difficulty of accessibility.

Some editions of Delo were issued by the Tone Tomšič press (named after a Partisan who was shot by Italians in May 1942), which operated from August 1942 to March 1943. The printing shop was hidden in a secret room behind a bookbinder’s shop, right next to the main Italian police station of Ljubljana. The entrance was through a moveable bookshelf, and a warning red light for danger in the printing shop was connected to the electric pot for cooking glue in the bindery out front. The press thrived until the Italian police detected it.

An extremely rare Croatian Partisan mimeographed newspaper, printed by an underground press, with a map of the Eastern Front.

This issue of a rare Croatian Partisan mimeographed newspaper was printed by an underground press in the Banovina (Banija) region of central Croatia in the latter part of the war. Its lead article focuses on the progress of the Soviet Red Army on the Eastern Front, illustrated with a map, an unusual feature for an underground Partisan newspaper. Other articles cover various local war news, as well as international events.

The Banijski partizanski vijestnik was printed at an identified underground Partisan press somewhere in the Banovina region. The paper was issued only in 1942 and 1943, in a total of 26 issues, with recorded print runs of between 300 and 700 per issue. However, it seems that very few examples survived. A 1964 census of examples in Yugoslav institutions shows that even then the paper was extremely rare, as there were no records for any of the issues. Today we have not been able to trace the whereabouts of any examples of any of the issues worldwide.

References: Bibliografija, no. 1514.
[VOJVODINA PARTISAN NEWSPAPER:]
[Vojvodina (probably Novi Karlovci), Serbia], August-September 1944.
4°: 16 pp. mimeographed text in Cyrillic script, illustrations within text, original wrappers with mimeographed cover and index printed on the inner side, stapled (Good, slightly age-toned and stained, hand-drawn old lines on the cover, soft horizontal fold, small tears and soft folds in the corners). (20093)

A very rare Partisan newspaper in Cyrillic script printed by an underground press in Vojvodina, Serbia shortly before the region was liberated.

This rare Serbian Partisan newspaper, in Cyrillic script, describes battles in the Vojvodina region, as well as other events during World War II. The cover depicts a female and male Partisan carrying away a wounded soldier.

Upon the Axis invasion of April 1941, Vojvodina, an ethnically mixed region in northern Serbia, was divided between Hungary, the Independent State of Croatia, as well as a German military zone. The Soviet Red Army and the Partisans liberated the region in October 1944, only a month after the present newspaper was issued.

The first edition of this paper was issued on May 15, 1942 and the final edition appeared in June 1946.

References: Bibliografija, no. 8469.
This is an extremely rare issue from the only daily Partisan newspaper, which importantly was one of the only dailies published by any Resistance organization anywhere in Axis-occupied Europe. Over its two years of operation (1943-5), the Partizanski dnevnik (The Partisan Daily) was issued by various underground presses in western Slovenia.

It was an incredibly ambitious and dangerous operation, as the paper’s publishers and supporters went to unusual efforts to print and distribute each issue within 24 hours, across an active warzone. It was a source of immense pride for them that they could provide daily news to Partisan supporters in spite of the Italian and German occupiers’ best efforts to thwart them. While some days had to be skipped for security reasons, the paper’s record of successfully delivering the news was truly remarkable.

The first 234 issues of the paper were mimeographed on various rudimentary underground presses; with the present issue being produced in Zakriž, near Idrija, Slovenia. Later in 1944, production switched to the ‘Slovenija’ underground press, also deep in the woods near Idrija, being one of the few Partisan operations that employed a modern electric press. At ‘Slovenija’ the printing quality radically improved and the production numbers rose from 400, for some of the early mimeographed issues, to an average of 5,000 per diem (with some days reaching 7,160 examples). In the last month of the war ‘Slovenija’ was attacked by the Germans and two of the members of the team were killed. The production of the newspaper continued despite the tribulation, sometimes with slight delays and with smaller prints run.

The paper’s elaborate courier system was able to deliver issues across an amazingly expansive territory in western Slovenia within the same day. The paper never included illustrations for both security and expediency reasons, save for its celebratory issue of May 3, 1945, which bore the portrait of Marshal Tito.

The ‘Slovenija’ press was spread over several small huts in the woods and still survives to this day, as a museum.

References: Bibliografija, no. 3499. (20099)
PARTISAN PROPAGANDA MINI-FLYER:
Živeli AVNOJ! Živela nova in demokratična Jugoslavija! [Long Live AVNOJ! Long Live New and Democratic Yugoslavia!]
[Probably Ljubljana, circa 1944].
Miniature Flyer (6 x 10.5 cm / 2.4 x 4.1 inches, irregular measurements), mimeographed on both sides (Very Good, tiny loss to paper in blank space of one corner). (20100)

Incredibly rare – a miniature flyer printed with pro-Partisan slogans, issued by an underground urban press in Nazi-occupied Slovenia, likely in Ljubljana.

This is an extremely rare survivor of a one of famous genre of miniature leaflets that were printed by the Slovenian Partisans on underground presses within Nazi-occupied cities, in particular Ljubljana. The tiny flyers always featured moral-boosting Partisan slogans and could be easily printed, concealed and transported. They could be handily dropped or scattered, discreetly placed or passed on, for the enjoyment of Partisan supporters, or, in some cases, to anger or threaten Axis collaborators. The mini-flyers were produced in large numbers and were considered to be extremely effective propaganda pieces. Yugoslav school children, even as late as the 1980s, were taught about their critical role in the Partisan propaganda effort.

This particular mini-flyer, printed on both sides, hails on one side AVNOJ (the Yugoslav abbreviation for: The Anti-Fascist Council for the National Liberation of Yugoslavia), founded on November 26, 1942, it was the Partisan umbrella organization that formed the basis of the post-war government of Yugoslavia. The other side hails the ‘New and Democratic Yugoslavia’, which was to be liberated from the Nazis, and placed under the socialist governance of Marshal Tito.

In spite of the mini-flyers’ ubiquitous contemporary presence in cities such as Ljubljana, their survival rate is incredibly low, and today they are amazingly rare.
11. [FINE PRINTING / NEWS:]

Leto borb ob Soči: september 1943-1944 [A Year of Fights at Soča River: September 1943-1944].

[Zakriž, Slovenia: Slovenija & Tehnika Tone, Propagandni odsek IX. korpusa NOV in POJ | Propaganda Department of IX. Corps of the National Liberation Army and Partisan Detachment of Yugoslavia], [1944].


A very rare luxury edition of a work from an underground Partisan press, with a silk binding, celebrating the success of the Partisans in the Soča Valley region.

This special luxury edition of a work produced by an underground Partisan press was made during the ‘Period of Competition’ in Slovenian Partisan printing, in 1944. During this time, Partisan leaders encouraged the underground printers to create works of great beauty and artistic élan, entering competitions from which the winning printers would receive awards. While printers went to great efforts to find special materials and to allocate precious time to these endeavours, it was all considered worthwhile, as the process would raise the morale of the both printers and readers during the final push to victory in the war.

The text includes various articles on the great success that the Partisans enjoyed in various battles in the Soča (Isonzo) Valley region, which straddles the modern Slovenia-Italy border. Articles in the second part of the book are dedicated to fallen soldiers and important battles. The list at the end gives information on destroyed and confiscates ammunition.

The 8 page booklet, which is tipped into the present work, is written by ‘Andrej’ and ‘Tone’ (Partisan nom de guerre), the work’s editors, and explains the circumstances of its production. Interestingly, it notes that Tone’s underground printing operation was literally underground, buried in the side of a mountain.

While a number of pedestrian issues of this work, with thick beige wrappers, were issued, the present example is a luxury edition bound in silk and extra-illustrated with a photo of a linocut portrait of Tito, a photo of the Partisan General-Major Lado Ambrožič (1902-2004) and a picture of group of leaders of a Partisan division discussing plans.

The book was designed by the press ‘Tone’ and produced in the underground press ‘Slovenija’ in Zakriž, deep in the woods near Idrija, Slovenia. The press was one of the few Partisan operations that employed a modern electric press. The ‘Slovenija’ press was spread over several small huts in the woods and still survives to this day, as a museum.

Only two months after the book was published, Ambrožič received serious wounds while testing newly arrived PIAT weapons sent to the Partisans by their British Allies. He spent the rest of the war in hospital. The author of the article on Ambrožič in this publication was killed during the German attack on the underground press ‘Slovenija’ in early 1945, six months after the book was published.

The normal editions of the work were very popular, such that a facsimile edition was issued in 1980.

We cannot trace any other examples of the present luxury, silk-bound edition.

References: Bibliografija, no. 571 (noting the normal edition without the inserted pamphlet).
12. [ANTI-AXIS PROPAGANDA / SECRET SOCIETY:]
Crna roka. Slovenski Gestapovci [The Black Hand. Slovenian Gestapo].
[Gorenjsko, Slovenia: Tehnika Donas, printed for the Odsek za informacije in propagando pri Predsedstvu SNOS [Department for Information and Propaganda at the Headquarters of Slovenian National Liberation Committee], 1944.
Large 8°: 25 mimeographed pp., 3 pp. blank, original wrappers illustrated with linocut in red and black by France Boštjančič, stapled (Good, wrappers with light foxing, wrappers loose). (20035a).


The Black Hand was frightful, and certainly the most enigmatic aspect of the Axis occupation of Slovenia. It was a secret society of Domobranci (Slovene Home Guard) members who conducted stealth assassinations of Partisans, as well as civilians who were known to aid the resistance. The assassins always left a flyer bearing a black hand on the bodies of their victims. The Nazi Gestapo often tipped off the Black Hand as to targets, and this explains why the Partisans linked the two organizations. During the latter part of the occupation they proved to be highly efficient, taking out many important Partisan figures and supporters, heightening the sense of fear amongst the resistance. The society managed to retain its secrecy, they never kept anything in writing and, even today, very little is known of its organization or membership.

The Partisans published the present work in the autumn of 1944 to inform its membership and supporters of the mortal danger, so as to heighten vigilance. The powerful cover art, by France Boštjančič, was employed to ensure that this pamphlet would not be overlooked.

The author, France Škerl (1909-85), who went by the Partisan nom de guerre ‘France Kos’ (Kos being his mother’s maiden name), or ‘France Bergar’, was an eminent historian, who had completed his Ph.D. in 1939. He joined the Partisans at the beginning of the war and in 1944 became the first director of the Slovenian division of Tanjug, the official Partisan news agency. He published numerous books, articles and pamphlets both during and after the war.

The present work proved to be very popular, and there were at least 5 different editions issued by different Partisan presses. The title page was devised at Tehnika Donas, an underground Partisan printing house in Gorenjsko (northwestern Slovenia) that specialised in multi-colour linocuts, while the text was mimeographed at both Donas and the nearby printing house of Tehnika Špik. It is recorded that 2,142 total examples of the work, including all of the editions, was issued between October 19 and 20, 1944. That being said, amazingly few have survived and all examples are today extremely rare.

The present edition is not listed in Bibliografija, although three of the other editions are noted.

References: Jože Krall, Partizanske tiskarne na Slovenskem. Gorenjske in Štajerske tiskarne (1976), pp. 256-7; Cf. (other editions) Bibliografija, nos. 7607-7609.
ANTI-AXIS PROPAGANDA / SECRET SOCIETY:
[Gorenjsko, Slovenia: Tehnika Špik, printed for the] Odsek za informacije
in propagandno pri Predsedstvu SNOS [Department for Information and
Propaganda at the Headquarters of the Slovenian National Liberation
Committee], 1944.
Large 8°: 24 mimeographed pp., cover with lionocut and letterpress in red and
black (Very Good, spine slightly rubbed). (20035b).

A fascinating Partisan exposé on the pro-Axis secret society of assassins, ‘The Black
Hand’, with fantastic cover art, published by the underground press Tehnika Špik.

The Black Hand was frightful, and certainly the most enigmatic aspect of the
Axis occupation of Slovenia. It was a secret society of Domobranci (Slovene
Home Guard) members who conducted stealth assassinations of Partisans, as
well as civilians who were known to aid the resistance. The assassins always left
a flyer bearing a black hand on the bodies of their victims. The Nazi Gestapo
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proved to be highly efficient, taking out many important Partisan figures and
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mimeographed at both Donas and the nearby printing house of Tehnika Špik. It
is recorded that 2,142 total examples of the work, including all of the editions,
was issued between October 19 and 20, 1944. That being said, amazingly few
have survived and all examples are today extremely rare.

The present edition is not listed in Bibliografija, although three of the other
editions are noted.

References: Jože Krall, Partizanske tiskarne na Slovenskem. Gorenjske in Štajerske
tiskarne (1976), pp. 256-7; Cf. (other editions) Bibliografija, nos. 7607-7609.
A unique example of a hand-typed and manuscript Slovenian Partisan magazine, privately made for a company of Partisan soldiers.

This unique creation is an extremely rare hand-made magazine of the find that was made by a company of Partisan troops for their own entertainment while waiting between missions. While they could be called to spring into action at any time without warning, Partisan troops often had to spend significant periods of time in between engagements, especially when heavy winter snow made caused forces on both sides to pause operations. Soldiers would use whatever means of printing and drawing available to them to greater stories with basic graphics that could be distributed and traded to other troops, including in other companies in nearby locations.

The title Competition! Allows us to date the present work from the winter of 1944-45, when the Partisans, knowing that the liberation was coming soon, encouraged their troops to engage in moral-boosting competitions, including contests of marksmanship, fighting enemy and to see who could make the nicest prints and drawings. These games were taken up by gusto by Partisans all across the country, lifting their spirits in the final, but incredibly bloody final months of the war.

The present work newspaper includes various amusements, such as an arrest warrant for Mussolini (as by this time he was deposed, but still alive), some songs, and well as stories by Partisan women and men. Of great interest to our broader topic, there is also a story about how a group of troops stole paper from a mill in order to publish Partisan underground prints! The stories are all accompanied by attractive pencil drawings.

The “3rd battalion” identified as the authors on the tile was likely the 3rd Battalion of the Gubec Brigade of Dolenjsko.

All such homemade Partisan magazines are extremely rare. This is the only example we have ever seen.
[PROPAGANDA – SOVIETS SURGE TOWARDS BERLIN:]
Milovan ĐILAS (1911 - 1995).

Pri rdeči armadi [With the Red Army].
[n.p., 1944].
Large 8°: 18 pp. mimeographed text, original wrappers illustrated with red linocut, stapled. (Very Good, hardly noticeable staining). (20059)

A Slovenian translation of a propaganda piece celebrating the Soviet Red Army's progress westwards towards Berlin, prepared by the famous future dissident Milovan Đilas, issued by an underground Partisan press.

This fine work, issued late in 1944, celebrates the Soviet Red Army and its progress westward, ever pushing back Nazi lines, on its way to conquer Berlin. While the Soviets were the Partisans' most consequential allies, largely responsible for liberating Belgrade (October-November 1944), most Partisans knew little about their comrades. This work sought to remedy this, and was prepared by the prominent Partisan, and future famous dissident, Milovan Đilas, and was translated from the original Sa Crvenom armijom into Slovenian. In fluid, easy to read prose, the work recounts some of the exploits of the Red Army, biographical details on its leaders, and explains why it is a superior force to the Wehrmacht. The work anticipates the Soviet conquest of Berlin, which would occur in April-May 1945. The cover illustration, in red linocut, shows a Soviet tank along with a red star and a sign that reads 'Na Berlin!' [To Berlin!].

Milovan Đjilas (1911 - 1995) was a Montenegrin politician, theorist and author who was a towering figure in the Yugoslavian Liberation movement and in the new nation it spawned. However, he had a complex relationship with Marshal Tito and this set him on the road to becoming one of Europe's most famous democratic socialist dissenters.

The present work was printed at an unknown location.

We could not trace any examples of the book in the institutions worldwide.

References: Bibliografija, no. 4920.
A Slovenian translation of a propaganda piece celebrating the Soviet Red Army’s progress westwards towards Berlin, prepared by the famous future dissident Milovan Đilas, issued by an underground Partisan press.

This fine work, issued late in 1944, celebrates the Soviet Red Army and its progress westward, ever pushing back Nazi lines, on its way to conquer Berlin. While the Soviets were the Partisans’ most consequential allies, largely responsible for liberating Belgrade (October–November 1944), most Partisans knew little about their comrades. This work sought to remedy this, and was prepared by the prominent Partisan, and future famous dissident, Milovan Đilas, and was translated from the original Sa Crvenom armijom into Slovenian. In fluid, easy to read prose, the work recounts some of the exploits of the Red Army, biographical details on its leaders, and explains why it is a superior force to the Wehrmacht. The cover illustration, in red linocut, shows a planes and a star.

Milovan Đilas (1911 - 1995) was a Montenegrin politician, theorist and author who was a towering figure in the Yugoslavian Liberation movement and in the new nation it spawned. However, he had a complex relationship with Marshal Tito and this set him on the road to becoming one of Europe’s most famous democratic socialist dissidents.

The book was printed in a printing shop Špik, hidden in the woods above Idrija, in western Slovenia, which was active between the early days of 1944 and June of the same year, after which it merged with the press Jelenk.

The present work is rare. While a 1964 census records 4 examples in Yugoslav institutions, today we can trace only a single example.

References: Bibliografija, no. 4918.
An Italian translation of a propaganda piece celebrating the Soviet Red Army’s progress westwards towards Berlin, issued by an underground Slovenian Partisan press for the benefit of their Italian Partisan comrades.

This fine work, issued late in 1944, celebrates the Soviet Red Army and its progress westward, ever pushing back Nazi lines, on its way to conquer Berlin. While the Soviets were the Partisans’ most consequential allies, most Partisans knew little about their comrades. The book was prepared by a prominent Partisan, and future famous dissident, Milovan Đilas, and it was translated from Sa Crvenom armijom into Italian and issued by the underground Doberdob Press, which was hidden in a valley under a mountain in the Karst region of western Slovenia. This edition was issued for the benefit of the many Italian-speakers who had joined the Slovenian partisans, as well as allied Italian Partisan detachments in nearby Friuli. It speaks to the multi-national nature of the Partisan movement, although Italian language Yugoslav Partisan prints are truly unusual.

In fluid, easy to read prose, the work recounts some of the exploits of the Red Army, biographical details on its leaders, and explains why it is a superior force to the Wehrmacht. The work anticipates the Soviet conquest of Berlin, which would occur in April-May 1945. Its appeal is augmented by the magnificent red and blue linocut cover illustration.

Milovan Đilas (1911 - 1995) was a Montenegrin politician, theorist and author who was a towering figure in the Yugoslavian Liberation movement and in the new nation it spawned. However, he had a complex relationship with Marshal Tito and this set him on the road to becoming one of Europe’s most famous democratic socialist dissidents.

This work was issued in only a single edition and is today very rare.

References: Bibliografija, no. 4890.
PROPAGANDA – ISTRIA:]
Šime BALEN (1912 - 2004).
*Istra v narodno-osvobodilni borbi [Istria in the National-Liberation War].*
Bari, Italy: Štab baze Jugoslovanske armade [Headquarters of the Base of the Yugoslav Army], 1945.
8°: 24 pp. mimeographed text and double-page map, original tan wrappers with mimeographed map on the cover, stapled. (Good, water-stained in the upper part, wrappers with very light foxing). (20096)

A rare pamphlet on Istria in the WWII, with a map, printed at the Yugoslav army base in Bari, Italy, late in the war.

This rare and intriguing Slovenian-language booklet describes the state of play in wartime Istria, the strategically located peninsula at the head of the Adriatic. Istria had been home to Italian and Slavic (Croatians and Slovenians) populations for centuries, and while these communities had traditionally peacefully co-existed, the late Italian Fascist regime had provoked inter-communal hostility due their policies of force ‘Italianization’. While the Port city of Pula was major German base, much of the rest of the peninsula was a hotbed of Partisan activity. As the war was abut to end with an allied victory, everyone knew that the fate of Istria would be a major issue in the post-war negotiations. As it turned out, Yugoslavia would be given all most all of Istria, but in 1945 this was far from forgone conclusion. So while the work was made to inform readers of the wartime events in Istria, it also had a propagandist purpose to drum up Yugoslav fervour for the peninsula so that it would given to Yugoslavia.

The work was originally written in Croatian by Šime Balen under the titled *Istra u narodnooslobodilačkoj borbi*. However, it was immediately translated into Slovenian (as present here) and the Croat and Slovene editions were published at the Yugoslav army base in Bari, Italy. Early in 1944, the Western allies, after conquering southern Italy, permitted the Yugoslav Partisans to build a military base in Bari, which was relatively close to Yugoslavia by sea and air. The base became critical to the Partisan war effort, as it provided the only absolutely safe haven for their ships, planes, and hospitalised wounded. According to Bibliografija, 28 different pamphlets were printed by the Partisans at Bari, intended for distribution in Yugoslavia.

Šime Balen (1912 - 2004) was a prominent Croatian author, translator, journalist and politician. He was already a Communist activist in the 1930s, and enthusiastically joined the Partisan early in the war. After the war he resided in America for a while, but returned to Yugoslavia where became director of Tanjug, the official state news agency (1947-8). He then dedicated the rest of career to writing and publishing, becoming the first Croatian author to publish a book on Ante Pavelić, Ustaše and the crimes of the Independent State of Croatia during the WW II, (1952).

The present work s very rare. While a 1964 census records 2 examples of this work in Yugoslav institutions, we have not been able to locate the whereabouts of any examples.

References: Bibliografija, no. 15.
19. [POCKET CALENDAR:
Božidar JAKAC (1899 – 1989), Illustrator.
_Tito, maršal Jugoslavije_ [Tito, Marshal of Yugoslavia]
[Probably Gorenjsko or Dolenjsko, Slovenia, 1943].
12,5 x 9,5 cm (4.9 x 3.7 inches), [2] folded calendar (Very Good). (20101)

A rare Partisan calendar, issued by an underground Slovenian press, featuring the iconic portrait of Marshal Tito by Božidar Jakac.

This fine and rare decorative pocket calendar was issued by an underground Slovenian Partisan press. While the publisher is unknown, due to its style and high printing quality it was probably issued by one of a select number of the more sophisticated presses in the Gorenjsko or Dolenjsko regions.

The dates on the back of the work mark the most important events in the history of Slovenia, the Soviet Red Army and the Partisans. Honouring tradition, the dates within the calendar correspond to the names of saints.

The highlight of the work is perhaps the lovely, dark impression of Marshal Tito, made after an original drawn from life by Božidar Jakac, a famous academic painter. Jakac’s rendering is widely considered to be the most beautiful and most-beloved portrait of the Partisan leader, and an example was hung in every office and classroom throughout Yugoslavia right up until the beginning of the 1990s.
A very rare Partisan magazine in the Slovene language, published by an underground press in the Gorski Kotar region of Croatia, featuring a majestic portrait of a 'Standing Partisan' by the eminent artist Nikolaj Pirnat.

The newspaper was obviously executed through an improvised printing technique. The printing is not sharp, some pages are blank, but in some respects it is of extremely high quality.

The highlights of the work are three fine illustrations by Nikolaj Pirnat (1903 - 1948), one of the most famous Partisan artists. The mimeographed rendering of a 'Standing Partisan' is an exceptionally fine, majestic work of art. Prior to the war, Pirnat studied sculpture in Zagreb and Paris, before joining the Partisans. The Partisan leadership charged him with producing many of the movement's finest and most influential artistic and propagandist images. He was also known by his nom de guerre, 'Captain Kopježkin' and 'Miklavž Breugnon'.

The editor of the work, Tone Seliškar (1900 - 1969), was a prominent poet and writer, perhaps best known for composing the famous Partisan song Na Juriš! (Attack!), which was widely performed, not only during the war, but regularly since, right up to the present day (usually at sporting events). Seliškar enjoyed a successful career after the war.

The magazine is an extraordinary and artistically virtuous example of Partisan underground printing produced in an unusual location. It is also very rare.

References: Bibliografija, no. 3210.
PROPAGANDA / RED ARMY / LIBERATION OF BELGRADE:

PARTIZANSKA TISKARNA.

Z rdečo armado naprej! Za novo leto 1945 kot darilo naši hrabri vojski, izdelalo v svojem prostem času osebje Partizanske tiskarne [Forward with the Red Army! Made as a New Year Present to Our Brave Army, by the Staff of the Partisan Press in their Free Time].

[Dolenjsko, Slovenia]: Partizanska tiskarna, [December 1944].
Small 8°: 16 pp., original wrappers illustrated in blue and red linocut, stapled (Very Good, small autograph in the upper right margin of the title page). (20057)

A special work made by the staff of the great underground press Partizanska Tiskarna as a tribute New Years’ present to the Partisan army in celebration of the Liberation of Belgrade.

This attractive pamphlet, with a lovely blue and red linocut cover, was made as special New Years’ tribute gift to the Slovenian soldiers of the Partisan army, in honour of the recent liberation of Belgrade (October–November 1944).

It was made by the staff of the Partizanska tiskarna, which hidden deep in the woods of the southern Slovenia, was one of the better equipped underground Partisan printing operations. Its location was a secret

This was in line with an organized campaign during the latter part of the war, whereby all Partisan supporters were encouraged to show their appreciation and to boost the morale of front-line troops as they marched to ultimate victory. This appreciation came in the form of small celebratory prints, but also small gifts of money. While a good number of examples of this work would likely have been made, only very few examples have survived to the present day.

References: Bibliografija, no. 8145.
22. **[PARTISAN NEWSLETTER IN ITALIAN LANGUAGE:]
Regolamento per il funzionamento del Comitato Nazionale di Liberazione Sloveno
[Rules for the Operation of the National Committee of Slovenian Liberation].
[Southern Slovenia], February 20, 1944.
4°: 12 pp. mimeographed text, stapled (Very Good, small marginal tears). (20103)

An intriguing Partisan pamphlet in the Italian language, informing Italian-speaking people in the Primorje-Gorica region of the rules and nature of the Partisan regime which controlled parts of the countryside.

The region that straddles what is today's boundary between Slovenia and Italy, ranging from northern Istria, through Trieste up north past Gorica (Gorizia), was historically multi-cultural, with large indigenous populations of Slovenes, Italians and Friulians. The Italian Fascist regime, which controlled the region since not long after WWI, collapsed in September 1943, and in the period that followed the Slovenian Partisans took over much of the area. While the Germans soon dislodged them from most of the major towns, the Partisans held onto much of the countryside, which they referred to as the “Liberated Territory”. The region was the scene of some of the fiercest guerrilla warfare fought anywhere during the entire war. Many Italian-speaking villages were included in this zone. While there were many Italian Partisan supporters in this region, many other Italian speakers had limited knowledge of the Partisans or held misperceptions advanced by the former fascist regime.

It was in this context, in February 1944, that Boris Kidrič and Josip Vidmar, two of the intellectual giants of the Slovenian Partisans, wrote this work, which was published by an unidentified underground Partisan press. The pamphlet is part propaganda, part civics lesson. It sought to inform Italian speakers about who the Partisans were and how their social, government and legal systems operated. Its goal was both to reassure Italian civilians that the Partisans were not wide-eyed Bolshevik renegades, but a responsible, civilised organization that would protect them if they cooperated with their regime. At the same time, it implied that the Partisans were a powerful force that would crush anyone who was tempted to support the fascist cause.

The Boris Kidrič (1912 - 1953) was the *de facto* civilian leader of the Slovenian Partisans and a prolific author of works on political theory, law and propaganda. Following the war, he became the Prime Minister of Slovenia.

The co-author, Josip Vidmar (1895 – 1992), was a prominent Slovenian literary critic and translator who became a leading Partisan author. He subsequently served variously as the President of Slovenia and the President of the Yugoslavian Federal Parliament.

The present work is very rare; we cannot trace the current whereabouts of any examples in institutions worldwide.

References: Bibliografička, no. 6877; Gradivo, p. 689.
A riveting Partisan how-to-guide to guerrilla warfare, describing the techniques used by the era’s greatest masters of asymmetric conflict, printed by an underground press in southern Slovenia.

This amazing little work is a how-to guide to conduct guerrilla warfare, on an explosive scale, while making due with limited resources and easily obtainable. If followed properly, a Partisan fighter could transform him or herself into a ‘MacGyver’ of asymmetric warfare.

Specifically, this manual includes instructions on how to attack cities and towns with a relatively small group of fighters, including securing streets and entering buildings. It also serves as a guide as for signalling airplanes; throwing bombs on fortified targets; how to set up improvised communications systems; how to break through enemy fences and other barriers; and how best to follow the natural terrain to attack rural targets, amongst other martial feats. All of these operations are illustrated throughout.

The present work is very rare. While a 1964 census noted 5 examples in Yugoslavian institutions, we have not been able to locate any examples in current institutional records.

A fascinating manual for conducting sabotage operations, essential to guerrilla warfare, principally authored by Edo Mihevc, a pupil of Jože Plečnik, who later became a famous architect, published by the Triglav Press, one of the two most important underground Partisan printing operations.

This intriguing work is a comprehensive Partisan manual on how to conduct sabotage operations against a much larger and better-armed and equipped adversary. Richly illustrated with monochrome linocuts, it gives easy to follow instructions on how to blow up bridges, buildings and vehicles; how to rig bombs in private apartments; how to set up ingenious booby traps for the enemy; how to use common weapons; and how to give and follow commands in the field with an economy of expression.

The principal author and editor of the work, Edo Mihevc (1911 - 1985), was a pupil of the world-renowned architect Jože Plečnik. He joined the Partisans, where his understanding of special relationships made him a master of sabotage. After the war he became a professor of architecture and one of the most renown Yugoslavian architects.

One will immediately notice that the printing quality of the present work is exceptionally high for an underground publication. This is due the fact that it was printed by the Triglav Tiskarna (Press), which was one of only two Partisans publishing operations that possessed (two) large, professional printing presses, as it was hidden in a secret location deep in the forests of south-western Slovenia.

The present work is very rare. A 1964 census recorded only two examples in Yugoslavian institutions. We have not been able to trace the current whereabouts of any examples.

References: Bibliografija, no. 389; Gradivo, p. 678.
An intriguing Partisan manual explaining how to monitor railway traffic (for planning sabotage and raids) and how to conduct clandestine communications.

This rare and fascinating work is a guerrilla warrior’s how-to guide to spy on railway and street traffic and how to communicate with your comrades through secure, clandestine means.

It gives specific instructions on how to assess the locations of trains in transit and to interpret publicly available information to estimate the number of passengers and types of cargo that are being carried on a specific train route. This was for the purpose of either sabotaging the train raiding it to gain precious cargo, or to take out high value Axis targets. The Partisans made use of these tactics on numerous occasions, and well-placed attacks on Nazi trains could, in one stroke, inflict significant losses upon the occupation. The folding table gives vital information on several of the main Nazi train routes in Slovenia.

The manual also gives instructions on how to use secret codes and how to write secure reports per telegraph, radio, telegram, and letter; as well as how to keep a record of all communications.

References: Bibliografija, no. 1025; Gradivo, p. 689.
26. **[MILITARY SCIENCE – OFFICERS’ TRAINING:]**

*Borba in vzgoja. Glasilo oficirsko isče IX. korpusa NOV in POJ. Letnik 1. Številka 1* [Battle and Education. Magazine of the Officer School of the IX. Corps of the National Liberation Army and Partisan Detachment of Yugoslavia. Year 1. No. 1.]

[Slovenia, 1944].

Large 8°: 70 pp. mimeographed, 4 mimeographed images on different paper, original blue wrappers with mimeographed title (Good, cover slightly age-toned, spine renewed, cancelled stamps of the Partisan female association ‘Naša žena’). (20092)

An interesting magazine prepared for graduating Partisan army officers, including an article on how to defuse bombs dropped from airplanes, printed by an underground Partisan press.

This rare military science magazine was published on an underground press for the use of Partisan officers newly graduated from the army academy. It includes a number of practical, educational articles, some on military manoeuvres and one entitled ‘How to deactivate airplane bombs’, illustrated with different types of explosive devices. It also includes texts written by Stalin and Tito, some patriotic poems, as well as a list of recent Partisan officer graduates.

The work is very rare; we can trace only a single institutional example.

References: *Gradivo*, p. 660.
27. **[PARTISAN CODEBOOK]**

*Radiotelegrafski kodeks in kratice* [Radiotelegraph Codex and Abbreviations],
[Kočevski rog, Slovenia] Radiotel. tečaj ofc. stole glav. štaba NOV in POV
[Radiotelegraphical Course of the Officers’ School of the National Liberation
Army and Partisan Liberation Army], January 1945.
Small 8°: [1] mimeographed title, 94 pp. incl. one folding page, [1] blank, original
tan paper wrappers with mimeographed title (Very Good, cover with small
marginal tears). (20056)

An extremely rare Partisan Codebook for use by telegraph and radio operators
during the final months of WW II.

This is an extremely rare Partisan codebook, issued by an underground press
in January 1945, just months before the complete liberation of Yugoslavia. The
hundreds of codes it explains are based on Anglo-American codes, and so not
only allowed Partisan telegraph and radio operators to communicate with each
other, but, importantly, with the Western Allies whose support was by this time a
critical element in the Partisans’ success. The folding plate illustrates how a diary
of a radio-telegraph station should appear.

The codebook was printed at the underground Partisan press of Kočevski rog,
which was part of large, spread-out settlement of Partisan huts called ‘Baza
20’, which notably also included a hospital. Kočevski rog was one of the largest
Partisan publishing operations, employing over 40 full-time printers working in
multiple houses. Even thought it was located deep in the woods of south-western
Slovenia, it illustrates the perils of operating an underground press anywhere
in Yugoslavia. In April 1945, Baza 20 was attacked by the Germans and the
press was forced to shut down. Some of the huts of Baza 20 survive to this day,
although none of the printing houses survive.

The codebook is extremely rare. A 1964 census recorded 4 copies in Yugoslavian
institutions, although we not been able to locate the current whereabouts of any
examples.

References: *Bibliografija*, no. 991; *Gradivo*, p. 688.
A fascinating Partisan manual on employing anti-tank weaponry, published by an underground press in southern Slovenia.

Anti-Tank artillery was considered to be the ‘Rolls Royce’ of the Partisan arsenal. While the Allies would directly supply the Partisans with anti-tank weaponry beginning in mid 1944, until that time, the Partisans were only able to gain access to such arms by raiding Axis positions. Such operations were dangerous and unpredictable, and the Partisan were ever only able to acquire very limited quantities of anti-tank weaponry. As the German tanks were fearsome, and otherwise virtually unstoppable threats, the Partisans treasured their meagre reserves of anti-tank armaments.

This manual, written in October 1943, when anti-tank weaponry was a rare and precious commodity, instructs Partisans how to use these arms, as a missed shot would be considered a tragic waste of resources. As many Partisan troops had never before seen the weapons up close, let alone fired them, this well-illustrated manual gives detailed descriptions of the weapons and easy to follow instructions on how they should be employed. Included are methods of how to follow tanks, estimate their speed and how to make the appropriate calculations for firing the anti-tank weapons.

Interestingly, as the shells for the anti-tank guns were too rare and valuable for use in practice, the manual gives instructions for how to train for using real anti-tank weapons while using more common armaments in their stead. It tells precisely how to compensate for the differences in the aiming calculations, and even provides instructions for how to create decoy tanks, running along wires, that can be used in target practice. All considered, it is an unusually ingenious military manual that would allow the Partisans to maximise their use of premier kit, a key element of asymmetric warfare.

The present work is very rare; we cannot trace the current whereabouts of any examples in institutions worldwide.

References: Bibliografija, no. 1328.
An extremely rare Partisan manual on the tactical movement of platoons, issued by an underground press in southern Slovenia.

This interesting manual explains how to coordinate the tactical movements of a platoon, or small, mobile force of Partisan fighters. Richly illustrated, it explains how officers should guide the movement of their platoon in relation to various battle scenarios, and what pre-arranged commands should be used to communicate with the troops in the field.

The manual was issued by an underground press in November 1944, late in the war, when small Partisan operations, as described here, were an increasingly important aspect of the conflict.

The present work is very rare; we cannot trace the current whereabouts of any examples in institutions worldwide.

References: Bibliografija, no. 58.
30. [BOMB MAKING / LANDMINES:]

Minerstvo [Manual for Land Mines / Bomb Making].
[Bela Krajina, Slovenia:] Glavni štab NOV in POS [Headquarters of the National Liberation Army and Partisan Detachments of Slovenia], June 1944.
Large 8°: mimeographed title page, 83 pp. mimeographed text with illustrations within text, 2 folding plates, text printed only on recto on thin paper, original tan wrappers with mimeographed cover image, stapled (Very Good, wrappers slightly stained, soft folds in the lower part of initial pages). (20106)

_An explosive Partisan manual on how to use land mines and make and place bombs, issued by an underground press in southern Slovenia._

This excellent manual gave Partisan troops and agents extremely detailed instructions on how to make and place landmines and bombs. Profusely illustrated, it explains technical terms in easy to understand language. It allows one to create powerful explosive devices from easily obtainable materials and gives careful guidance on how to place them on or near the targets to gain maximum impact, including buildings, walls, houses, bridges, trains and tanks.

Such a manual would have been considered extremely valuable, as such improvised explosives were essential to the Partisans’ sabotage operations and stealth raids upon enemy positions. The manual is so well designed and thorough that a complete novice could quickly be transformed into a master.

This work is very rare. A 1964 census located only a single example in a Yugoslav institution; we cannot trace the current whereabouts of any examples.

**References:** Bibliografija, no. 623.
CARTOGRAPHY – HOW TO READ MAPS:
Čitanje kart. Osnovna navodila za čitanje kart. Vojaška strokovna knjižica št. 6. [Reading maps. Basic Instructions for Reading Maps. Military technical booklet nr. 6].

Kamnik district, Slovenia: Tehnika RK VI, Založba vojaške šole NOV in POS [Publishing House of the Military School of the National Liberation Army and Partisan Detachments of Slovenia], October 1943.
Large 8°: 30 pp. mimeographed text with images within text, original tan wrappers with mimeographed cover, stapled (Very Good, wrappers slightly stained with small tears in margins, text pages clean). (20107)

A very rare and fascinating guide for making and reading maps, a vital tool for guerrilla warfare, published by an underground press in northwestern Slovenia.

This fascinating work features a detailed course on how to make and use maps for military use. Cartography was highly important to the Partisan cause, as guerrilla warfare in mountainous regions such as Slovenia required an exact knowledge of the terrain. Many Partisan operations needed to be carefully choreographed, relying on a master plan sketch out upon a map.

The work commences with detailed instructions on map creations, starting from the ground up. It gives a fine course in surveying and geographical terms, including such subjects as triangulation and celestial navigation. Moving on from gathering data and intelligence, it then gives instructions on how to make brouillons, or sketch maps in the field. It then progresses to describe more sophisticated techniques of cartographic draftsmanship, including the use of standard symbols, and which features, obstacles and landmarks, to prioritise to aid the tactical maneuverers and general military movement.

This rare work is special, being one of only very few Partisan treatises on the subject.

References: Bibliografija, no. 90; Gradivo, p. 675.
The only known surviving complete example of a ‘Headquarters’ wall map made exclusively for the use of the Slovenian Partisan High Command, depicting all of Slovenia and Far Northeastern Italy, featuring the military administrative divisions of the Partisans, plus marking the location of the top secret ‘Triglav’ Press, from the estate of the Partisan General and war hero Ivan Maček.

This is a profoundly important original Partisan artefact, being the only known surviving complete example of a ‘Headquarters’ map, a wall map made exclusively for the use of the Slovenian Partisan High Command, depicting all of Slovenia and the adjacent parts of Northeastern Italy. It was printed by an underground Partisan press in the Primorje (Adriatic coastal) region of Slovenia. It possesses excellent provenance, being from the estate of the Partisan General Ivan Maček, one of the original users of the map.

The map depicts the numerous Partisan military divisions across Slovenia and the eastern part of the Friuli region of Italy (which was a hotbed of Partisan activity with a mixed Slovene-Italian-Friuli population). The military provinces are outlined in red, while the various detachments are outlined in blue, with the locations of the detachment headquarters of every Partisan detachment being contained within blue rectangles.

The map gives an idea of the great intensity of Partisan activity in the Primorje region and the adjacent areas of Northeastern Italy, which had been the epicentre of an Anti-Fascist rebellion since 1927. The area is clustered with numerous Partisan detachments, with seven detachments being located within the city of Trieste alone.

Most interestingly, the map labels the top secret location of the recently founded ‘Triglav’ Partisan press (employing a green ‘three peak symbol’), in a remote, heavily wooded area near Kočevje, in southern Slovenia. ‘Triglav’ was one of only two underground Partisan printing operations to feature modern, electric printing presses, and so was incredibly valuable to the resistance war effort. Its location was known only to the high command of the Slovene Partisans and the printers themselves, as well as a small number of trusted couriers.

This map was made expressly for the Slovenian Partisan High Command and was evidently taped and pinned to the wall of their Headquarters in the Primorje region, the location of which moved from time to time. The map would have been used during deliberations at the highest levels in planning military strategy and operations, as well as discussing administrative issues. The information depicted on the map is extremely sensitive and great efforts would have been made to ensure that it did not end up in enemy hands.

The present map’s base was mimeographed by an unidentified underground Partisan press somewhere in the ‘Liberated Territory’ of the Primorje region. The base is predicated on the famous map *Zemljevid slovenskega ozemlja* (Ljubljana, 1921), which was the first great map of Slovenia made after World War I to use only Slovene nomenclature (in the place of the German, Italian and Hungarian names which were favoured on maps during Habsburg times). This map was purposely chosen as the base due to its symbolic significance, stoking Slovenian national pride during a period of German, Italian and Hungarian occupation of the country.

A manuscript note on the verso records the august provenance of the present map. It states that the map came from the estate of Ivan Maček (1908 - 1993), a Partisan general and war hero. A senior member of the pre-war Yugoslav Communist Party, Maček joined the Partisans and fought with Tito in Bosnia, notably at the epic Battle of Drvar (May 5 – June 6, 1944). He subsequently returned to his native Slovenia where he became a field commander of the Partisans during the final push to victory. As a principal of the Slovenian Partisan High Command, who was one of the original users of the present map, he retained it as a prized souvenir once the war had concluded. Highly regarded by Tito, in the years following the war, Maček served as the Interior Minister and Vice-President of Slovenia, in addition other senior positions in both the Slovene and Federal Yugoslav governments. Although Maček was a famous man and a noted collector of Yugoslav historical documents and memorabilia, he passed away in relative obscurity and this map seems to have been saved from being thrown away due to the last minute intervention of a former neighbour. Mercifully, it was then passed to a caring collector who preserved it during the last generation.

This is the only complete Slovenian Partisan ‘Headquarters’ map that is known to have survived. Very few such maps were ever made, and the vast majority of these did not survive the war, either due to wear, mishap, or intentional destruction (for security reasons). The ‘Headquarters’ maps should not be confused with the, still very rare, pocket, or field, maps that consist of quarter sections of the present map, but mere printed on much thinner paper. These maps were to be carried in the field, as opposed to being displayed in command centres (please see no. 33 following).

33. [PARTISAN FIELD MAP OF SOUTHWESTERN SLOVENIA:]
Karta slovenskega ozemlja. 1: 200.000 [Map of Slovenian Territory. 1: 200,000]
[Primorje, Slovenia:] Geodetska sekcija Glavnega staba NOV in PO Slovenije
[Geodetic Section of the Headquarters of the National Liberation Army and
Partisan Detachments of Slovenia], May 10, 1944.
Mimeographed map, printed on thin paper (Very Good, soft folds, with some
minor tears and small holes), 50 x 74 cm (19.5 x 29 inches).

A very rare pocket, or field, map of southwestern Slovenia, carried by Partisan
operatives as they were engaged in active combat operations in the countryside,
featuring contemporary manuscript additions regarding operational movements,
published by an underground Partisan press.

The present map, at first, bears many similarities to the ‘Headquarters’ map of the
Slovenian Partisan High Command (please see no. 32 previous); however, it was
intended for an entirely different purpose. The present map is a pocket, or field,
map of Southwestern Slovenia, printed on thin paper, it was to be folded and
carried by Partisan troops and agents as they were engaged in combat operations
in the countryside of the Karst and Primorje regions, long hotbeds of Partisan
activity. While the ‘Headquarters’ maps were used for planning operations at the
command centre, field maps were carried by troops on the move, used during the
actual operations themselves.

One will notice that the present map is cartographically the southwestern
quadrant of the same map, Zemljevid slovenskega ozemlja (Ljubljana, 1921) that
as was mimeographed to form the basis of the aforementioned ‘Headquarters’
map. It was likewise printed by an unidentified underground Partisan press in the
Primorje region. However, the field maps were only issued separately in quarter
sections, as operatives in the various regions had no need to carry large maps
embracing all of Slovenia. Thus, the present map was made for the use of Partisan
troops fighting in the Primorje and Karst regions of Southwestern Slovenia, who
had no need for mapping of any other part of the country. Thus, while the present
map superficially appears to be only a quarter section of a full map, it is, in reality,
complete as issued. The very few other surviving examples of such maps all only
exist in quarter sections.

The present example of the map was evidently used in the field, as contemporary
manuscript additions, in coloured pencil, depict various un-described Partisan
operations upon the Karst Plateau, above the major German naval base (and
hotbed of clandestine Partisan activity) of Trieste.

The Primorje and Karst regions were central to the Partisan movement. Not only
did the area occupy a strategic location, as the gateway between the Adriatic and
the Slovenian interior and Austria, but the incredibly rugged terrain afforded

the Partisans a base for their grander operations. The Slovenian Partisans and
their antecedent, TIGR, had been fighting fascist (first Italian and then German)
forces in the area since 1927, and by spring of 1944, when the present map was
made, they controlled large sections of the countryside, which they referred to
as the “Liberated Territory.” That being said, the Nazis and their local affiliates
controlled most of the major towns and cities, as the Partisans engaged in a
constant campaign to raid Axis positions and to liberate the urban areas.

Such Partisan field maps are today incredibly rare, as few were ever made
and very few survived the tribulations of the battlefield. We know of only a
single other example of this map (along with the corresponding field map of
Northwestern Slovenia), at the Slovenian National Library in Ljubljana.

References: Cf. Branko KOROŠEC, Vojaske topografske karte - arhivsko
The first and only issue of a medical journal, with articles in various Yugoslavian languages, printed at the Partisan hospital in Bari, Italy, including an interesting article by the Bosnian Jewish doctor Izidor Levi.

This extremely rare medical journal was published at the Partisan hospital in Bari, Italy in March 1945, not long before the conclusion of the war. In January 1944, the Anglo-American Allies, who controlled southern Italy, permitted the Partisans to open a base at Bari. Shortly thereafter, a Partisan hospital, with a mandate to fulfill complex procedures and to house invalids, was established on the base. Its director was Izidor Levi, a Jewish physician from Sarajevo, who had managed to elude capture by Axis forces.

The journal contains several articles in various Yugoslavian languages, including an article by Dr. Levi praising the Partisan nurses as extremely brave, but opining that they should receive better training, so that they “improvise less”. The other articles include Partisan songs; the story of a seriously injured young man who learned to read and; stories about education; and how to communicate in the most basic English (with Allied doctors), such as teaching patients to say “O-Kej” (Okay) and “Not-okej” (Not-Okay). The title depicts a bird’s eye view of the hospital.

Only one number of this magazine was issued. In 1964 only three examples of this booklet survived in institutions in Yugoslavia. Today we could not trace any examples worldwide.

References: Bibliografija, no. 3786.
35. [FIELD MEDICINE:]
*Ranjenec in rane. Bolničarski priročnik št. 1.* [Wounded soldier and Wounds. Medicine manual nr. 1]
[Dočensko, Slovenia]: Izdanje sanitarnega odseka vrhovnega štaba NOV in PO Jugoslavije [Publication of the Sanitary Department of the Headquarters of the National-Liberation Army and Partisan Detachments of Yugoslavia], 1944.
Small 4°: 66 pp., [2] (index pages), original paper wrappers with cover printed in blue linocut, stapled (Good, slightly stained and dusty, minor marginal tears, small tear on the page 38, cancelled old faded library stamp in the upper corner of the cover). (20023)

An intriguing Partisan manual on field medicine, concerning how to treat patients in active combat zones.

This Partisan medical manual discusses methods of treating wounds common to the battle field. It is geared towards doctors, nurses and their assistants who had to work in dangerous active military theatres, and features a comprehensive guide to triage (i.e. who to treat first when confronted with limited resources and time).

The work is dedicated to the Partisan women who played a key role in the medical corps, many having given their lives to treat soldiers while under enemy fire. It is graced with a beautiful blue linocut (unsigned, but probably by the esteemed artist Nikolaj Pirant), showing a female doctor giving water to a wounded soldier in the middle of the battlefield.

The present edition was translated into Slovenian by Dr. Mirko Črnič, and was evidently highly regarded by the movement's medical community, as it is referred to as “a most important work” in a contemporary Partisan Medical journal.
36. [PARTISAN SONG BOOK:]
Andreu PAGON (Ogarov), Editor. 
*Pesmi borcev XXXI. divizije* [Songs of the Soldiers of the XXXI. Division] 
[Western Slovenia: Propagandni oseb XXXI. divizije [Propaganda Department of the XXXI. Division], *circa* 1944.
Large 8°: 40 pp. mimeographed text with illustrations within text, original yellow wrappers with mimeographed cover, hand-coloured with colour pencil, stapled (Very Good, slightly stained, hand-written name on top of the title page). (20134)

An attractive collection of Partisan songs for distribution to troops and supporters in Western Slovenia, issued by an underground press.

This is an unusually attractive songbook, printed by an underground Partisan press, for use by supporters in the Gorenjsko and Primorsko regions of Western Slovenia. The lovely hand-coloured cover is extraordinary for Partisan works, and we have never seen anything similar.

Music and songs were critically important to the Partisan movement. Group singing sessions boosted morale and camaraderie, as patriotic and defiant lyrics reminded everyone of the importance of their cause.

During the latter half of World War II, the Partisans organized 26 separate meetings that included musical performances in the former Italian occupied areas of the Karst and Primorje regions. Significantly, this marked a revival in Slovenian music in the area, as during the 25 year long Italian occupation, all music in that language was banned by the fascist regime. This songbook was almost certainly used during some of those gatherings.

The present songbook was issued by an unidentified underground press in Western Slovenia by the XXXI Division of the Slovene Partisans. The division was founded in October 1943, just after the capitulation of fascist Italy. It operated throughout Western Slovenia and participated in some of the most intense and brutal battles fought anywhere in Yugoslavia during World War II. This work is very rare. A 1964 census recorded only a single example in Yugoslav institutions; however, we cannot trace the current whereabouts of any examples in libraries worldwide.

[PARTISAN SONG BOOK:]

Pesmi [Songs].
Ljubljana: Okrožna tehnika Komunistične partije Slovenije [Local Press of the Communist Party of Slovenia], 1943.
Blueprint on thin paper, totally uncut and unbound (Very Good, soft folds, small tears in uncut margins), 240 x 25 cm (94.5 x 9.8 inches). (65029)

A stunning 2.4 metre long uncut sheet for a book of Partisan songs, printed by the underground press of the Communist Party of Slovenia, located in Axis-occupied Ljubljana, featuring Revolutionary and liberation songs in Spanish, Italian, Russian and Slovenian.

This amazing, uncut and unbound ream of paper contains the blueprint text for an intended book of Partisan and International revolutionary and liberation songs, issued by the underground Communist Press of Slovenia, which was concealed in Axis-occupied Ljubljana. The ream was supposed to be cut into leaves and bound as a book, but this example has survived in the state as it did right after rolling off of the press.

The repertoire includes a mixture of Communist and Revolutionary songs translated to Slovenian; Russian songs; and famous international songs such as the Internationale (here in Slovenian); the Italian Socialist song Bandiera Rossa (also called Avanti Popolo, here in Italian); the Spanish songs La Casanacha, which was popular during the Mexican Revolution (here in the Slovene translation, La Kukarača), and Asturiana. The text under each song explains its meaning and significance to the Communist movement. The accompanying images depict marching Partisans, liberated people, naval vessels and airplanes etc., surrounded by Soviet and Communist iconography. Songs and group musical events were an integral part of the Partisan experience, critical to boosting morale and camaraderie.

The press of the Communist Party of Slovenia specialized in publishing propaganda pamphlets, usually printed on thin, cheap paper by improvised printing techniques. Operating for the entire war in Ljubljana, which was occupied by the Italians from 1941 to 1943, and by the Germans from 1943 to 1945, the press clandestinely existed in a constant state of clear and present danger. Operating in an urban environment under occupation was a different experience than running an underground press in the forest, as while gaining manpower, supplies and distribution may have been easier, one was always only a small mistake away from immediate arrest, if not much worse.
PARTISAN SONG BOOK:
Ivan (Janez) KUHAR (1911 - 1997), Editor.
Koračnice [Marching Songs].
[Bela krajina, Slovenia:] Cyklotehnika 13-A, Odsek za prosveto pri predsedstvu SNOS. Oddelok za umetnost in ljudsko prosveto [Department for Enlightenment at the National Liberation Army of Slovenia. Department for Arts and People's Enlightenment], 1944.
4°: 20 pp. mimeographed cover and musical notes, [1] blank page, stapled (Good, slightly age-toned and stained, horizontal fold with tiny tears and holes, cover with colour pencil marks). (20133)

A very rare songbook, with music scores for 22 Partisan songs, arranged by the prominent Partisan composer Janez Kuhar, published by an underground press in Southern Slovenia.

This rare songbook includes music scores for 22 Partisan songs, arranged by the eminent Slovenian composer Janez Kuhar. The arrangements were made especially for accompaniment by the accordion and so that the songs could be sung by Partisans on the march. The work was sponsored by the Slovene Partisans' de facto culture ministry, the Partisan Department for Arts and People's Enlightenment.

The Partisans originally composed most of the featured songs, and some are still highly popular, being played regularly to this day.

Ivan Kuhar (1911 - 1997), known as ‘Janez Kuhar’ in Partisan circles, was probably the most famous of all Partisan musicians and composers. While he wrote many of his own songs, he rearranged over 500 other works, adapting them for the Partisans’ martial requirements. In 1944, Kuhar notably composed the first Partisan opera.

The songbook was printed by the underground Partisan press of Cyklotehnika 13-A, located in the Bela Krajina region, near the Croatian border. This press issued several other notable works on theatre and music.

The present work is very rare; we can locate only a single example in libraries.

References: Bibliografija, no. 5641.
An extremely rare first edition of Matej Bor's 'Raztrganci' ('The Vagabonds'), the most famous Partisan work of theatre, issued by an underground press in the Bela Krajina region of Slovenia.

This is the only known surviving example of the first edition of Matej Bor's play 'Raztrganci' ('The Vagabonds'), by far and away the most famous Partisan work of theatre. The play follows an elaborate plot that includes a girl who runs away from a concentration camp, along with German and Partisan spies, and weaves through various love stories, intrigues and dilemmas.

Bor wrote the present version in 1944 for a wartime audience; but altered the plot in the editions produced after the war, to make the play more amenable for a wider viewership. The play has remained popular ever since and is still performed in theatres throughout the former Yugoslavia.

Matej Bor (born Vladimir Pavlič) was one of the major artists of the Slovenian Partisan resistance. He notably wrote the unofficial anthem of the Slovene Partisans, Hej brigade (Hey, Brigades) that was perhaps the most popular Partisan song, still performed to this day. Bor had a long and successful career after the war.

Importantly, the present example of the work is the only known example of a wartime printing (first version) of Bor’s masterpiece. While a 1964 census records 3 examples in Yugoslav institutions, we cannot trace the current whereabouts of any examples other than the present offering.

References: Bibliografija, no. 837.
Aleksej MAŠISTOV; Vladimir LEVŠIN.
Paška.
[Kočevski rog, Slovenia:] Propagandni oddelek glavnega štaba NOV in POS
[Propaganda Department of the Headquarters of the National Liberation
Army and Partisan Divisions of Slovenia], February 1945.
Large 8°: mimeographed title page, 6 pp. mimeographed text, original tan
wrappers with blue linocut, stapled (Very Good, slightly stained). (20051)

A rare Partisan play, with a clever plot twist, issued by an underground press
in Slovenia.

This short, yet clever Partisan play focuses on a German spy, disguised as a good
guy, who is looking for the leader of a Partisan division who goes by the code
name ‘Paška.’ The spy tries to convince a simple peasant girl to take him to the
leader, not knowing that she is Paška. At the end of the play she captures him
and informs him that she is the Partisan leader.

References: Bibliografija, no. 572.
41. [FINE ART:]
[Kočevski rog, Slovenia: Baza 20,] Glavni štab NOV in PO Slovenije [Headquarters of the National Liberation Army and Partisan Divisions of Slovenia], June 1944.
Small 4°: [18] incl. printed title page and 13 original linocuts, original tan wrappers with linocut cover, stapled (Good, wrappers slightly stained, first pages with light water-staining in the upper part, tiny loss of paper due to worm-holes in the lower left corner). (20136)

An extremely rare luxury edition of a booklet of fine art linocuts by the famous Partisan artists Nikolaj Pirnat and France Mihelič, issued by the legendary underground ‘Baza 20’ press.

This lovely work is an extremely rare luxury edition of a booklet of fine art linocuts by the famous Partisan artists Nikolaj Pirnat and France Mihelič. It was issued to commemorate the 3rd Anniversary of the Partisans, noted as fighting a “Sacred war for the country by the nations of Yugoslavia, fighting alongside the great allies”. While the title calls for 12 linocuts, the present example features 13 linocuts, and seems to be extra illustrated. The subject matter includes scenes from the lives of Partisans fighters, as well as common people affected by the war.

The work was issued by the celebrated underground Slovenian press ‘Baza 20’, located on a secret military base located deep in the woods of Kočevski rog in southern Slovenia. The base consisted of many scattered huts, some of which survive to this day as an open-air museum, although the printing works have vanished.

The surviving records of ‘Baza 20’ note that 2,000 examples of the ‘normal’ edition of the work were issued, while only 150 examples of the present luxury edition, printed on glossy paper, were published. Today all editions of the work are very rare, with the luxury edition being extremely uncommon.

Nikolaj Pirnat (1903 - 1948) was a leading Croatian Partisan artist. He studied sculpture in Zagreb and Paris, and made a living before the war illustrating children’s books. Early in the war Pirnat was arrested by the Italian fascists and imprisoned at the concentration camp at Gonars, Italy, but was released upon the capitulation of Italy in September 1943. Thereafter he joined the Partisans, drafting many of the movement’s most iconic images. Following the war, he became a professor of illustration at the Art Academy of Ljubljana.

France Mihelič (1907 - 1998) was likewise a great figure in Partisan art, known for his fabulous linocuts. He studied at both the art academies of Zagreb and Ljubljana. He joined the Partisans, whereupon his linocuts played a major role in the movement’s propaganda machine. After the war, Mihelič became a professor at the Art Academy of Ljubljana and one of the most celebrated Yugoslavian artists for many decades. His works are highly prized by today’s collectors.

References: Bibliografija, no. 870.
Antiquariat Daša Pahor

[FINE PRINTING / ART / LITERATURE:
France PREŠEREN (1800 - 1849), Author; Janez VIDIC (1923 - 1996), Illustrator; Marjan ŠORLI (1925 - 1975), Designer of Vignettes.

Prešernova Zdravljica [Prešeren's Zdravljica].

[Gorenjsko, Slovenia]: Trilof, December 1944

4°: printed title page, 8 full page linocuts, each sheet with rice paper guards with printed text in red and vignettes in gold, original red wrappers with linocut illustration on the cover, bound with tricolour rope (Very Good, with original dedication on the first paper guard, original Partisan stamp, example 821 of 1500), Inserted contemporary hand-written letter (22.5 x 14.5 cm / 8.8 x 5.7 inches). (20139)

One of the most beautiful books ever made by any underground resistance press in occupied Europe during World War II, featuring France Prešeren's famous poem, 'Zdravljica' (A Toast), a deluxe edition bound in red wrappers with tricolour rope.

This lovely work is widely considered to be the most beautiful product of any underground Partisan press. It was made in honour of the Slovenian national poet France Prešeren (1800 – 1849). The Slovene Partisans employed the images and works of Slovenian historical heroes as inspirational devices during their war of liberation. Prešeren was an especially beloved figure, and even a Partisan army division was named after him.

The present work showcases Prešeren's most famous poem, Zdravljica (A Toast), which features drinking a toast to unity, boys, girls, freedom, and fighting the enemy. Always popular, today the poem forms the basis of the Slovenian national anthem.

Records show that 1512 examples of this book were made by the printing operation Trilof in the Gorenjsko region of northwestern Slovenia, and that, of these, 1500 were numbered. A small number of examples (such as the present) were deluxe editions with red wrappers, bound with tricolour rope; while most were bound in normal paper. It is noted that in total the edition consumed 160 kg of paper, and took 678 hours to produce. Examples were given to leading Partisans as tributes in recognition of feats against the enemy.

The Trilof Press occupied a hut hidden beneath a heavily wooded mountainside. It was privately operated by ‘Don’ and his girlfriend ‘Julia’ (Partisan nom de guerre), outside of the oversight of the Partisan committees. The press was known for the unusually high quality of its productions, including coloured prints.

The linocuts were made by Janez Vidic, who was active in the decades after the war as an illustrator, graphic designer, printer and fresco master. The linocuts are thought to have been made from plates of linoleum taken from the floors of kitchens of local Alpine villas.

The lovely golden vignettes were made by the eminent architect and draftsman Marjan Šorli (1915 - 1975), nom de guerre ‘Viher’, who was a student of the world famous architect Joše Plečnik. Šorli graduated from his studies in 1940 and formally joined the Partisans in 1944. After the war, he gained a high profile as the architect of many of Yugoslavia's most important public buildings.

The present deluxe edition of the work, bound with red wrappers and tricolour rope, is considered by many to be the most beautiful creation of the underground Partisan printing presses and one of the finest books ever printed by resistance forces anywhere in Europe during World War II.

The tipped-in letter notes that the present example of the work was given to a Partisan woman with the nom de guerre ‘Fjedora’, who, in turn, sent the book to her parents on January 10, 1945, with a moving line that reads that the book should remind them of her, if she doesn’t live to see the day of freedom.

References: Bibliografija, no. 6744.
THEATRE / PROPAGANDA TOUR:

Dr. Lev SVETEK (1914 - 2005) et al.

Po Benečiji in Reziji [Around Veneto and Resia].

Primorje, Slovenia: Andrej, Propagandni odsek IX. korpusa NOV in POS [Propaganda Department of National Liberation Army and Partisan Divisions of Slovenia], 1945.


A very rare account of a Slovenian Partisan theatre troop's propaganda tour, visiting ethnic Slovenian enclaves in northeastern Italy in 1943, illustrated with original itinerary maps, published by an underground Partisan press just before the end of the war.

This intriguing and unusual work features a detailed account of a Partisan theatre troop's tour though the ethnic Slovene enclaves of northeastern Italy in the autumn of 1943, extraordinarily illustrated with original maps of their itinerary. The work was issued by an underground Partisan press shortly before the conclusion of the war.

The natural division between the native lands of ethnic Slovenes, Friulians and Italians in the region between the head of the Adriatic and Alps was always unclear and uneven. The Italian conquest of Friuli in 1866 left many pockets of ethnic Slovene populations within Italian territory, in what is today the northeastern part of the Italian region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, areas informally known as Venetian Slovenia and Resia. For decades the Slovenes lived peacefully with their Italian and Friulian neighbours, but upon the establishment of Mussolini’s Fascist regime in the 1920s, they were subjected to brutal policies of forced Italianization. Not surprisingly, during World War II this region was a hotbed of Partisan activity, with the Slovenes joining forces with Friulian and Italian Anti-Fascists.

Following the capitulation of Italy’s fascist regime in September 1943, Axis power in Venetian Slovenia and Resia collapsed, and for a time the Partisans gained control over much of the region (until the Germans contested their position). It was in this context that a Partisan theatre troop, consisting of eight members, and led by Dr. Lev Svetek, toured the region. Their purpose was to perform plays and songs that promoted Partisan, Communist and Slovene nationalist themes, while boosting the moral of a people who had been oppressed for over two decades. The tour lasted 113 days and an estimated 20,000 people viewed the plays, a large number in what was a sparsely populated area. The
immediate goal was to encourage the locals to redouble their efforts to fight against the Germans; and their longer aim was to stoke Slovene nationalist fervour in the region so that Venetian Slovenia and Resia might be annexed by Yugoslavia after the war was over.

The mission was not without risks, as the Nazis remained powerful in the greater region. Sadly, the youngest member of the troop, only 18 years old, was killed by the Germans in reprisal shortly after the tour.

The text of the present work includes a detailed report on the troop’s adventures, and includes some of the songs they performed along the way. Importantly, the work is illustrated with 5 original maps of their itinerary. This is extraordinary, as due the relative graphic complexity of cartography, very few underground Partisan prints include maps.

The author of the introduction and most of the articles, Dr. Lev Svetek (1914 - 2005), who went by the nom de guerre ‘Zorin’, was a Partisan master of propaganda. He graduated from the Ljubljana music conservatory, before obtaining a Ph.D. in law. In the spring of 1941, he participated in the final musical performance of a patriotic Slovenian band in Ljubljana, before the Italian occupiers banned all such performances. Svetek was a committed Communist and joined the Partisans early in the war. He proceeded to advance the Partisan cause through unusual and clever means, by writing and directing patriotic theatre performances. This way, he could subtly convey Partisan messages, while also boosting morale. After the war, Svetek fell afoul of Marshal Tito’s rule, and was sent as a political prisoner to the notorious Yugoslav prison, the ‘Naked Island’. However, he was eventually released, and thereafter gained great prominence as a dissident lawyer and author.

The present work is very rare; we can trace examples in only 3 libraries.

References: Bibliografija, no. 892.
[WOMEN:] Borimo Se. [Let's Fight].
[n.p., Slovenia] Nasa Žena, Tiskarna NOV Jugoslavije [Our Woman. Printing Shop of the National Liberation Army of Yugoslavia], circa 1944. 4°: 26 pp., 3 original linocuts, original blue wrappers printed in red and blue linocut (Very Good, wrappers lightly stained). (20031)

A moving work which extolls the virtues of Partisan women who fight on the front lines.

This powerful little work was published by an underground Partisan press that specialized in women's issues, Naša Žena (Our Woman). It features moving stories of women fighting on the front lines, including those who lost their lives in battle. Of particular note is 'A Soviet Woman Defends her Country', a tale that encourages women to fight for the Partisans. The three original linocuts that depict scenes of women at war are by Nikolaj Pirant, one of the leading Partisan artists.

References: Bibliografija, no. 4426.
A fascinating Slovenian Partisan pamphlet extolling the virtues of Muslim women who joined the Partisans.

This extraordinary work, printed by the underground Partisan press Našim ženam (To Our Women) in Novo Mesto, in southern Slovenia, discusses the role Muslim Women played in the Partisans. Many regions of ‘the South’ (Bosnia and some adjacent areas of Yugoslavia) had largely Muslim populations, and significant numbers of Muslims joined the liberation movement.

The pamphlet opines that before the war, Muslim women remained exclusively in the family home, and were the “most enslaved and suppressed women in the world”. However, upon joining the Partisan movement they were socially “liberated” and started attending courses and training, and so gaining active roles in the movement, including as front-line fighters. This raised their self-esteem and led them to realize their potential.

The example of these brave Muslim women, who changed their entire lives overnight for the cause, should be an inspiration to Slovenian Partisan women to show the same effort and commitment.

The cover art features two Slovenian Partisan women accompanied by a Muslim woman wearing a headscarf, while an image within the text depicts a meeting involving both Slovenian and Muslim Partisan women.

The illustrations were probably made by Ive Šubic (1922-1989), a Partisan artist and a famous Yugoslavian painter.
A very rare, profusely illustrated Alphabet Book prepared for underground Partisan schools for children.

This very rare alphabet book was printed by the Partisans in 1944 for use in Underground schools to teach children how to read. Each letter of the alphabet is accompanied by illustrations regarding an aspect of the Partisans, their leader Marshal Tito, or the Pioneers (the Partisan Youth). The work also includes a short story about a boy whose father is away fighting for the Partisans. However, as the Partisans are, by this time, winning the war, it is hoped that the father will return home soon.

The linocut portrait of Marshal Tito on the frontispiece was considered by many to be the most beautifully executed of the period. The other illustrations, featuring Partisans parents, teachers and children are likewise very well designed.

The work was issued by an underground Partisan press in the Gorenjska (Upper Carniola) region of northwestern Slovenia. In spite of the fact that they operating under difficult circumstances, the Partisan presses in this region were especially renowned for their novel artistic experiments with linocuts, producing works of especially fine design. The printers in the region even held competitions to see who could produce the finest publications. This was done both in an effort to keep quality high and to raise morale during dreary times.

This is by far and away the best designed Partisan educational book we have encountered. It is also exceedingly rare, we could not trace any examples in institutions worldwide.
An extraordinary bilingual Russian–Slovenian textbook, conceived during the joint Yugoslav–Russian liberation of Belgrade, printed by an underground Partisan press shortly before the end of the war.

As explained in the introduction, which is written in both Slovenian and Russian, this book was conceived in the autumn of 1944, when the Partisans and the Soviets fought side-by-side in the successful effort to liberate Belgrade from the Nazis. While the Soviet-Partisan relationship had long been important, few Slovenians and Russians were directly acquainted with each other until that time. This textbook grew out of this cross-cultural exchange and seeks to give Slovenian students in underground Partisan high schools an introduction to the Russian language, in the hope that this will foster closer Russo-Slovene ties going forward.

The work features short texts in Russian Cyrillic, plus a Russian alphabet on two pages. It was issued near the end of the war by an underground Partisan press in the Bela Krajina region of southern Slovenia, near the Croatian border. Such bilingual works are highly unusual in Partisan printing.

The present work is very rare; we can locate only 2 institutional examples.

References: Bibliografija, no. 7586.
Antiquariat Dasa Pahor

[RELIGION]
Dr. Metod MIKUŽ, Author; Ive ŠUBIC (1922 - 1989), Cover Designer. 
Large 8°: 16 pp. mimeographed text, original tan wrappers with linocut cover image, stapled (Very Good, slightly stained). (20140)

A very rare and fascinating work by a Partisan who was a Catholic priest, encouraging religious people to support the Partisans, and criticizing those who collaborated with the Axis occupation.

The Partisans’ relationship to religion is complex to say the least. While Communists dominated the movement, there was a degree of tolerance for religious figures in the organization’s ranks. Religion played an important role in the daily lives of millions of Yugoslavians, and even ardent Communists knew that the outright suppression of religious sentiment would alienate the Partisans from much needed sources of support. In many places, such as Slovenia, the Partisan high command actually encouraged cooperation with sympathetic religious figures.

While much of the high leadership of the Roman Catholic Church in Slovenia and Croatia collaborated with the Axis powers, many parish priests sided with the Partisans. Many priests considered the barbarity of the occupying regime to be simply intolerable and un-Christian. Moreover, the Partisans’ social democratic sentiments had some resonance with the notions of charity and communal support practiced locally by the Church. While at times awkward, the Communist Partisans tolerated religious Partisans, as long as the latter did not interfere in the leadership of the movement.

The present work, by the Slovenian Catholic priest, Dr. Metod Mikuž, cleverly employs Slavic nationalism to combat the foreign influence of the occupiers. The cover features Ive Šubic’s beautiful linocut of St. Cyril and St. Methodius, holding Slavic scripts. The two 9th Century saints, called the ‘Apostles to the Slavs’, introduced Christianity to many Slavic societies, and are today especially revered by the Orthodox Church. They encouraged teaching Christianity in native, Slavic languages and were responsible for development of Slavic scripts, such as Glagolitic in Croatia, and Cyrillic (named after St. Cyril) further east.

In this pamphlet, Mikuž tells people to follow the path of Cyril and Method, sticking to their traditions and mother tongue, and following the Partisans, who support their native country against the Germans. He gives historical examples of how Cyril and Method fought against Germanic forces. On the other side, he attacks the Catholic hierarchy in the region for betraying their people (and over 1,000 years of history?) by supporting the foreign invaders. This booklet was sold for 3 Liras, to support the National Liberation Movement.

Metod Mikuž was a Roman Catholic priest who joined the Partisans in 1942. Prior to that, he was the protégé and archivist to Gregorij Rožman, the Archbishop of Ljubljana, who became a leading Nazi collaborator. Mikuž lived with the Partisans in the woods and published several works on underground printing presses. One of his jobs was also baptising children born in secret Partisan hospitals. Rožman was incensed by his former protégé’s new role, and had him defrocked (an act not recognized by Mikuž or the Partisans).

Following the war, Mikuž sharply criticised the portions of the Catholic Church in Yugoslavia that supported the occupation, as having betrayed both their national and religious duty. Pro-Partisan religious figures, such as Mikuž, were largely responsible for Marshal Tito holding a moderate stance towards religion after the war. While religious institutions and practices were heavily suppressed in most socialist Eastern European countries, they were generally tolerated (albeit with some restrictions) in Yugoslavia.

References: Bibliografija, no. 6057; Gradivo, p. 682.

48.
A rare pamphlet by a Christian Partisan attacking those in the Church hierarchy who supported the Axis occupation.

This rare pamphlet was written by Tone Fajfar, a Christian Partisan, and was sponsored by the Christian Department of the Slovenian Partisans. Curiously, while Communists dominated the movement, the Partisans actively courted the support of priests and influential lay parishioners, even setting up a body to represent their concerns. While the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in Slovenia and Croatia generally collaborated with the Axis powers, many important Catholic figures at the parish level supported the resistance.

Tone Fajfar (1913 - 1981) was a Partisan and a member of the Christian-Socialist Party of Yugoslavia. Helpfully, he had been formally trained as printer. In this pamphlet he attacks the Church hierarchy for supporting the Axis occupation, decrying them for killing their own people instead of saving the nation. The Church collaborators are compared to the Biblical Pharisees, who behaved in a self-righteous manner and supposedly had a role in Jesus’s death.

The booklet is printed at a Partisan headquarters in the Hills of Polhov Gradec, a woody area southwest of Ljubljana. A small printing shop operated there from 1941 to March 19. 1943, when it was attacked by the Italian army.

The present work is very rare.

References: Bibliografija, no. 5013.
A fine example of a mimeographed pamphlet with a pair of Tito’s speeches, including the Marshal’s portrait, issued by an unknown underground Partisan press.

This fine little pamphlet features the text of two of Marshal Tito’s speeches translated into Slovenian from a magazine, Proleter (December 1942, number 16).

The circumstances of the pamphlet’s production remain a mystery, although it was clearly made by an underground Partisan press. Some other editions of this work are recorded as having been made clandestinely by Partisan prisoners in concentration camps, although it is unclear if that was the case with the present edition.

The work is rare, a 1964 census recorded only 2 examples in Yugoslavian institutions. We cannot trace any other examples.

References: Bibliografija, no. 7827.
51. [MARSHAL TITO:]
Josip Broz TITO (1892 - 1980).
25 godišnjica crvene armije [25 Years of the Red Army].
Large 8°: 8 pp. mimeographed text, original wrappers with mimeographed illustrated cover and mimeographed text on the back inner side of the wrappers, red star stamp on the cover (Very Good, covers slightly dusty, a tiny loss of paper in the lower right corner). (20138)

A seemingly unrecorded Croatian edition of Marshal Tito’s essay commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Red Army.

This seemingly unrecorded Croatian Partisan publication was printed by an unidentified underground press and features an attractive amateur-made cover. Inside is an essay by Marshal Tito commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Red Army.

References: N / A, unrecorded.
The official declaration of the foundation of Democratic Federal Yugoslavia, the temporary state formed by the Partisans as World War II was in its final stages, printed by an underground Slovenian Partisan press, with a cover illustration by the eminent architect Marjan Šorli.

By the late winter of 1945, the Axis forces in Yugoslavia were everywhere in retreat, as it was clear that the Partisans would gain complete control of the country sometime in the coming spring. On March 7, 1945, the Partisan leadership in Belgrade declared the formation of the national government of Democratic Federal Yugoslavia (Privremena vlada Demokratske Federativne Jugoslavije). This anodyne name was chosen, which intentionally avoided reference to the former monarchy, a republic or communism, so as not to antagonise certain members of the anti-Axis coalition who may not have favoured a communist takeover of the country. The last thing that Marshal Tito needed was for a civil conflict to brew within his own ranks on the eve of victory. That being said, this accommodation was considered to be provisional, subject to change upon the ultimate Partisan victory. True to plan, this state was replaced upon the proclamation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on November 29, 1945.

The present attractive work, with text printed in blue, was issued immediately in the wake of the declaration of the new state, as announced by the Tanjug news agency on March 10, 1945. It was printed by Trilof, an underground Slovenian Partisan press that occupied a tiny wooden house in the mountains of the Gorenjsko region. Trilof specialised in decorative, colourful prints, especially during the last months of the war.

The lovely cover illustration was executed in lino-cut by the eminent architect and draftsman Marjan Šorli (1915 - 1975), nom de guerre 'Viher', who was a student of the world famous architect Jože Plečnik. Šorli graduated from his studies in 1940 and formally joined the Partisans in 1944. After the war he gained a high profile as the architect of many of Yugoslavia's most important public buildings.

This work is exceedingly rare; we can locate only a single institutional example.

A rare and important Partisan text setting up the framework for Partisan legal system within divisions, written by the brilliant legal scholar Božo Kobe.

The author, Dr. Božo Kobe (1913-51) was a lawyer, who as a committed Communist joined the Partisan movement early in the war. Immediately after the war he served as a leading prosecutor during the Yugoslav trials of Axis war criminals. He subsequently became professor at the University of Ljubljana. However, in 1949, after Marshal Tito had an epic falling out with Stalin, Kobe, due to his supposed ties to the Soviets, was imprisoned on the notorious Yugoslav penal colony of 'Naked Island'. Sadly, there he was killed in 1951.

References: Bibliografija, no. 463.
Josip Broz TITO (1892 - 1980).

**Naredba o disciplinski odgovornosti vojaških oseb** [Order on Discipline and Responsibility of Military Persons].

[Bela Krajina, Slovenia]: Teknika baze G.Š.S. [printed for the] Vojaško sodišče VII. Korpusa NOV in POS [Army Court of the VII Corps of the National Liberation Army and Partisan Divisions of Slovenia], March 1945.

Large 8°: [1] mimeographed title, 6 pp., original tan wrappers with mimeographed cover (Very Good, old hand-written numbers in the upper part of the cover). (20096)

An important Partisan legal text setting out the protocols for military officers and army courts in the final days of the war, issued by an underground Partisan press.

This short, yet important work outlines the new laws that were to henceforth govern the conduct of military officers and the operation of army courts. It was drafted in March 1945, only a matter of weeks before all of Yugoslavia was liberated. These regulations came at a critical juncture, as the Partisans prepared to transition from a wartime army to a national peacetime defensive force.

References: Bibliografija, no. 655.
55. [PARTISAN ECONOMICS:]
Ekonomska služba v NOV in POS. Osnove ekonomske službe [The Economic Office of the National Liberation Army and Partisan Divisions of Slovenia. Basis of the Economic Office].
[Slovenia, Location Unknown:] Glavni štab NOV in POS [Headquarters of the National Liberation Army and Partisan Divisions of Slovenia], July 1944.
Large 8°: 60 pp. [of 62?] mimeographed text and one chart, original orange wrappers with mimeographed cover, stapled (Very Good, slightly stained, frayed margins, one index page missing). (20141)

A seemingly unrecorded work on the Partisan Economic Office, which ran the large and complex internal economy of the Partisans’ underground society.

This extremely rare work describes the functions of the Partisan Economic Office, the body which oversaw the large and complex economy that sustained the Partisans’ underground society. Much of the Partisan economy focussed on the procurement of weapons, food and supplies (clothing, building materials, etc.), operations that would normally fall under the quartermaster general’s review in a conventional army.

While vast quantities of items were procured without payment by raiding Axis and collaborationist positions, or donated by Allied forces, most materials consumed by the Partisans had to be purchased from civilian Partisan supporters. In a situation where hard currency was either unavailable or invalid, a system had to be managed whereby the Partisan detachments could purchase materials on credit, backed by a trusted economic entity. This was usually done in the form of a check or receipt drawn on the Partisan bank (see item no. 56). The present work outlines the regulations for pricing and payment that must be followed by all members of the movement.

The work is unrecorded in literature and we have not been able to trace another example. The present example appears to be missing the last page of the index.
An extremely rare receipt from the underground Slovenian Partisan bank.

This is an extremely rare blank receipt printed on the order of the underground de facto national bank of the Slovenian Partisans. The Partisans had developed a complete society within the enclaves of territory that they controlled. A key element underpinning this was their banking and economic system, that while following many modern norms, had to make accommodations for the limitations of a wartime environment. Often Partisans would request items such as food, livestock, clothing or tools from supporters in the countryside. As normal currency was either unavailable or of little practical value, the Slovenian high command issued IOUs, in the form of receipts, in lieu of cash payments for the tendered goods. The receipt would then specify when the bill was to be paid (presumably, as in many cases, after the end of the war).

Curiously, the Partisan bank receipts were targets of Italian Fascist propaganda that claimed that the Partisans wrote 'bad checks', having no intention of ever honouring their IOUS. However, there is little evidence that such propaganda was successful, as the receipts formed the basis of a thriving and trusted banking system.

Today Partisan bank receipts are extreme rarities, as almost all perished during the war or the immediate post-war period.
This rare pamphlet features chilling accounts of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp recounted by two female survivors, as related by the prominent Slovenian writer Ladislav Kiauta, published by an underground Partisan press while the camp was still in operation.

This rare work features two chilling accounts of the Auschwitz concentration camp as related by two anonymous female survivors to the professional writer Ladislav Kiauta. Described in horrific detail are beatings and murders, as well as many specifics, such as the names of prison guards. While the accounts are anonymous the level of detail is such they could only have been related by those who were direct eyewitnesses to the atrocities described.

The present work was issued by an underground Partisan press in Slovenia to inform people of the true evil of the Third Reich. It was published in 1944 while Auschwitz was still in operation, although it must be noted that survivor’s accounts of the camp were published as early as the winter of 1940-1.

The work was written by Ladislav Kiauta (1914-90), a professional Communist writer and publisher who first opened his own press in 1932. During the war he joined the Partisans where he put his skills to good use. Following the war, he fell afoul of Marshal Tito, whereupon he did a spell in the notorious prison of ‘Naked Island’.

The present work is very rare.

References: Bibliografija, no. 5553.
Horri/fically chilling – one of the earliest published /first-hand accounts of life inside the Mauthausen concentration camp, by the Slovenian Partisan Svetko Kobal, printed by an underground Partisan press in 1944 under Kobal’s direct supervision – extremely rare.

This work makes very difficult reading. It is truly chilling, as it details the most horrific aspects of humanity in unusually vivid detail. It is also historically important, as it is one of the earliest published eyewitness records of the terror of the Mauthausen concentration camp, directly published by a camp survivor.

Svetko Kobal (1921 - 2010) was a young man from Škofja Loka, in northwestern Slovenia, who was early in the war interned by the Nazis at Mauthausen, a concentration camp located near Linz, Austria. Here Kobal recounts, in graphic detail, the monstrous scenes he witnessed of gratuitous and sadistic acts of violence and murder being meted upon his fellow prisoners, with the Jewish internees being subjected to the worst crimes. In particular, he notes the extreme brutality of Georg Bachmayer, an SS captain who oversaw prisoners at the camp.

Luckily for Kobal, he was eventually transferred from Mauthausen to a nearby labour camp that had lax security. From there he escaped and followed the Partisan underground railroad back to Slovenia where he joined the Partisans, assuming the nom de guerre ‘Florjan’. Over a week, in April 1944, while stationed in a bunker near his hometown, Kobal wrote the present work. He believed it was vitally important that people know about the savagery of the Nazis, not just to redouble the vigour of the Partisans, but to warn the many potential Axis collaborators about who the were considering supporting.

The unusual cover art of the present work was made by three different printing techniques. A part of the image was made by transferring a drawing to a matrix; the black dotted effect was made by the impression of a copper net; while the red areas were done by linocut.

Kobal enjoyed great success later in his life, as he served as Slovenia’s Minister for the Economy (1967-70) and as the first Governor of the Bank of Slovenia (1972-6). In 1979, he published a detailed account of the production and dissemination of the present work on Mauthausen, which is one of the best insiders’ accounts of the operations of underground Partisan presses.

Kobal noted that 985 examples of the present work were printed, but that only 330 were sent out to other printing shops, where they were supposed to be syndicated. This all being said, we cannot find any records of any other editions, and a 1979 census shows that only a couple examples of the present work were recorded in Yugoslavian institutions. We have not been able to locate the current whereabouts of any other examples.

A powerful, disturbing and extremely detailed first-hand report on the Mauthausen concentration camp, written by the Partisan survivor Franc Hribar.

This disturbing and highly detailed account of life inside of the Mauthausen Nazi concentration camp was written by the Slovenian Partisan survivor France Hribar, who was known by his nom de guerre ‘Savinjšek’.

Hribar gives a meticulous description of physical conditions, transportation, food, as well as a chapter on prostitution within the camp. Chillingly, he also includes graphic accounts of murders, including the deaths of several of his friends. Hribar also recollects his overwhelming horror at confronting piles of dead bodies and crematoria.

The work is illustrated with several drawings based on Hribar’s memory, which were sketched by the amateur artist France Cegnar (1925 - 2011), later a successful agronomist, who was himself a concentration camp survivor.

The present work was printed in the spring-summer of 1944 by the underground Partisan press Tehnika Slavko Šlander, named after a Partisan war hero who died at the hands of the Germans in 1941. The press was located above the town of Mozirje, Styria, a region that had relatively few Partisan printing operations, as it was overrun with Nazi troops.

Hribar’s report was reprinted in November 1946 as an article within the newspaper Naše delo. The present work is today considered to be extremely rare.

An extremely rare newsletter printed by Slovenian Partisan survivors at Dachau Concentration Camp shortly after the Americans liberated it; with unique and meaningful content, richly illustrated.

This is an extraordinary work that employs a dark 'Balkan Style' sense of humour to attack the some of the greatest acts of evil ever committed, as well as those who were responsible for those acts. It also celebrates the triumph of the survivor, who having endured and witnessed unimaginable suffering, has suddenly been given his life back and chance to go home. At the same time, it is heartfelt tribute to the fallen friends who will not be returning home.

This is, as the subtitle reads, the ‘First and – hopefully – farewell edition’ of a newspaper created by Slovenian Partisan internees, printed at the Dachau Concentration camp, near Munich, Germany. To be clear, the work was published on June 1, 1945, just over a month after the camp was liberated from the Nazis. At this time, the camp was under American administration, and while the Americans went to great efforts to dramatically improve the conditions of the camp’s residents, most of the former prisoners were obligated to remain in the camp for some weeks until being processed out. Not only did the Americans need to screen the rolls for people who were potential security risks to the Allies, but it was also considered unsafe or very difficult for many of the internees to return to home. Time was required for all the arrangements to be made, and so thousands remained in Dachau.

Thus, the Americans facilitated activities and diversions for the internees as they awaited their release. A small number of residents requested and were given the resources to publish their own rudimentary newsletters, giving rise to the present work.

The present newsletter immediately launches into sarcastic, ironic humour, seeking to convey various messages, but also to lift the spirits of its readers, fellow survivors who were still in Dachau.
The content takes the form of short poems and articles on aspects of Dachau, as well as salvos launched against prominent pro-Axis Yugoslav figures, accompanied by several entertaining illustrations by Božidar (Božo) Pengov.

Of note, are the poems directed against the Domobranci (Slovene Home Guard); the outwardly pro-Nazi Archbishop of Ljubljana, Gregorij Rožman; the Croatian ustaše leader Ante Pavelić; the Slovenian general and Nazi collaborator Leon Rupnik; as well as the Croatian Ustaše politician Vladko Maček. The text expresses delight that all of these people are either on the run or on their way to the gallows.

There is also a lengthier article about daily life in Dachau written by the survivor Ludwig Mrzel, penned in the spring of 1944 in Bloc 24, but not published until this time. He notes that in 1944 there were 59,000 prisoners in the camp; but that a year later this number had swelled to 150,000.

The newsletter includes a bitingly sarcastic mock advertisement for Dachau:

'Large numbers of empty rooms and joined dormitories to let. Room for about 10,000 men, but more to be free soon. Warm places in the crematorium, a single bedroom in the bunker. Food measured by a German scientific method: spinach, turnip, kohlrabi etc. with accountable calories and vitamins. Lifelong supply. Management of K. L. Dachau.'

The editor of the newsletter, Emil Smasek (1910–85), joined Partisans at the beginning of the war, but was imprisoned in Dachau in from 1942 to 1943, and then again from January 1945. There he became a leader of the underground cultural-propaganda department of Yugoslav National Committee. After the war, he became a famous dramatist and author, involved in radio shows and puppet theatres.

Ludwig Mrzel (1904–71) was a journalist and dramatist, and later the director of the National Theatre in Ljubljana, as well as a prolific translator of books. In 1949 he fell afoul of Marshal Tito and was imprisoned on the notorious Croatian penal colony of ‘Naked Island’, under the preposterous charge of being a “Gestapo spy”. He was subsequently released and continued his career. Importantly, Mrzel was the editor of the only other known Yugoslavian newspaper to be published in Dachau, *Dahavski poročevalec*. This work was published over 13 days from May 2, 1945 (see *Bibliografija*, nos. 8395 and 8396).

The illustrator of the work, Božidar (Božo) Pengov (1910–85) was a famous academic sculptor during the pre-war period, responsible for many open-air statues. After the war he became a professor at the Ljubljana Art Academy. Notably, Pengov produced a well-known and poignant work on the horrors of Dachau, being a mimeographed image of starved copies in coffins, with the title Ne moremo z vami - toda ne pozabite nas! [We cannot go with you – but do not forget us!].

It is important to note that while the present newsletter may appear to be incomplete (it ends abruptly), this is not the case – it is complete as featured here. It seems that Smasek may have originally intended to add a couple more pages, but that a lack of paper may have caused him to truncate the work.

The present newsletter is extremely rare; we can locate only 2 other examples in institutions.

A large format Anti-Semitic Slovenian propaganda poster made by the Czech born artist Jože Beránek, depicting Churchill, Stalin and their ‘Jewish master’ vs. the Axis superhero in a struggle for World domination.

This disturbing, but extremely well designed and executed, poster depicts a caricature of ‘a laughing Jew’, overlooking Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin, who shake hands across the figure of the World that they scheme to dominate. To the side is the figure of an Axis superhero that endeavours to stop the supposed Jewish-Allied design.

While this poster is the first (and seemingly only) edition of an original composition by Beránek, it shows the influence of famous German Anti-Semitic posters, such as the Juden Komplott Gegen Europa.

The artist Jože Beránek (1913-45) was born in Písková Lhota, Bohemia (today Czech Republic), but as a child moved with his family to Zagreb, and then later to Ljubljana. There he graduated from a high school for engineering and architecture, before moving on to study at the prestigious Prague Art Academy. Later he returned to Ljubljana where he worked as a professional artist and draftsman, mastering various printing techniques. Beránek had strong right-wing leanings and worked as a magazine and book illustrator for Axis-backed publications. Latterly he joined the Domobranci (Slovene Home Guard), the collaborationist militia, attaining the rank of lieutenant. While in service his continued to design pro-Axis and Anti-Semitic propaganda pieces, of which the present poster is perhaps his grandest work. Following the war, he was arrested by the Yugoslav Army and executed for treason.

References: Begrant 2015.
[ANTI-ALLIES PROPAGANDA:]

Europeans, don't be afraid of the victory of the Allies! Every one of us has a plan ready!

[Slovenia, perhaps Ljubljana], 1943.

Large 8°: 28 pp. with 2 illustrations within text, original illustrated covers, unbound (Very Good, some foxing, especially to the wrappers). (24009)

A rare bilingual (Slovenian-German) propaganda pamphlet issued by Slovene Axis collaborators, fiercely attacking the Partisans, the Allies and their supposed Jewish masters.

This rare work's sarcastic title gives way to a fierce attack upon the Partisans, the Allies and their supposed Jewish masters. The cover illustration depicts the figures of England, USA and Russia, standing with huge bats, holding signs that read "Hunger and Whip", "Robbery and Exploitation", and "Mass Murders".

This pamphlet was issued in 1943 by Slovene Axis collaborators. Victories by the Partisans, the fall of Fascist Italy and the unravelling of the Nazi war effort in Russia was placing pressure on the German occupation in Slovenia. Many fickle Slovene collaborator were tempted to change sides. This pamphlet was made in an effort to keep them in line.

In both Slovenian and German, the text opines that the Allies represent the ultimate evil; claiming that the 'liberated' areas are hellish (and far worse that the Nazi occupied areas), with the Allied and Partisan troops robbing, raping, and murdering innocent civilians and destroying cultural treasures. It claims that much of Serbia and Italy was already engulfed in this inferno and that collaborationist Slovenes should redouble their efforts to save their country before it is too late. Just so that the point is not lost, two identical images within the text depict two American soldiers, one of them being African American, who are shown looting and trashing works of art.

The image on the back cover, bearing the title "Juda dirigiert seine Knechte! Jud void svoje hlapce!" [A Jew is leading his slaves!], shows a Jewish person at a table wearing the Star of David, while controlling three robots, being caricatures of Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin.

The present work is extremely rare; we have not been able to trace any other examples.
Anon.

Smešno... ti angleško-ameriški programi... Jaz imam svoj program! [Funny... these Anglo-American Programmes... I have my own Programme!].

[Probably Ljubljana, circa 1944].
Flyer (14.5 x 21 cm / 5.7 x 8.2 inches), printed on both sides of pink paper (Very Good, some light toning and minor tears to margins). (20309)

An extremely rare flyer lampooning Stalin and decrying the Bolshevik threat, seemingly made by the Domobranci, the collaborationist Slovene Home Guard.

This curious double-sided flyer depicts Joseph Stalin as laughing while throwing international treaties into the trash, upon which he reveals his “own programme”: a gun and a whip.

The text on the verso claims that England is incredibly foolish for allowing itself to “bleed out” on behalf of Bolshevik intentions, and that nobody else should follow such a path. It would be wiser to join “smart” countries, such as Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, who are already fighting on the German side.

Not surprisingly, given its ephemeral nature, we have not been able to locate any references to this flyer, let alone any other examples.
[ANTI-PARTISAN PROPAGANDA:]

Anon, Artist ‘KW’.

Weg von den Brudermördern! Proč od bratomorilcev! [Away from the Brother Killers!]

[Probably Innsbruck, Austria: Gaudruck Tirol & Vorarlberg, 1942].

Poster (84 x 59 cm / 33 x 23 inches), lithograph in colours (Very Good, small tears along old folds and small holes at fold vertices, minor marginal tears). (20009)

A rare Anti-Partisan propaganda poster, printed in Austria for use by the Nazi and collaborationist forces in Slovenia, portraying the Partisans as ‘brother killers’ under the control of an Allied-Jewish conspiracy, who battle against the supposedly noble Germanic super-hero for the soul of ‘Everyman’.

This fanciful, but technically well executed, work of Anti-Partisan propaganda depicts ‘Everyman’ caught between two great life choices. One side presents the supposed side of darkness, with a burning home in the background, while in the fore a massive Soviet figure, backed by his Jewish master, offers Everyman money to stab his brother in the back. On the supposed side of good, a Germanic super-hero figure, in the form of the St. George, is shown sleighing the (Partisan-Allied) dragon.

The present poster was sponsored by the Nazi regime in Slovenia, and with text in both German and Slovenian, it was targeted for use in their fierce on-going propaganda war against the Slovenian Partisans. It was printed by a professional press in Tyrol, Austria, and while the artist is unknown his initials ‘KW’ suggest that he was likely Austrian or German, as there is no letter ‘W’ in any of the Yugoslavian languages.

This poster was quite popular in its time, and a postcard sized image was issued shortly thereafter.

The present poster is very rare; we can locate only 2 institutional examples.
ANTI-PARTISAN PROPAGANDA:
Marjan TRŠAR (1922 - 2010).

Brat-Brata (Brother shoots Brother).

Ljubljana: Blaznik, Late 1943.

Poster (59 x 80 cm / 23.2 x 31.5 inches), lithograph in colours (Very Good, light soft folds and minor marginal tears). (20005)

A very rare and flamboyant Anti-Partisan propaganda poster, made for the Slovene Home Guard by the subsequently famous artist Marjan Tršar, depicting the Partisans as perpetrators of vice and terror.

From the autumn of 1943 until the end of the war, the Partisans and the Slovene Home Guard (Domobranci), the domestic collaborationist force, were engaged in a ferocious propaganda war. This rare poster, made by the subsequently famous artist Marjan Tršar, is one of the most flamboyant pieces of Anti-Partisan propaganda ever published. It plays upon conservative, collaborationist stereotypes of Partisans as being duplicitous, debauched murderers, whose only purpose was to terrorize innocent country folk.

Extraordinarily, this poster tries to simultaneously hit upon every possible Anti-Partisan theme. It depicts a scene in which homesteads smoulder, having been set ablaze by marauding Partisans, while in the foreground a male and female Partisan engage in lascivious conduct. Meanwhile, another mean and crazy-looking Partisan is shown to have killed an innocent mother, while preparing to kill his own brother, as a frightened women looks up from the ground.

These images hit upon perceptions that many collaborationist Slovenes held about Partisans. In Slovene villages there was no worse insult that being accused of betraying your own brother, so the title charge of this poster strikes a nerve. Partisan women, having rejected the teachings of the Church, were billed as prostitutes, as they did not stay at home and raise children, but rather went to fight in the forests with the men. On this poster, the woman is portrayed wearing a tight sweater, army pants and a gun, attire that was considered scandalous by both the Nazis and the Domobranci. The fact that she is shown kissing a man in public was considered during the 1940s to be incredibly lewd conduct, akin to the behaviour of a prostitute.

This poster is one of the earliest published works by Marjan Tršar (1922 - 2010), who subsequently became one of Slovenia’s most famous artists. Tršar’s wartime story is complex and more than a little unusual. Upon the Axis invasion of Yugoslavia in April 1941, he joined the Royal Yugoslavian Army. However, he was soon captured and sent to prison in Croatia. He was released shortly thereafter, and returned to Ljubljana. There he fell afoot of the Italian occupiers, who sent him to a concentration camp at Gonars, Italy, where he remained until the collapse of the Italian regime in September 1943. In Gonars, he made as series of drawings of the camp that were much admired in Partisan circles. Upon re-gaining his freedom, Tršar decided to support the collaborationist cause. While his motives for switching sides are unclear, it has been speculated that he desperately needed money and wanted to avoid being re-incarcerated. He proceeded to design propaganda illustrations for the Domobranci, of which this poster is by far the most memorable. At the end of the war he was captured by the Partisans and given a death sentence. However, one of the Partisans, remembering the artist from Gonars and recalling his drawings of the camp, successfully appealed for clemency for Tršar. He was soon released and went on to become one of Slovenia’s most famous and long-enduring artists, passing away in 2010, at the age of 88.

The present poster is very rare; we can trace only 2 other examples in institutions.
BRAT-BRATA...
[ANTI-PARTISAN PROPAGANDA: JEWISH BOLSHEVISM – 3 PIECE COLLECTION:]

Anon.

OF: Cilj Banditov, Boljševiška svoboda / Bolschewistische Volks-Bewegung
[Slovenia or Austria, circa 1944].

3 Items: 2 original zincographic printing plates (two versions of same image, but with different titles), each 27.5 x 19.5 cm / 10.5 x 7.6 inches (Very Good, slightly rubbed); and 1 Flyer printed from one of the plates, 30 x 21.5 cm / 11.8 x 8.4 inches (Good, some small tears, one just entering image). (20233)

A trio of items (being 2 original printing plates, plus 1 print from one of the plates) relating to an aggressive work of Anti-Partisan propaganda, warning Slovenians of the threat of ‘Jewish Bolshevism’.

This curious collection relates to an aggressive work of Anti-Partisan propaganda, warning Slovenians of the threat of ‘Jewish Bolshevism’. The Nazi occupation regime in Slovenia and the collaborationist Domobranci (Slovene Home Guard) commissioned such works to engage in a fierce propaganda war against the Partisans. They produced a flyer that depicts a ‘Jewish Bolshevik’ grabbing ‘innocent’ people from the countryside and spiriting them away, supposedly to meet a grim fate. The image is vaguely reminiscent of Goya’s famous Saturn Devouring His Son.

The theme of ‘Jewish Bolshevism’ was a common refrain in Nazi propaganda throughout occupied Europe. Most Nazi-sponsored works in Slovenia were produced bilingually (German and Slovenian), in this case, in the form of two different flyers, each with distinct titles, but featuring identical images.

Present here are the two original zincographic plates used to produce both the German and Slovenian editions of the flyers. They are extremely rare survivors, as very few such plates made it out of the war.

Also included is an original example of the Slovenian edition of the flyer, printed off of one of the present plates.

It is not known who drafted the artwork, made the plates or printed the flyers. However, the project was likely executed at a professional print shop either in Slovenia, or in Tyrol or Carinthia, Austria. A large coloured poster, based on the flyers, was also produced, likely by the same printing operation.

While the zincographic plates are unique, the flyers are extremely rare, as we cannot trace any examples of either the German or Slovenian editions in institutions. However, 2 examples of the large poster are recorded in libraries.
[ANTI-PARTISAN AND ANTI-ALLIES PROPAGANDA – 5 FLYERS:]

A Collection of 5 Anti-Partisan and Anti-Allies flyers, issued by Nazi and Collaborationist forces in Slovenia, as part of the greater Propaganda War.

This is a collection of 5 Slovenian Anti-Partisan flyers, issued by the Nazi occupation regime in Slovenia, in conjunction with the collaborationist Slovene Home Guard (Domobranci). The colourful flyers all feature startling rhetorical slogans attacking the Partisans, four being only in Slovenian, while one flyer is bilingual (German-Slovenian). Such flyers were at the centre of a fierce propaganda war fought between the Partisans and the Axis-Collaborationist forces. Due to their ephemeral quality they are all today extremely rare, especially as possessing such Anti-Partisan documents in post-war Yugoslavia was a crime in and of itself. (20143)

The collection includes the following:

1) Angleška podlost nima meja! [There is No Limit to English Malevolence!], [Slovenia, circa 1944]. Flyer: 12 x 15.5 cm (4.7 x 6.1 inches), black print on pink paper (Very Good, soft folds, slightly stained).

This flyer exclaims that Britain has dark designs upon Slovenia, and that the Partisans were simply a vehicle for the country’s destruction at London’s hands.

2) Mord, Laub, Lügen – das ist Bolschewismus! Das ist OF! Umor, rop, laž – to je bolševizem! To je OF! [Murder, Robbery, Lies – this is Bolshevism! This is the National Liberation Army!], [Slovenia], 1944. Flyer: 21 x 15 cm (8.2 x 5.9 inches), black print on orange paper, printed on both sides (Very Good, slightly dusty, tiny hole in lower left corner).

This work accuses the Partisans of being Bolshevik killers and thieves, a mainstay of Anti-Partisan propaganda.

3) Plačanci, roke proč od nas! [Mercenaries, Keep your Hands Away from Us!], [Slovenia, circa 1944]. Flyer: 23.5 x 15.5 cm (9.2 x 6.1 inches), [4 pp.] black print on yellow paper (Very Good, tiny tears in margins).

This flyer presents the Partisans as being lawless mercenaries of foreign powers, bent on the destruction of Slovenia.

4) Slovenskemu delavstvu! [To the Slovenian Workers!] [Slovenia, circa 1944]. Flyer: 23.5 x 16 cm (9.2 x 6.3 inches), blue print on tan paper, printed on both sides (Very Good).

This work tells the Slovenian workers, a natural constituency of the Partisans, that the resistance forces do not actually represent their values, and that the Partisans will betray the workers.

5) Slovenci, Slovenke! [Slovenian Men and Women!] [Slovenia, circa 1944]. Flyer: 30 x 15.5 cm (11.8 x 6.1 inches), red print on tan paper, printed on both sides (Very Good, slightly stained).

This flyer urges Slovenians to reject the Partisans and to support the collaborationist forces.
[ANTI-SEMITIC / ANTI-ALLIES PROPAGANDA:]

Pot utirata... ['The Way is Made by…']
[Ljubljana?], 1944.
Flyer (21 x 15 cm / 8.3 x 5.9 inches), on orange paper, printed on both sides. (24008)

A rare Anti-Allies and Anti-Semitic propagandist flyer issued by the Domobranci, aimed at Churchill, Roosevelt, the Soviets and the supposed Allied-Jewish conspiracy.

This satirical flyer was made by the Domobranci (the Slovene Home Guard) and takes aim at the supposed Allied-Jewish conspiracy. It depicts Winston Churchill and F.D. Roosevelt in a manner in which they look foolish, holding up a sign reading 'Alleluja! The liberators are Coming', while behind them is a huge Soviet with a figure star, gun and a whip, followed by the figure of Death.

The text on the verso of the flyer claims that England is a puppet in the hands of America and Russia; and furthermore that the whole Allied network is controlled by Jews.

Specifically, it claims that Roosevelt's personal spokesman, "a Jew Lippmann," declared that: "We will divide the world in the Jewish-Bolshevik and in Jewish-North American sphere. We only recognise Moscow and Washington!"

The flyer is exceptionally rare; we have not been able to locate any other examples.
A very rare and unusual Slovenian Anti-Partisan broadside that seeks to ridicule Marshal Tito.

This slightly ridiculous piece of Anti-Partisan propaganda tells an apocryphal tale of how German forces once captured Marshal Tito's hastily vacated headquarters and found a pair of his left-behind pants. The pants were said to be red and emblazoned with general's stripes. The broadside opines that Tito was given the 'false rank' of general by the Soviets, while it inferred that the pants were fashioned out of stolen sacred church cloth.

The broadside if evidently exceptionally rare; we cannot trace any other examples.
ANTI-PARTISAN PROPAGANDA – TITO ‘WANTED POSTER’:

[Nagrada od 100.000 rajhsmaraka u zlatu! 100.000 rajhsmaraka u zlatu
dobije onaj koji dovede živa ili mrtva komunističkog vođu Tita.

Reward of 100,000 Reich Marks in Gold! 100,000 Reich Marks in Gold will be given to
the one, who will bring in Dead or Alive the Communist Leader Tito.

Probably Belgrade, May or June 1943.

Broadside (30.5 x 21 cm / 12 x 8.3 inches), printed on orange paper (Very Good,
soft folds, small holes at folds vertices, margins with minor tears and light glue
marks). (20097)

One of the iconic images of World War II in Yugoslavia – the rare original ‘Wanted
Poster’ for Marshal Tito, printed in Cyrillic, by the by the German high command
in Serbia.

This original arrest warrant for Marshal Josip Broz Tito is perhaps the most
famous and most coveted of all prints of World War II in Yugoslavia. By the
time that his poster was issued in May–June 1943, Tito was perhaps the most
wanted man on the Nazi’s hit list, not only in Yugoslavia, but Europe in general.
Under his leadership, the Partisans had tied down hundreds of thousands of
German soldiers and immeasurable war material, severely hindering the flagging
German war effort elsewhere. For two years, the Nazis had thrown outrageous
resources into defeating the main Partisan force in the mountains of Bosnia
and Montenegro and to capture or kill Tito, only to come up empty, with the
Partisans regrouping to fight anew.

From May 15 to June 16, 1943 the Nazis mounted their fifth (of seven) mega-
offensives to snuff-out Tito, called Case Black (Fall Schwartz). The apex of the
campaign was the Battle of Sutjeska, in which Tito’s encircled force of 22,000
amazingly managed to evade capture by 127,000 German troops. The German
High Command was in a state of shock and disbelief, and issued this ‘Wanted
Poster’, offering an enormous cash award for Tito “Dead or Alive”. The hope was
perhaps that some disgruntled follower of Tito would lure him into a trap for
the Germans. Needless to say, this did not happen, and in 1945 Tito liberated
Yugoslavia, before leading the country for 35 years.

The original Tito arrest warrant is an iconic piece throughout the former
Yugoslavia, and is today very rare. In spite of its fame, we cannot trace any
examples in institutions.
An iconic image of World War II in Yugoslavia, the original 'Wanted Poster' for the Chetnik leader Draža Mihajlović, printed in Cyrillic, issued by the German high command in Serbia.

This famous work is the rare original arrest warrant for the Chetnik leader Draža Mihajlović, printed in Cyrillic, issued by the German High Command in Serbia. In the spring of 1943, the German occupation forces were under pressure. The Nazi war effort was crumbling everywhere: they were being gradually driven out of the Soviet Union; the Allies had invaded Italy and Greece; and in spite of their best efforts, the Germans had failed to eliminate their arch-nemesis in Yugoslavia, the Partisan leader Marshal Tito and the leader of the Chetniks, Draža Mihajlović. This poster, issued by the German high command in Belgrade in May-June 1943, offers an enormous cash award for bringing in Mihajlović “Dead or Alive.” It was hoped that while the Germans could not capture the Chetnik leader, maybe one of his disgruntled lieutenants would deliver him to them in return for big payday. While copies of this broadside were widely distributed, there is no evidence that the Germans ever came close to catching Mihajlović.

Draža Mihajlović (1893 - 1946) was the leader of the Chetniks, a Serbian nationalist and royalist militia formed shortly after the fall of Yugoslavia to the Axis powers in April 1941. Mihajlović was a professional Yugoslav army officer who did not accept the surrender of the country. As the founding leader of the Chetniks, he initially found himself in an awkward alliance with the Partisans against the Nazis and their arch-nemesis, the Ustaše regime of the Independent State of Croatia. However, the Chetniks opposed the Partisans’ Communist and pan-nationalist conceptions and by November 1941 they came to fight against the Partisans.

From that time onwards, the Chetniks occupied a very complex and precarious situation. For some time they simultaneously battled the Partisans and the Ustaše, while trying to avoid all-out conflict with the Nazis, although they...
ended up fighting many engagements against them. Initially supported by the Western Allies, their overall objective was to simply survive until Yugoslavia was liberated, and to hopefully supplant the Partisans as the post-war government of Yugoslavia. As of the spring of 1943, the Germans considered Mihajlović a menace, particularly as he had turned down overtures to cooperate with them against the Partisans. Consequently, the German High Command issued this wanted poster.

Later on, the Chetniks found themselves sandwiched between the Ustaše and the Partisans and embarked upon some limited cooperation with the Nazis and their Serbian collaborators. The Western Allies were furious and cut off their support. As the Axis side was losing the war in the early months of 1945, the Chetniks found themselves as the ‘odd man out’, with nobody to ally with, not sufficiently powerful in their own way to make a serious bid to control Yugoslavia. They quickly dissolved as the Partisans took control over all of Yugoslavia in May 1945.

Mihajlović remained on the run until March 1946, when he was captured by the new Yugoslav Socialist regime. He was tried and convicted of crimes against the Yugoslav people. His last statement was: “I wanted much; I began much; but the gale of the world carried away me and my work.” He was executed in Belgrade on July 17, 1946.

The Mihajlović ‘Wanted Poster’ is very famous and much in demand by collectors throughout the former Yugoslavia, yet it is also very rare.
An extremely rare and very large poster published by the Italian occupation regime in Ljubljana, Slovenia, comprised of photos within the montage of an eagle, promoting a newly established fascist youth league.

This rare survivor is a large and well-designed propaganda poster, issued by the Italian Fascist occupation regime in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 1943, to be pasted to walls and news-posts. It promotes G.I.L.L. (Gioventu Italiana del Litorio Lubiana / Italian Fascist Youth of Ljubljana), an athletic league for youth that promoted fascist values and supported the Mussolini regime. Printed in two colours, the overall image is comprised of photos of youth engaged in athleticism and ceremonies, placed within a montage of a fascist eagle. G.I.L.L. seems to have been influenced by the Sokol (‘Hawk’) Pan-Slavic athletic movement, which was hugely popular in Ljubljana until it was banned at the beginning of World War II. Apparently, the Italians tried to harness some of this enthusiasm for their own ends, although it seems doubtful that they were particularly successful.

As copies were pasted to walls and news-posts, only to be torn down a short time later, all such posters are extremely rare. We have not been able to trace any examples of this poster in institutions or on the market.
An extremely rare ‘wall newspaper’, being a large poster featuring propaganda published by the Italian Fascist occupation regime in Ljubljana, Slovenia, featuring highly imaginative Anti-American caricatures.

This rare survivor is a propaganda poster that was issued by the Italian Fascist occupation regime in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 1943, to be pasted to walls and news-posts. A large, illustrated work, it features images celebrating the ‘bravery’ of Italian soldiers and the ‘great popularity’ that Benito Mussolini, ‘Il Duce’, enjoyed amongst his people. It discusses the ‘courageous’ fight that the Germans were waging in the Soviet Union in order to save Europe from the ‘horrors of Bolshevism’. It also gives exaggerated accounts of the Allied losses of tanks and planes in North Africa.

Most curious are the poster’s Anti-American caricatures, one of which depicts President Roosevelt hiding behind the Statue of Liberty, amidst a scene of imprisoned Mexicans, Arabs and Native Americans, as well as hanging African-Americans. Another caricature shows an Arab in North Africa who believes his god to be President Roosevelt. The message is not subtle: the Americans are not the liberators that people may have thought they were, and so, by implication, it is better to support the Italian regime.

The present poster is labeled as No. 18 of a series of unknown quantity. As copies were pasted to walls and news-posts, only to be torn down a short time later, all such posters are extremely rare. We have not been able to trace any examples from this series in institutions.
A disquieting Nazi broadside announcing the executions of Slovenian Partisans.

This broadside was issued by the German occupation regime in northwestern Slovenia in the summer of 1942, and announces that the Nazis were in the process of annihilating a local ‘Communist gang’ (being a group of Partisans). It states that the Nazis had already shot 18 people, and then gives a list of named individuals who will be “publicly hanged” on July 30, 1942.

The purpose of the broadside was less to inform the public, and rather more to threaten the local people as to the dire consequences of resisting the Nazi occupation. Even women and children who gave minor assistance to the Partisans were subject to being summarily killed, in what unambiguously amounted to war crimes.

This broadside was signed (in print) by Erwin Friedrich Karl Rösener (1902 - 1946), an SS General who was a leading commander in German-occupied Slovenia. Rösener was an extremely brutal and cruel individual who committed innumerable war crimes. The British captured him in Austria at the end of the war, and promptly transferred him to Yugoslav custody. He was tried for crimes against the Yugoslav people and hanged in Ljubljana on September 4, 1946. Ironically, as the present broadside literally has Rösener signing his name to a war crime confession, figuratively it is also his death warrant.

Such broadsides are today incredibly rare, as few were ever made and their ephemeral nature ensures that their survival rate is very low.
A chilling Nazi broadside announcing reprisals against Pro-Partisan villages in northwestern Slovenia.

This disturbing broadside was printed by the Nazi occupation regime in northwestern Slovenia as a warning to Pro-Partisan villagers that they and their settlements faced the most severe reprisals should they actively aid the resistance. Such coercion was a hallmark of Nazi regimes all across occupied Europe, and was rarely an idle threat.

Here it is announced that three Pro-Partisan villages in the Gorenjsko region, being Hrastnik, Zavoden and Kanker, were completely annihilated by Nazi troops on July 20, 1942. All of the male residents were summarily killed and the rest of the inhabitants were deported for supporting “the bandits” (the Partisans). The Nazis frequently destroyed Slovenian villages and butchered its residents, often with so much zeal that it was if they greatly enjoyed the enterprise.

The broadside warned the residents of other villages to cooperate with the Germans and report all Partisan activity to them, lest their settlement be next.

Such actions on the part of the Nazis were self-evidently war crimes, and this formed much of the evidence against the defendants at the Nuremberg Trials.

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Such broadsides are today incredibly rare, as few were ever made and their ephemeral nature ensures that their survival rate is very low.
[ANTE PAVELIĆ / INDEPENDENT STATE OF CROATIA ARCHIVE:]
Ante PAVELIĆ (1889 -1959) and others.
Archive: 126 sheets of original printed documents, many on letterhead and signed (Very Good condition overall, some minor tears and stains to some sheets). (20029)

One of the largest archives of original documents from the office of Ante Pavelić, the head of the Ustaše regime of the Independent State of Croatia, to come to the international market in many years.

This is a large archive of dozens of original documents from the office of Ante Pavelić, the Poglavnik (head of government) of the Ustaše regime of the Independent State of Croatia. The nature of the collection focuses on official appointments and commendations made by the order of the Poglavnik and his subordinates. Many of the documents are on official letterhead and many are signed. Altogether, it is one of the largest such archives to appear on the international market in many years.

The archive includes:

1) Eight (8) 4° certificates, some on multiple pages, on printed letterhead, typed-written, signed by Ante Pavelić and countersigned by different Ustaše colonels, in the Croatian language.

2) Seventy-four (74) normal to large 8° documents regarding commendations to soldiers, printed letterhead, typed-written, stamped, and signed by different army officials, in both Croatian and German. Included is a list of over 100 Croatians and Germans who were to be recipients of medals, plus related certificates. Some of these certificates are on the letterhead of Ante Pavelić, while others bear a stamp with his name, without signature. Other certificates, variously in Croatian and German are in the name of the Navy or the Ministry of the Home Guard. Accompanying are mimeographed documents in the Croatian language, without signatures, with military information on battles against the Partisans, mostly in Croatia and Bosnia.

3) Thirty (30) 8° documents that name Croatian or other Yugoslav people nominated for medals by the Germans. These include descriptions of where the recipients fought against the Partisans. Also noted are the names of 44 Germans worthy of commendations. One of the documents is signed by Ante Vokić (1909-45), the Ustaše Minister of the Armed Forces. Another document is signed by Slavko Kvaternik (1878 – 1947), a leading Ustaše member and one of the organizers of the genocide that occurred in Croatia.
A fascinating and large Yugoslavian propaganda broadside map, with text in the Croatian language, made in the wake of World War II, it calls for Trieste and its immediate environs to be annexed to Yugoslavia.

This cool, large ephemeral broadside map was published as a propaganda piece around 1950 by Yugoslavians who called for the disputed city of Trieste and its environs to be annexed to their country. The area in question was overall a majority ethnically Italian, but with a large Slovenian minority. While the majority would supposedly dictate that the area should be given to Italy, the fact of the matter was that Italy had recently been vanquished by Yugoslavia and her Allies in World War II, leaving the area’s fate an open debate. Curiously, while the debate would have been of primary interest to Slovene-Yugoslavians, Croatian Istrians had stake in the matter, and so seem to have been the authors of this Croatian language rhetorical broadside.

Up to the end of World War I, the city of Trieste and the Istrian Peninsula, to its south, were part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The region was ethnically mixed, with large portions of the population being Italian, Slovenian, Croatian, and Austro-German, amongst other groups. Historically, the venerable port city of Trieste proper, although long a part of the Habsburg Empire, was a majority Italian, with a large Slovenian minority, while the areas surrounding the city were overwhelmingly populated by Slovenians. Further south, in far northwestern Istria, the population was mixed, although the Italian-speaking population was often the majority right along the coast, while the Slovenes dominates inland areas (a legacy of the location of the old Habsburg-Venetian border which existed until the Napoleonic Wars). Further south, deeper into Istria, the population was mixed between Croatians and Italians. Traditionally, while things were not perfect, these ethnic groups got along quite well.

That all changed following World War I, when the entire region was given to Italy. Benito Mussolini, who became the Italian dictator in 1922, enforced a policy of ‘Italianization’ of Trieste and Istria, brutally suppressing any manifestations of Slovene or Croatian culture. While many of the Italians native to the region did not support this policy, Mussolini brought in tens of thousands of pro-Fascist migrants who did. Almost overnight, Mussolini had ruined a peaceful and enlightened multi-ethnic society. Many Slovenes and Croatians were either forced to suppress their identity or immigrate to the newly created
state of Yugoslavia, or overseas. That being said an underground Slovene resistance movement developed in Trieste operating under the motto: 'Trst je naš!' ['Trieste is Ours!'].

Moving forward to 1945, Yugoslavia and her Allies were victorious over Nazi Germany and her client state Italy. Marshal Tito, the Yugoslav leader, had conquered Trieste and Istria and was naturally eager to re-establish the full Slovene and Croatian cultural presence, and to annex the area to Yugoslavia. However, the Allied powers, not wanting to provoke further rancour in Central Europe, called for a more cautious approach. While it was acknowledged that Slovenian and Croatian majority areas should, in theory, be granted to Yugoslavia, the problem remained that placing Trieste, a large majority-Italian city within Yugoslavia could cause big headaches. Making matters even more complex, Trieste was virtually surrounded by majority Slovene areas. The temporary solution was to form the Free Territory of Trieste, created in 1947, it was to consist of the narrow coastal area of Trieste and environs and the northwestern part of the Istrian Peninsula (the rest of Istria had already been ceded to Yugoslavia). While the Free State had some of the trappings of an independent country (i.e. its own stamps and passports), in reality, it was merely an ephemeral entity living on borrowed time, nervously overseen by the Allied powers and the United Nations.

To make matters even more complex, the Free State was subdivided into 'Zone A', consisting of Trieste and the surrounding coastal strip; and 'Zone B', consisting of northwestern Istria. It was pretty much a forgone conclusion to everyone that Zone B would, in due course, be given to Yugoslavia, owing the strong Slovene-Croatian majority of the population in that area.

The question remained: What to do with Zone A?

Enter the present map…

Under the title: Zato ne Damo Zonu 'A' Italijanskom Fašizmu! [Therefore, we do not give Zone 'A' to Italian Fascism!], the map focusses on Zone A, although the inset in the lower left shows both Zones A and B within their greater geographical context.

Zone A is shown divided into its various named municipalities. In the upper portion of the map, under the subtitle 'Slovenci u Zoni 'A' STT', various boxes, corresponding to the shading of each of the Zone's municipalities, identifies what percentage of the population of each is Slovenian. Essentially, it shows that only the city proper of 'Trst' (Trieste) and the port of 'Milje' (Muggia) have non-Slovenian majorities (read Italian majorities), which all other places have Slovenian majorities (some of them overwhelmingly).

The message is clear: Save for a couple of aberrations, Zone A is rightly Yugoslavian territory and should be formally conferred as such. The broadside was clearly intended to rally Istrians to pressure the powers-that-be to make the right decision

However, in spite of the broadside's rhetorical flair, when the Free State of Trieste was dissolved in 1954, Zone A (save some minor border concessions in Yugoslavia's favour) was handed to Italy, while Zone B was given to Yugoslavia. This allocation was de facto accepted by both nations, although it was not formally agreed until the Treaty of Osimo (1975). Fortunately, today relations are amicable, as Slovenians in Trieste enjoy special cultural protections, while Italian speakers enjoy similar protections in Istria (now divided between the sovereign republics of Slovenia and Croatia).

This attractive, special maiden edition of a Partisan newspaper is emblazoned with the image of Marshal Tito, being issued on May 8, 1945, the day that Ljubljana, and virtually all of the last parts of Yugoslavia, had been liberated from the Nazis and their collaborators. In euphoric terms, the paper gives details on the freeing of the Slovene capital and features articles by people from various walks of life, from architects to mothers to miners, describing their delight upon tasting hard-won freedom. It also gives details of some of the laws of the new regime. The paper is today very rare.
A bound collection of 11 issues of an extremely rare newspaper printed in Argentina in the early 1950s by exiled former members of the Domobranci (Slovene Home Guard), a pro-Axis militia that fought against the Partisans during World War II.

This is a collection of eleven issues of an extremely rare magazine published in Argentina in the early 1950s by exiled members of the Domobranci (the Slovene Home Guard), an armed force of Axis collaborators that fought against the Partisans.

In sharp contrast to Partisan works, this magazine looks back on the period of the Axis occupation of Slovenia with fond nostalgia, featuring pictures of the country from that period. It glorifies the military exploits of the Domobranci and portrays the Partisans as rogue savages. One issue includes a special 70th Birthday tribute to Gregorij Rožman, the former Archbishop of Ljubljana, who was a hero to the collaborationist side and an arch-villain to the Partisans. Each issue ends with a list of Domobranci members who were killed in combat, which is done as a tribute.

At the end of World War II the Yugoslavian Army managed to capture thousands of Domobranci. Many were executed for war crimes and treason, while some of the less high profile members were allowed to live on in Yugoslavia as long as they kept a quiet existence. Many others fled abroad, with Canada, United States and Argentina being prime destinations.

In Argentina, the regime of President Juan Perón allowed the former Domobranci to live quite openly, promoting their wartime past. It was in this context that the Šmartinski vestnik was published in 24 irregular issues, from 1949 to 1953, in the bucolic mountain resort town of San Martín de los Andes. Following that, the magazine continued under a different name until the 1990s.

The present collection contains 11 of the 24 original issues of the Šmartinski vestnik. All issues of the magazine are today incredibly rare. Only one complete set of 24 issues is recorded in institutions, with no examples recorded outside of Slovenia.

80. [PARTISAN BIBLIOGRAPHY:]
Cene Kranjc.
Slovenske partizanske tiskarne v borbi za svobodo. [Slovenian Partisan Printing Houses in the Fight for Freedom].
Ljubljana: Prop. kom. pri IOOF [Propaganda committee at the National Liberation Army]. 1944 [1945].
Large 8°: 32 pp., with original wrappers with cover printed in black and red linocut, stapled (Good, slightly age-toned and stained). (24125)

One of the first published descriptions and bibliographies of the Underground Partisan press system in Slovenia.

This valuable and interesting work is the first published description and bibliography of the underground Partisan presses in Slovenia. The Partisan publisher Cene Kranjc composed it in November 1944, about six months before all of Slovenia was liberated, although it was not published until May 1945, just after the war’s conclusion.

It gives a detailed insider’s account of the operations of the underground Partisan press system in Slovenia, including the names of the various presses, the circumstances of their foundation, and the number of publications issued from each. It even lists how much paper each press employed.

While Kranjc acknowledges that the Slovenian underground Partisan publishers were prolific, their work was incredibly dangerous, as he laments, “no other press in the world has paid such a high price”.

The linocut illustration on the cover was made by Janez Vidic, and depicts a woman and two young men standing over a press in a clandestine printing shop, illuminated only by gas light.
The first bibliography of Slovenian Partisan publications, issued in April 1945, only weeks before liberation.

This early bibliography of Slovenian Partisan imprints was issued in April 1945, in Ljubljana, on the eve of the city's liberation. It features a short introduction and includes 259 entries of all the publications known to the author, including the number of editions and production numbers, valuable information that is, in most cases, preserved nowhere else.
An important and scarce work on Partisan publications by Vladimir Dedijer, subsequently one of the most internationally esteemed Yugoslav academics, issued in Belgrade shortly after its liberation.

Vladimir Dedijer (1914 - 1990) was a Partisan fighter and subsequently one of the most internationally prominent Yugoslavian historians and civil rights activists. He initially worked as a journalist, and this led him to travel to Spain where he supported the Republicans during that country’s Civil War. In 1941, he joined the Partisans where he attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel, becoming a close advisor to Marshal Tito. After the war he taught at the University of Belgrade and was appointed to the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Communist Party, but, in 1954, following a contretemps with Tito, was banished from all power circles. He left Yugoslavia in 1959, where he spent the rest of his life teaching and writing, associated with some of the world’s leading universities, such as Princeton, Stanford, Harvard and the Sorbonne. He became an internationally prominent human rights activist and an important historian of World War II and its aftermath.

While the present work was issued in 10,000 examples, it seems that very few have survived. We can trace only 7 examples in institutions worldwide.
BERGANT, Peter. ‘Jože Beránek, velik likovni talent, ki je končal v breznu,’ Delo (05.08.2015).


MORAVEC, Dušan. Gradivo za bibliografijo slovenskega osvobodilnega tiska (Ljubljana: Slovenski poročevalec 1945).


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BERGANT, Peter. ‘Jože Beránek, velik likovni talent, ki je končal v breznu,’ Delo (05.08.2015).


MORAVEC, Dušan. Gradivo za bibliografijo slovenskega osvobodilnega tiska (Ljubljana: Slovenski poročevalec 1945).


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Dr. Daša Pahor founded the business in 2006. An art historian by training, she is an expert on Central European and Slavic art, architecture and print culture. Her special interests include rare and unusual international objects, manuscripts, and documents of historical importance, with a particular focus on the 15th to 17th centuries.

Daša is a member of the ILAB and one of the youngest antiquarian dealers trading on a global scale. She speaks six languages fluently.

Dr. Alexander Johnson, a historian by training, is an international authority on the mapping of the former British Empire, and generally on cartography. His primary periods of focus are on objects from the 17th to 20th centuries.

Alex’s passion for historical research and storytelling enables Antiquariat Daša Pahor to offer buyers of particularly remarkable items a special service: These objects will be accompanied by intriguing facts on their creation, historical context and use, such that they will “come alive” again for their new owners.
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