

Guide to the Cross-dressed French Prisoner Of War Postcards, 1915?-1916 November 9.

Collection Number: 7795

Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections
Cornell University Library

Contact Information:	Compiled	Date	EAD	Latest
Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections 2B Carl A. Kroch Library Cornell University Ithaca, NY 14853 (607) 255-3530 Fax: (607) 255-9524 rareref@cornell.edu http://rmc.library.cornell.edu	by: RMC Staff	completed: April 2014	encoding: RMC Staff, April 2014	update: RMC Staff, February 2016

© 2014 Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University
Library

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Title:

Cross-dressed French prisoner of war postcards, 1915?-1916
November 9.

Collection Number:

7795

Creator:

Koskovich, Gerard,

Quantity:

4 items.

Forms of Material:

Postcards

Repository:

Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library

Abstract:

Photographic postcards of French soldiers held as prisoners of war in German internment camps during World War I. Two of the postcards have "Kriegsgefangenensendung" (prisoner of war communication) and the name of the internment camp, the Neues Lager at Königsbruck in Saxony, printed on the back. Both are dated and addressed from René Bossion, a member of the 4th Infantry Battalion, one addressed to Albert Bossion and one to Marie Louise Bossion in Lorient, France, but neither card bears a stamp or postmark. The soldiers may have been appearing in a theatrical of the sort that was common at the front. Both are cross-dressed in conservative clothing. The other two postcards, blank on the back, clearly depict scenes from theatricals presented by French prisoners of war interned at a camp in Münster, Germany. The shows featured painted backdrops and elaborate costumes, with all the female roles played by cross-dressed men. One of the postcards portrays a scene from "Les deux canards."

Language:

Collection material in German

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Written by Tristan Bernard (1866-1947), the play "Les deux canards" is a comedy about battling right-wing and left-wing newspapers secretly overseen by the same editor. It was first produced in Paris in December 1913. When it was reprised in Paris in 2008, media reports incorrectly indicated that it hadn't been presented again since the original production.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Photographic postcards of French soldiers held as prisoners of war in German internment camps during World War I. Two of the postcards

have "Kriegsgefangenensendung" (prisoner of war communication) and the name of the internment camp, the Neues Lager at Königsbruck in Saxony, printed on the back. Both are dated and addressed from René Bossion, a member of the 4th Infantry Battalion, one addressed to Albert Bossion and one to Marie Louise Bossion in Lorient, France, but neither card bears a stamp or postmark. The soldiers may have been appearing in a theatrical of the sort that was common at the front.

The other two postcards, blank on the back, clearly depict scenes from theatricals presented by French prisoners of war interned at a camp in Münster, Germany. The shows featured painted backdrops and elaborate costumes, with all the female roles played by cross-dressed men. One of the postcards portrays a scene from "Les deux canards."

SUBJECTS

Names:

Koskovich, Gerard,
Bernard, Tristan, 1866-1947. Deux canards.
Bossion, Albert.
Bossion, Marie Louise.
Bossion, René.
France. Armée. Bataillon de chasseurs à pied, 4ème.

Subjects:

Prisoners of war -- France.
Prisoners of war -- Germany.
Transvestism -- Germany.
Soldiers -- Germany
World War, 1914-1918 -- Prisoners and prisons, German.

INFORMATION FOR USERS

Cite As:

Gerard Koskovich, Collector. Cross-Dressed French Prisoner of War

Postcards, #7795. Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library.

CONTAINER LIST

Date	Description	Container
ca. 1945-1916	4 photographic postcards of cross-dressed French soldiers	Single Folder