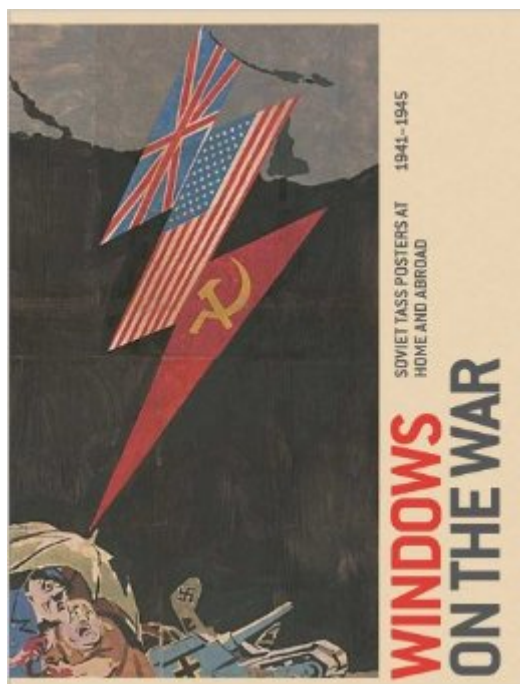


The book was found

# Windows On The War: Soviet TASS Posters At Home And Abroad, 1941-1945 (Art Institute Of Chicago)



## Synopsis

Windows on the War is a groundbreaking publication—the first in English to focus on posters designed by the Soviet Union's TASS News Agency to bolster support for the Soviet war effort. TASS posters were created by a large collective of Soviet writers, printers, and artists, including such notables as Mikhail Cheremnykh, Nikolai Denisovskii, the Kukryniksy, and Pavel Sokolov-Skalia. Often six feet tall and always striking and bold, these stenciled posters were printed and placed daily in windows for the public to see. They were also sent abroad to serve as international cultural "ambassadors," rallying Allied and neutral nations to the Soviet cause. Drawn from the Art Institute of Chicago's collection, as well as other private and public holdings, these TASS posters have not been seen since World War II. An international team of scholars presents the TASS posters both as unique historical objects and as artworks that reveal how preeminent artists of the day used unconventional technical and visual means to contribute to the war effort, marking a major chapter in the history of design and propaganda. Generously illustrated, the book presents photographs, documentary materials, and memorabilia in meaningful juxtapositions with images of the TASS posters. Also included are documents illuminating the expression of Russian cultural life in the United States during the war, opening a fascinating window onto the war along the Eastern Front.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I spent half a day at the Art Institute's exhibit and didn't begin to absorb it all, so extensive were the

posters and information about them. (TASS did at least a poster a day for the entire war.) Fortunately, it's all in this tome of an exhibition catalog, which the book description aptly summarizes. There are, of course, wonderful posters that caricature Hitler, but equally interesting are those that feature the Hun. Others focus on specific events, such as the blockade of Stalingrad. And as was the case in the USA, the Soviets also had their posters selling war bonds. What I'd never seen before were the posters that resembled comic strips, often with satirical statements. Whatever the poster and subject, the translation is excellent as is the explanation of its historical context. There are also sections on the stenciling process and on the TASS artists. Interesting, too, is the story of how this exhibition came to be, a story related not only in the catalog but also in "Propaganda on Parade," an article that appeared in the Chicago Tribune which I've reprinted in the first comment. As for just what a treasure this book is-- A good friend of mine who has little interest in art but loves WWII history borrowed it for a week and studied it from cover to cover. "Terrific," was his comment when he returned it. If you are interested in this exhibition catalog but don't feel you can afford it at the moment, you could do as I did, which was to recommend that the local library purchase it. It is, after all, an important publication for both art and history. Sept. 2015 update: I finally bought the book!

I just went to see the TASS exhibit at the AlofC and I was blown away! It was not like a lot of art you see in museums; it was not neat and polished, nor was it in ornate frames. You could see people had written on some of the posters, while other posters had been folded and/or wrinkled. Although you cannot see that in the pages of this book, "Windows on the War" still displays the works beautifully along with copious amounts of information regarding their history, manufacture, and the effects they had on the people of Russia. Also, there are translations throughout the book for those of you like me who do not read a lick of Russian.

The sheer size of this book, along with the number of images and quality of production make this a really excellent buy. The essays are also very interesting and insightful into the operations of the Tass studio and its impact on the greater design community of the 1940s. I was very impressed by this book.

powerful idea poster book.

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