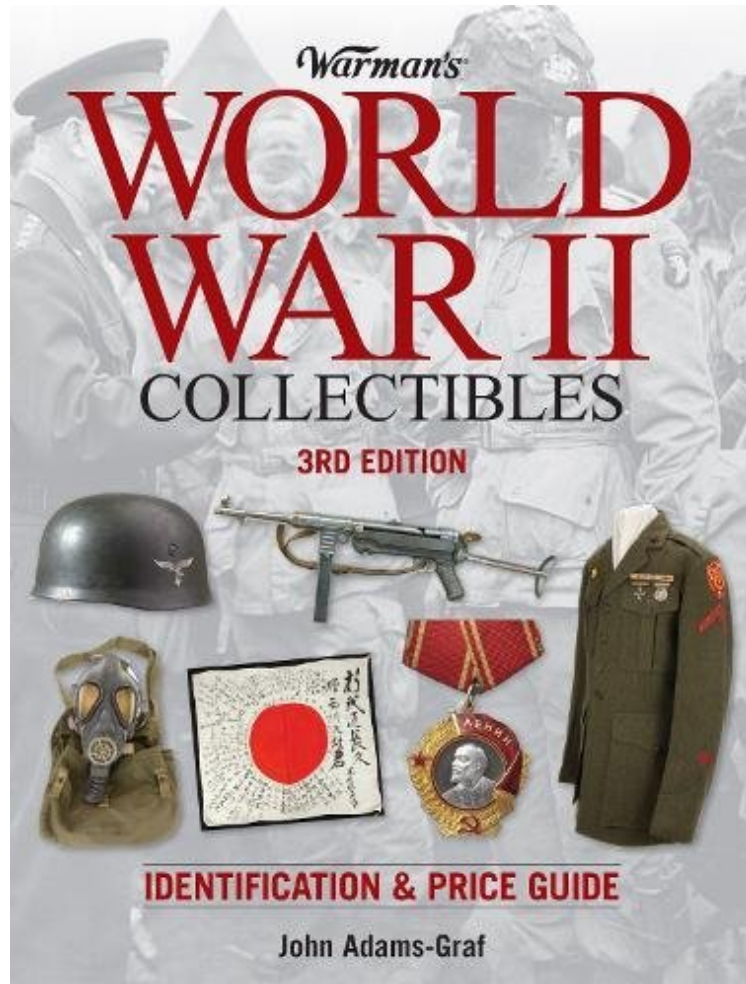


Warman's World War II Collectibles: Identification and Price Guide

John Adams-Graf

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John Adams-Graf : Warman's World War II Collectibles: Identification and Price Guide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Warman's World War II Collectibles: Identification and Price Guide:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great photo graphs make this addition a must-have for the ...By BOUNTYHUNTERThis 3rd. addition is a welcome further enhancement and expansion to the previous 2 additions. John Adams-Graf is a well known and respected member of the fraternity of militaria collecting. Great photo graphs make this addition a must-have for the home library.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy MarioI love this book although i liked the erlier edition better0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Charlotte PalmateerMy son loves this book

Collecting Preserving WWII History Since the end of World War II, veterans, collectors, and history buffs have bought, sold, and traded the "spoils of war." Souvenir collecting began as soon as troops set foot on foreign soil. Soldiers looked for wartime trinkets and keepsakes to remind them of their time in the service, validate their presence during the making of history, and generate income when they returned home. Today these items help us understand and define a time when almost the entire world was at war. Newly expanded and completely updated, "Warman's World War II Collectibles, 3rd edition," is a comprehensive full-color resource on World War II militaria. Illustrated with 1,800 all-new color images, the book is loaded with information and current values for uniforms, footwear, headgear, medals, firearms, bayonets, knives, personal items, accoutrements, and groupings--a new category--from the United States, Germany, England, Japan, the former Soviet Union, and other countries from 1939-1945. 1,800 all-new color images and thousands of values History and collector tips Pros and cons of each collecting area Availability and price ratings, as well as reproduction alerts First-person accounts of the war

From the Author From the time I was old enough to ask, "Can I see your Army stuff," I have been acutely aware that the relics are just the conduits to the stories of the men and women who used them while in the service of their country. I tried to keep that in mind as I assembled this book... a price guide can often throw the individuals to the background, only to highlight the objects. - As soon as hostilities ended in 1945, the population of defeated Germany and Japan quickly realized they could make money by selling souvenirs to the occupation forces. The flow of war material increased. Values became well established... a Luger was worth several packs of cigarettes, a helmet, just one. A Japanese sword was worth two boxes of K-rations, an Arisaka bayonet for a Hershey's bar. Over the years, these values have remained proportionally consistent. Today, that "two-pack" Luger might be worth \$5,000 and that one-pack helmet, \$1,500. The Japanese sword might fetch \$1,200 and the Arisaka bayonet \$95. Though values have increased dramatically, demand has not dropped off a bit. In fact, WWII collecting is the largest segment of the militaria hobby. Surprisingly, the values of items have been a closely guarded secret. Unfortunately, the hobby has relied on paying veterans and their families far less than a military relic is worth with the hope of selling later for a substantial profit. This attitude has given the hobby a bad reputation. The advent of the Internet, though, significantly leveled the playing field for sellers and buyers. No longer does a person have to blindly offer a relic for sale to a collector or dealer. Simply logging onto one of several Internet auctions will give the uninitiated an idea of value. But, a little information can be dangerous. The value of military items resides in variation. Whether it is a difference in manufacturing technique, material or markings, the nuances of an item will determine the true value. Don't expect 20 minutes on the net--or even glancing through this book--to teach you these nuances. We collectors are a devoted bunch. We have spent years and hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars to establish the knowledge base that enables us to navigate through the hobby. Who needs this book? Price guides are tough books to write. "Hardened" or "veteran" collector or WWII memorabilia will often have a better feel for the nuances of pricing. Because of their years of handling objects and study, these people can pick up a piece of militaria and generally recognize its value. While they will probably disagree with some pricing in the book, they will certainly appreciate the 1,800+ captioned illustrations. This book does not attempt to be an "identification guide," however. The WWII collectibles field is so vast; there are thousands of titles dedicated to a variety of subsets ranging from bayonets and hand grenades to machine guns and Nazi Party membership badges. WWII Collectibles will provide a basis of pricing information for thousands of items, but apart from the images included in this book, the reader will have to dig further for identification purposes. The average, "less-than-hardened" collector and even non-collectors will find the book useful in evaluating military objects that he or she may find in attics, closets, flea markets, garage sales or thrift stores. This book is also for the families who encounter a box or trunk in an attic filled with the souvenirs and remembrances of a relative's service to his or her country. Often, they just want to know what "dad's old army stuff" is worth. This book will answer those questions. WWII Collectibles will make any collector a smarter consumer. It will provide the information that will protect you from making a financial mistake in buying or selling a WWII object. It will provide you with the basic information to establish foundations for your negotiations. Throughout the book, I interjected soldiers' quotes and stories from collectors who recounted their "favorite finds." These, I hope, will remind "it's not about the stuff--it's about the soldiers who used it." I hope you enjoy the book. I feel very privileged to have been asked to write it. But, I was just the assembler-I want to thank all the collectors, dealers, and auction houses who work so hard to keep the relics in the collecting stream and out of the trash heaps. These relics are a crucial link to the memory of the men and women who served. If they had not served, not only would we not have the cool relics to collect, but we wouldn't have the freedom to pursue our interests. Honor the memory, John Adams-Graf About the Author John Adams-Graf, who has a Master of Arts degree in historical administration and worked in the museum profession for 20 years, is a lifelong military collector. He is the longtime editor of Military Trader and Military Vehicles Magazine and also catalogs collections for prominent militaria dealers and auction companies. He is the author of a number of books, including Warman's Civil War Collectibles (1st and 2nd editions), Warman's World War II Collectibles (1st edition), Standard Catalog of Civil War Firearms, Badgers for the Union, and U.S. MRAP Vehicles in Action.