

A Collector's Collector

MILTON P. CHRISTA, 1897-1959. I never knew him. I was only 14 when he passed away. I can't tell you what he looked like, or what he did for a living, but I know he was a collector's collector.

I happened to have the opportunity to go through part of his collection: Navy Ships, Military, Group I sets, and World War II Patriotics. Approximately 12,000 in all. I was sorting them, getting them ready for upcoming club sales. I was impressed...*very* impressed...by his meticulousness and incredible effort.

His covers were all in beautiful, 14"x11", hand-tooled, leather albums, all with hand-sewn pages. Everything was alphabetized and minutely organized. Every one of his Navy Ships was hand wrapped in cellophane. Both Loren and I marveled at the exceptional condition of all of his covers. Most of his covers looked as though he had gone out and collected each one personally, and, after having gone through some 10-12 albums, I didn't see a single struck cover. The condition of my own Navy Ship, for example, paled in comparison.

After Milt's death, his collection (the part that survived) sat in a closet for 55 years. His grandson has given it to Sierra- Diablo on consignment, and all will eventually find their way back into the hobby. There were also World Fairs, Radio/TV, Elks, American Legion, and Railroads...but I didn't get a chance to view those (*sigh!*)

Milt was from Detroit, MI, and was RMS #99....*Milt, my hat's off to you!*

