

Season's Greetings: Holiday Cards by Celebrated Artists from the Monroe Wheeler Archive

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From Daylight Books : Season's Greetings: Holiday Cards by Celebrated Artists from the Monroe Wheeler Archive before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Season's Greetings: Holiday Cards by Celebrated Artists from the Monroe Wheeler Archive:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A unique collection full of vintage artwork by some of last century's most celebrated artists.By pixels and bitsThis is a beautifully rendered collection of vintage Christmas and holiday greetings from some of the greatest artists of the Twentieth Century. Collected in the archive of Monroe Wheeler, who was the Director at MOMA from 1939 to 1967, this little art book reproduces a wide selection of these greetings in full color. There are also two examples recreated that are fixed just inside the front and back covers.These are not all the "feel good" types of greeting cards. Many are political and others are quite dark in their message. That said, there are

plenty that are very beautiful. I love the vintage "time capsule" feel that this collection accomplishes. Anyone who appreciates art and art history will be engrossed. It is laid out with the collection in the front part of the book with an afterword and brief biography of each artist, listed alphabetically. As a courtesy, I have provided a list of each artist represented in this collection in the hope of assisting those who are primarily interested in the works of specific artists. At the time of this review, this information was not available on the listing page. Leonard Baskin, Herbert Bayer, Cecil Beaton, Andre Beaufort, Georges Bernier and Peggy (Rosamond) Bernier, Joseph Binder, Georges Braque, Alexander Calder, Mary Callery, Aluisio Caravao, Marc Chagall, Ivan Chermayeff, Jean Cocteau, Miguel Covarrubias, Shaniit Dave, Antonio Rudolfo Frascioni, Gerhard Gerlach, Nathan Gluck, Chaim Gross, Lotte Jacobi, Bernard Karpel, Andre Kertesz, Pierre Le-Tan, Jacques Lipchitz, Umberto Mastroianni, Roberto Montenegro, Bruno Munari, Luis Felipe "Yuyo" Noe, Alfonso Ossorio, William Pahlmann, Robert Andrew Parker, Ben Shahn, Rufino Tamayo, Antoni Tapies, Bernard Waldman, Max Weber.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ok Art Book

By P Magnum

Season's Greetings: Holiday Cards by Celebrated Artists is a fine little art book featuring reproductions of personal cards sent by artists to the Museum of Modern Art's director of exhibitions and publications, Monroe Wheeler. There are some essays and observations throughout the book, but the main focus is the artwork and sentiments from the cards. The artwork is what you'd expect from artists whose work fit MoMA's aesthetic, with a lot of abstract and bold art. The artwork is one of a kind so that is interesting, but what is disappointing is that outside of a few of the cards, almost none of them evoke a sense of the holidays. I know that's not the point, it is to share these personal cards by influential and major artists that were not readily available, but the book is called Season's Greetings. You like to see a modern interpretation of a classic Christmas theme, but they are nowhere to be found. On face value, the book is worth purchasing if you're a fan of modern art from the late 30's to the early 60's but don't expect a holiday book in the strict sense. There is one cool feature with an envelope attached to the inside cover with a little story from 1937 about winter on a farm in New Jersey. It is not an art piece but a miniature card from 1937 with a little story by Glenway Wescott called New Jersey Farm Christmas Images. It is a great story that captures the spirit and mindset of the artistic community.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful book

By Phelps Gates

Monroe Wheeler was director of publications at MoMA for many years and produced numerous books and exhibition catalogs that have been much admired. He's remembered today not only for his published works, but for his friendships and intimate relations with a number of characters in the art world. What we have here is a selection of holiday cards found among Wheeler's papers after his death. Then as now, artists would often create greeting cards to send to their friends, and since Wheeler had an enormous number of artist friends, he got a lot of cards! Some of these are one-offs, others are small printings. The senders include well-known artists such as Alexander Calder, Jean Cocteau, Marc Chagall, and many others (the book includes brief biographies of each artist). This is a beautifully crafted book worthy of Monroe Wheeler himself. It's just the right size and shape for presenting the cards, which are reproduced in full color as they were sent (a few were originally monochrome), and there are surprises in the front and back end papers. Each of the cards is a striking piece of modern art in itself. A book that any art lover would be delighted to find under the tree (of whatever holiday you celebrate).

As Director of Exhibitions and Publications at the Museum of Modern Art from 1939 to 1967, Monroe Wheeler heavily influenced typography, book design, and the development of the museum exhibition catalogue. During his tenure at MoMA, Wheeler developed close relationships with many of the artists he exhibited and published. *Seasons Greetings* is a volume of over fifty handmade art objects and limited printings that were sent to Wheeler from artists, many of whom he knew intimately, including never-before-seen work by such luminaries as Jean Cocteau, Ben Shahn, Miguel Covarrubias, Rufino Tamayo, Robert Parker, Roberto Montenegro, Herbert Bayer, and Max Weber. Essays by Allen Ellenzweig, Joseph Scott IV and Vincent Cianni establish the importance of this vast archive of art, letters, and ephemera, and highlight Wheeler's wide influence within his field. *Seasons Greetings* is a fitting tribute to a man whose life's work centered on and celebrated fine art publications.

Vincent Cianni is a documentary photographer and archivist for the Estate of Anatole Pohorilenko and the Monroe Wheeler Archive. He teaches at Parsons, The New School for Design in New York City, and has authored two books, including *Gays in the Military*, published by Daylight Books in 2014.

Joseph Scott IV, Philadelphia, PA, became caretaker of the Manhattan apartment of Monroe Wheeler in 1990 to assist with organizing and preserving this important archive. His work continues today, as executor for Anatole Pohorilenko, to help finish cataloging the remaining material for Mr. Wheeler, Glenway Wescott and George Platt Lynes.

Allen Ellenzweig, New York, NY, is an arts critic and cultural commentator currently preparing a biography of twentieth-century photographer George Platt Lynes for Oxford University Press. He is a contributing writer to the *Gay Lesbian Review Worldwide* and has published in *Art in America*, *PASSION: the Magazine of Paris*, *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, and the online magazine *Tablet*. He has also published works of short fiction. His landmark 1992 illustrated history, *The Homoerotic Photograph: Male Images from Durieu/Delacroix to Mapplethorpe*, was reissued in paperback by Columbia University Press in 2012. He teaches in the Writing Program at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. He is a founding board member of The Robert Giard Foundation which offers an annual fellowship to photographers, videographers, or filmmakers.

About the Author Vincent Cianni, Newburgh, NY, is a documentary photographer and archivist for the Estate of Anatole Pohorilenko and the Monroe Wheeler Archive. He teaches at Parsons, The New School for Design in NYC and has authored two books, including *Gays in the Military*, published by Daylight Books in 2014. The Archive for Documentary Arts at Duke University established a study archive of his photographic work in 2007. His photographs have been exhibited nationally and internationally and reside in numerous public and private collections including Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro; The Library of Congress; The Kinsey Institute for Sexual Research; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; George Eastman House; Philadelphia Museum of Art; and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Joseph Scott IV, Philadelphia, PA, became caretaker of the Manhattan apartment of Monroe Wheeler in 1990 to assist with organizing and preserving this important archive. His work continues today, as executor for Anatole Pohorilenko, to help finish cataloging the remaining material for Mr. Wheeler, Glenway Wescott and George Platt Lynes. Allen Ellenzweig, New York, NY, is an arts critic and cultural commentator currently preparing a biography of twentieth-century photographer George Platt Lynes for Oxford University Press. He is a contributing writer to the *Gay Lesbian Worldwide* and has published in *Art in America*, *PASSION: the Magazine of Paris*, *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, and the online magazine *Tablet*. He has also published works of short fiction. His landmark 1992 illustrated history, *The Homoerotic Photograph: Male Images from Durieu/Delacroix to Mapplethorpe*, was reissued in paperback by Columbia University Press in 2012. He teaches in the Writing Program at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. He is a founding board member of The Robert Giard Foundation which offers an annual fellowship to photographers, videographers, or filmmakers.