



Pavel Petrovich Sokolov-Skalia and Aleksei Ivanovich Mashkov. The land of Suvorov. TASS No. 1057. (AWM ARTV07493)

## Partisan eagles and fascist donkeys: Soviet stencilled propaganda posters

For the first time in Australia these Second World War posters will be on display at the Australian War Memorial until February 2015. Talks will explore the broader context for these extraordinary works.

### *TASS propaganda posters* – Professor Sasha Grishin AM, FAHA

When Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, a group of artists, writers and poets launched a counter-offensive. Under the auspices of the TASS News Agency they began to produce vivid posters as “windows onto the war” in support of the Soviet’s “great patriotic war”. Over 1,200 TASS posters were produced, one for almost every day of the war, and these became some of the great examples of anti-war propaganda art. The comprehensive publication of these posters for the first time in 2013 allows modern audiences to see the diversity, richness, and fecundity of the TASS posters. This lecture will examine some of the new perspectives on Soviet war art.

**12.30 pm Tuesday 29 July**

### *Stalin and the warrior archetype* – Anita Pisch, Art History, ANU

The creation of a symbolic persona for Joseph Stalin as leader was a deliberate process that drew on mythic archetypes, including the Father, the Warrior, the Architect, the Helmsman, the Teacher, the Saviour and the Magician. A key archetype, particularly during the years of the Second World War, was that of the Warrior. This presentation will examine the ways in which Stalin was presented in political posters as a successful warrior leading the Soviet Union to victory.

**12.30 pm Tuesday 5 August**

### *The TASS posters at the AWM* – Australian War Memorial Panel

Most of the TASS posters in the collection of the Australian War Memorial were acquired by the Australian Legation to Moscow in July 1943 and October 1944. The Moscow Legation thought that the material would be of interest to the Commonwealth Department of Information and the Prime Minister’s Committee on National Morale. They were transferred to the AWM in 1946. In this panel discussion a curator, conservator and military historian will consider the importance of these posters to the AWM.

**12.30 Tuesday 12 August**

**BAE Systems Theatre, Free, No bookings required**

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