

# *Glossary.*

As in “IN THE COURSE OF MY LIFE I”, the first book about my life and times, I have included a fairly brief glossary covering some of the less well known historical points, issues, personalities, features and expressions appearing in the text. The Glossary is arranged in order of the chapters. Where a subject has been covered in the Glossary of my first book, please refer to that.

1.)

**Edison Hotel**, art deco style hotel at 228 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City 10036, opened in 1931. One of the few major art deco hotels in New York faithfully maintained much as it appeared the day it opened.

**Metropolitan Museum**, colloquially the Met; the largest museum in USA, and one of the 10 largest in the world. The museum opened in 1872, and is very much one of the major US museums displaying very few nude paintings, rarely anything overtly erotic and essentially no nudes by American painters.

**Victory Garden**, a feature of WWI and WWII, encouraging home owners and anyone with access to land, which could be gardened, to grow vegetables and fruit for own consumption in order to help alleviate food shortages during the wars.

**Conspicuous Consumption**, term coined and explained by the Norwegian-American sociologist Thorstein Veblen in 1889; essentially unnecessary consumption, subsequently consumerism.

**Hector Berlioz**, (1803-1869); French romantic composer, charismatic and very influential, affecting many later composers. Composed his Symphonie fantastique in 1830.

**British and French guarantees to Poland 1939**, a scheme by Britain and France, designed to prevent any negotiations from occurring between Germany and Poland over territory assigned to Poland after WWI, but largely inhabited by Germans; and designed to insure Poland would fight Germany rather than negotiate. It was a craven, deceitful and self serving move, which predictably double crossed Poland. Neither France, nor Britain had the means or the resolve to even try defend Poland at the time, and that specious guarantee ultimately led to the outbreak of WWII in Western and Northern Europe.

**UN Building**, constructed 1948-1952 along the East River in New York City, on land donated by John D. Rockefeller. The cost of construction was 65 million \$, financed by an

interest free loan provided by the US Government.

**Muehlebach Hotel**, 12<sup>th</sup> & Baltimore Streets, Kansas City; originally built 1915, expanded in 1952. For many years the most prominent hotel in the city, and a favourite of Harry Truman.

2)

**Hans Suren**

**Adolph Koch**

Covered in detail in the Glossary of my first book, to which please refer, as well as in the Bibliography of this present volume.

**Vodkin**

3 chapters in my first book concerns Vodkin: Extermination and Slavery, Slave Life and Servitude and Liberation. Please refer to those chapters.

3)

**Marienburg-Malbork**

Covered in the first book, as well as in the Bibliography of this present volume.

**Spectation**

At present, and at least officially, there is no such noun or adjective in the English language. The closest you get to it is Spectator, which simply means onlooker. Since Americans spend an inordinate amount of time and money being onlookers, rather than participants, I suggest, it is time to start using this word.

**Vicariousness**

Does exist, but Vicariousness does not. The reason I feel strongly about these terms, is because I think there is way too much Spectation and Vicariousness in American life and culture. When you devote a great deal of your life to being a spectator, as opposed to being a participant, you end up living a vicarious life. Your experiences are second hand, through others. They are not your own. I do not believe this is intended, healthy or desirable. If my fellow citizens would devote attention to these two factors, and would make a conscious decision to be participants, rather than onlookers, happiness and fulfilment would spread across the continent.

4)

**Regional Painters / Regionalist movement**

These terms may well mainly have been a creation of the media, more so than the painters

themselves. Time magazine in 1934 wrote about Thomas Hart Benton, John Steuart Curry and Grant Wood as the leading regional painters. Their art was uniquely American, dedicated to contemporary life and social realism. Visit [storify.com/LaurenCyriax/american-gothic-1930](http://storify.com/LaurenCyriax/american-gothic-1930) for some interesting background information about Grant Wood's iconic American Gothic.

Thomas Hart Benton's 1937-1938 mural "Hollywood" is a fascinating look at the movie industry and certainly not uncritical. There are many entries on the Internet for this painting. His "Susanna and the Elders" as well has numerous entries, and likewise his "Persephone".

**Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1653)** may well be greatest female painter of all time. Wikipedia has an excellent article about her, and her 1610 painting of "Susanna and the Elders" is well worth visiting at [chnm.gmu.edu/wwh/modules/lesson4/lesson4.php?s=12](http://chnm.gmu.edu/wwh/modules/lesson4/lesson4.php?s=12)

5)

**Potsdam** is a small suburb of Berlin, where Stalin staged the last of 3 meetings of the allies, that had fought Nazi Germany to final termination. This meeting took place 17.07-2.08. 1945. The previous meetings had been Tehran in 1943, and Yalta earlier in 1945.

Roosevelt had represented the US during the first 2 meetings, Truman took his place for this last session. Churchill attended for Britain at all 3 meetings, but lost an election during the last week, and was replaced by Clement Attlee, the new Prime Minister.

A lot of unrealistic expectations were attributed to this final conference, and a lot of lamentation accrued in the years since, because the outcome and the results were considered disappointing. How Truman, and to a lesser extent Churchill, were supposed to pull a magnificent peace treaty out of a hat, dealing with a mass murderer like Stalin, no one bothered to analyse or understand.

The mere fact, this meeting proceeded in a civilized fashion, must be considered an accomplishment. The Tehran and Yalta conferences had for all intents and purposes been simple subservience to Stalin. That was not going to happen with Truman as president. In the event, this convergence became a combat of semantics, and much of the final outcome, simply agreements to disagree in a reasonably friendly way. Jimmy Byrnes' contribution as part of the US delegation was both constructive and effective.

**Charles L. Mee, Jr.: *Meeting at Potsdam*; New York 1975, M. Evans & Co. Inc.**, is about the best and most entertaining book on the subject.

**Weimar**, I covered this subject fairly extensively in my first book, to which please refer.

**"Achelous & Hercules"**; Thomas Hart Benton's mural is at the Smithsonian in

Washington, and can be seen on their website.

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