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profiles from Ronny Bar. Published by Grub Street, 4 Rainham Close, London, SW11 6SS. Website:

www.grubstreet.co.uk

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Gli Austriaci a Casa Baracca ed.

by Paolo Varriale at 15 Euros

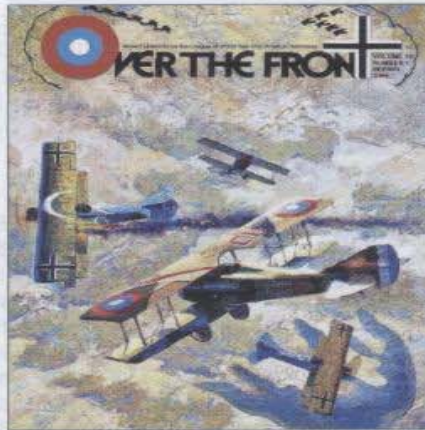
THIS superbly produced 48 page softback has been published by the Museo Francesco Baracca in Lugo in conjunction with a photographic exhibition of WWI Austro Hungarian aviation. Both were prompted by recent donation to the museum of an Austrian pilot's full dress jacket (see sidebar) and the tie-in book's title - 'The Austrians at Baracca House' - underlines the connection. Many of the fine photos presented here were new to us and they are of excellent clarity due to sharp reproduction and quality paper. Text, in Italian, is minimal, being mainly composed of captions but it's no barrier for the non-linguists. There are some stunning images: patriotically-posed Lloyd C.I 41.08 beyond a pile of ordnance; downed Caproni bombers; off duty airmen engaged in various activities; an arborially painted hangar; sharp air-to-air and much else. Of particular note is the *Flik 19* image showing Brandenburg C.I 29.51 sailing overhead, the clarity of the shot illustrating better than most the wing and tail structure so clearly revealed under the plain linen covering. There is a smattering of familiar photos it's true, but these appear to be taken from original glass plates and superior to previous re-incarnations.

Excellent value, price includes post and packing, the book is available direct from the museum at Francesco Baracca 65, 48022 Lugo. (RA) Italy. Website:

www.museobaracca.it

Ref rating:

WWI Journals



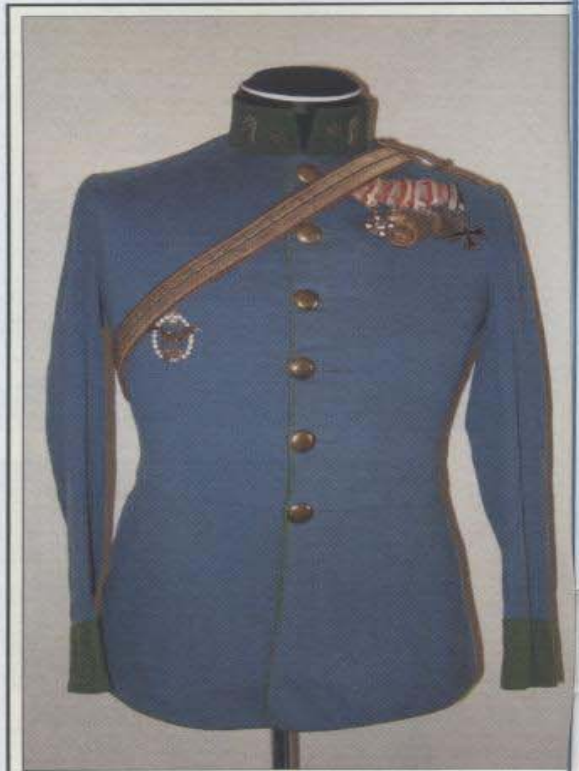
OTF - Spring 2009

FOR all those Spad enthusiasts out there, if our *Fabric* feature in this issue is not enough, then Alan Toelle's lengthy and hyper-detailed dissection of Ray Brooks' 'Smith IV' in Vol.24, No.1 of *Over The Front* will surely sate your appetite. With many rare photos, his own inimitable profiles over the rear covers, Alan's leaned analysis of this iconic Spad and its equally well-known pilots takes 40 of this edition's 96 pages. It's a model of research and the last word on the colours and markings of 7689. Elsewhere Peter Fedders offers statistics on the late 1918 St Mihiel air offensive, whilst Bill Jackson and Sheila Sandapen provide a word and picture portrait of Raoul Lufbery with Colin Owers contributing a photo study of the Boeing Model C Floatplanes with some superb images. Other topics include remembering USAS pilots 90 years on, a moving tribute to the sadly-missed Rick Duiven, plus all the usual departments to round out another fine issue. Subs from Dan Polglaze, 16820 25th Ave, N Plymouth, MN 55447-2228, USA. Website:

www.overthefront.com

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CD ROMS



Above, the full dress jacket of *Feldpilot Oberleutnant in der Reserve Paul Freiherr von Ferstel*, donated to the Museo Francesco Baracca by Johannes Walenta of Wien. Ferstel (1896-1959) enlisted in the *Dragoner Regiment Nr.9* and fought on the Galician Front during the first part of the war. In 1917 he passed to *KuK Luftfahrtruppen* and flew several missions, first as an observer and then as a pilot.

(Via Paolo Varriale)

WWI German Unit, Personal and Aircraft Markings Volume 1 by Dan-San Abbott at \$60

DAN has been chipping away at the coal face of *Jasta* colours' research since the 1960s and has been mining this rich vein with extreme diligence ever since. Regular contributions to various WWI journals, organisations and websites have kept him heavily involved in a subject that often engenders fierce debate among practioners of what the late 'Ed' Ferko used to call *'the black arts'*... Now Dan has begun a series of CD Roms to bring the fruits of his labours to a wider audience in easy-to-access form. Just load this disc in your PC and start scrolling through the scores of pages it contains; it is no quick trawl. There are over 30 pages of background text to supplement over 31 water colour general arrangement three-views that embrace a wide