Expert on Japan donates knowledge

Howard Van Zandt (right) amidst the war-devastated ruins of Sendai, Japan in May of 1946. This photo is a piece from his collection of memorabilia.

Memorabilia on display

An exhibit of memorabilia commemorating the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific will be on display July 3-August 18 at UTD.

The memorabilia, on loan from the private collection of Howard F. Van Zandt, professor emeritus of International Management Studies, will consist of 75 items—including photographs, war-propaganda leaflets, maps targeting bomb sites in Japan, original newspapers from the outbreak of the war to its end, copies of signed documents ending the war and other historical materials dealing with the events that led up to the war, the allied occupation and the years in Japan after the war.

Van Zandt, who lived in Japan a total of 27 years and is a noted expert on Japan, says the exhibit will include such significant items as:

- numerous newspaper articles, including a December 8, 1947 issue of the Japan Times and Advertiser showing how the Japanese press handled the attack on Pearl Harbor. The huge front page headline proclaimed: "War Is On."
- a propaganda leaflet that was dropped by the U.S. Air Force during the bombing of Japan. Van Zandt says the leaflets were dropped to discourage the Japanese from continuing to fight.
- photographs, many of which show bomb-damaged Nippon cities, including Toyko, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Sendai.
- maps and charts that were used in fighting the war. One such briefing chart of the Toyko-Yokohama area shows dozens of targets for bombers, as well as locations and suspected locations of American POW camps.

Van Zandt believes the exhibit will provide a historic walk through the annals of history, giving insight along the way.

"I think people who view the exhibit will definitely find it of interest," he says. "The exhibit will end on a positive note, showing how the Japanese benefited and learned from the Americans during the occupation period."

The collection will be on display in McDermott Library's Special Collections area (690) 2570, open to the public free from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays.

Van Zandt, professor emeritus of International Management Studies, has lived in the Far East for a total of 27 years.