

A letter to Sid Smith, December 9, 2007

Dear Sid:

I enjoyed your article in today's tribune on the Oppenheimer story.
I am sorry that i will not get to today's discussion by Martin Sherwin at the Art Institute.

I thought you might be interested in this picture of "the well-known" Chianti bottle, signed by most of the people there in 1942.

I am now at the University of Notre Dame, but used to be at Argonne and at the U of Chicago (Henry Frisch is my son's father-in-law). I arranged for a series of these pictures to be developed from an original negative of the bottle while i was at Argonne. This one now hangs in my study. I am not sure where the original bottle now is, but it might be worthwhile doing a little investigative piece about its travels...

I thought the article by Martin Sherwin was right on target - many scientists (and many others) have never known the real story of the politics behind dropping the bombs on Japan - the suppression of facts (political and otherwise) about it in those days parallel so many things which are now happening under the guise of the so-called "war on terrorism". But i suppose that is another story.

I assume you know the book "Hiroshima in America - 50 years of denial" by Lifton and Mitchell - which has a focus on the idiocy surrounding the Smithsonian exhibit of the Enola Gray etc, but also tells the real story.

Gordon Berry