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The shekel

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Tsvi Nussbaum, Warsaw Ghetto - 1943 as Jews were loaded on trucks destined for Bergen-Belsen. He survived to honor a Cleveland INS member in 1982. See page 4.



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NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.



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The AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is a cultural and educational organization dedicated to the study and collection of Israel's coinage, past and present, and all aspects of *Judaica Numismatica*. It is a democratically organized, membership oriented group, chartered as a non-profit association under the laws of the State of New York.

As an educational organization, the primary responsibility is the development of programs, publications, meeting and other activities which will bring news, history, technical, social and related background to the study of numismatics. Membership is open to all men and women of goodwill and to clubs who share the common goals of the Association.

The Association is the publisher of *THE SHEKEL*, a six times a year journal and news magazine prepared for the enlightenment and education of the membership. It neither solicits or accepts advertising, paid or unpaid. Its views are the views and opinions of the writers and the pages and columns are open to all who submit material deemed by the editors to be of interest to the members.

The Association sponsors such major cultural/social/numismatic events as an annual Study Tour of Israel, national and regional conventions and such other activities and enterprises which will benefit the members. Dues are paid annually at \$10.00 per year; life memberships are offered to all at \$150.00 per year. Junior membership (under 18) \$2.50 per year. Your interest and participation will be welcomed by any of the affiliated clubs or as a general member of the Association.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Morris Bram



Dear Friends,

With this issue of *The Shekel*, we complete the world's first extensive examination of some of humanity's cruelest moments and the numismatic evidences which are its tangible exhibits. Let every member grieve for all of that Past and for all of those Present who have been scarred forever.

In this numismatic documentation we brought to the entire world and not just to the immediate readers of these scholarly studies a caution: WE REMEMBER. We are determined not to permit it to happen again in our time and to educate our children through these pages that they must not let it happen in their time.

In this giant numismatic project AINA lives up to its Charter as a non-profit and educational organization, one dedicated to serving the best interests of those who seek to study through numismatics the heritage of the Jewish people and of Israel.

Before these pages join the others on your shelf of *Shekels*, I ask that you join with me in thanking an indefatigable team of numismatic experts on the Holocaust who gave their time and talent: Dr. Alan York of Long Island, New York; Morty Zerder of Long Island, New York; Harry Flower of Chicago; Stanley Yulish of Cleveland; AINA friends of Israel, Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia; and the friends in American coin press. What a wonderful contribution all these people share. They were organized for this massive effort by our own George Gilbert who sparked this special project like a zealot of old. *Thank you, from all of us.*

But what of tomorrow! As you read this, the 15th Annual Study Tour to Israel sponsored by AINA has just returned from the Holy Land.

Your national offices are involved in the million details necessary to arrange the Greater New York Coin Convention of April 28 through May 1. What a lovely time to be in New York City . . . the park fresh with Spring greenery and the streets warm with the afternoon sun. Please join us.

The Israel Government has announced a major increase in its official medal production. Your AINA office or your INS club has already contacted you with handsome offerings. Show your newest acquisitions to a neighbor, and preferably to a youth. Bring him or her into AINA or to your INS club meeting. It's 1983: let's put AINA into a growth year with vigor and enthusiasm.

Cordially,

Morris

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

George Gilbert



SURVIVAL AND REBIRTH

One of the most famous photographs (see cover) to emerge from the ashes of the Holocaust was that of a child. He was a Palestine-born youth who had been brought back to Poland by his parents during the 1930s at age four.

The boy was hidden for a time by a Christian family but, holding a Palestine passport, it was decided that as a child he should take up a German offer to return Jews to their country of origin. On the day he and others were told they were going to Palestine, they were loaded instead on trucks for the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp. He survived the camp, returned after the war to Palestine, and in November 1953 came to the United States to study. His name: *Tsvi Nussbaum*.

He took his medical degree at Albert Einstein College and he served in the United States Air Force, achieving the rank of Captain. Today Dr. Nussbaum is building a home in Netanya, Israel where he and his American wife, Beverly, a native of Georgia will eventually retire. This autographed photo is from the collection of Stanley Yulish of Cleveland, O., Executive Vice President of AINA.

On December 6, 1982, the Cleveland Committee of the *State of Israel Bonds* honored Jacob Hennenberg and his family with the *Israel New Life Award* at a dinner.

Jacob Hennenberg is a longtime member of the Israel Numismatic Society of Cleveland and he has been a designer of tokens struck by the Cleveland INS and of others submitted for the use of AINA. The keynote speaker at this testimonial to numerous Hennenberg contributions to the Jewish community was . . . *Dr. Tsvi Nussbaum*.

Both men were camp survivors.

At 17, Hennenberg began to learn personally all about Holocaust numismatics at slave labor camps in Wiesau, Sakray, Lindenhain, Flossingen, Klettendorf, Frieburg and Waldenburg (where he was freed by the Russians—four years to the day that he had been separated from his family.)

Now in the pages of *The Shekel*, collectors of the coin and currency history of the Jewish people meet Holocaust survivors—share in the honoring of a fellow numismatist—and through numismatics share the pathos of their twentieth century diaspora experience.

George Gilbert
LM #53, AINA



Concentration Camp and Ghetto



Mail System Under the Nazi Regime



by HENRY F. KAHN
Pennsylvania

The thousand-year Reich of Hitler's National Socialism lasted but twelve years. Yet during this relatively short span of time, history's darkest chapter was written. From 1933 to 1945, Nazism succeeded in pushing back the sands of time to the bleakest periods of the medieval era. Rule by fear, intimidation and terror was Nazism's success. The instrument behind this reign of terror was the dreaded concentration camp.

Strangely enough, concentration camps were not a Nazi invention. They were used as early as 1896, when Spain's Valeriano Weyler y Nicolau instituted his "concentration" policy to quell the Cuban rebellion of 1895. By a decree signed by him on October 21, 1896, Cuban men,

women and children living in rural areas were forced from their homes and "concentrated" in large camps enclosed by barbed wire and guarded by Spanish soldiers. Protests

raised in the United States and Spain over this inhuman waging of war against civilians led to Weyler's recall.

Again, during the 1901-02 period of the South African War the British, under Horatio Herbert Kitchener, adopted similar measures of repression against the Boers. Kitchener established concentration camps for the confinement of noncombatants in the republics of Transvaal and Cape Colony. Despite criticism of this policy in England, the system was not abandoned until the cessation of hostilities in March 1902.

The camps established in Germany in 1933 were more sinister in purpose and extent. Their rise paralleled that of National Socialism and before the Third Reich tumbled to its fall, over 700 camps had been built. They stretched from Latvia to southern France, from Norway to Italy. To the populace these camps were

Reprinted excerpts with permission of the Postal History Society of the Americas. Mr. Kahn is a Pennsylvania high school teacher of mathematics. Original booklet, now out of print was provided by Harry Flower, Chicago.



Münchener Neueste Nachrichten

Wirtschaftsblatt, Alpine und Sport-Zeitung, Theater- und Kunst-Chronik

Das Blatt ist eine der größten und ältesten Zeitungen Deutschlands. Es enthält alle Nachrichten aus dem In- und Auslande, sowie alle Berichte über die Ereignisse der Welt. Die Redaktion ist in München, die Druckerei in München.

Die große Tageszeitung des deutschen Volkes. Herausgegeben von der Münchener Neuesten Nachrichten. Druckerei: 1910 München. Preis: 1.000 Mark.

Das Blatt ist eine der größten und ältesten Zeitungen Deutschlands. Es enthält alle Nachrichten aus dem In- und Auslande, sowie alle Berichte über die Ereignisse der Welt. Die Redaktion ist in München, die Druckerei in München.

34. Jahrgang

Dienstag, 6. November 1938

Nr. 512

Jüdischer Mordanschlag in deutscher Botschaft

Keintrag vor der Staatsanwaltschaft / Clarus (Eintrag der Führerrolle in England) / Jacoby plant inneren Umsturz / Die politischen Wahlen

Inhalt

Pariser Legationssekretär schwer verletzt

Unfallfahrt im jüngsten Ge...

Assassination attempt in German Legation at Paris was the excuse for wholesale arrests of Jews in Germany. "Jewish Murder Attempt in German Legation" screams headline in typical newspaper.

cloaked in secrecy. Yet officially planted rumors of half-truths circulated about them. Some people knew what happened in these camps, many guessed, but all were terrified.

The vast number of camps can be broken down into several categories. There were concentration camps which were designated by the Nazis officially as KL (colloquially called KZ), others, for Polish officers, designated as Oflag. There were workers camps near industrial complexes, and camps where inmates were held for future transportation to extermination centers. Then there were the ghettos that were instituted in almost every town and village of occupied Poland.

When Hitler came to power in January 1933, his first task was the removal of political opposition. To accomplish this, waves of terrorism were staged, the first taking place on March 1, 1933. Within a few days all existing prisons were overcrowded. The overflow of prisoners, as well as those who were to be liquidated, were confined at various party headquarters. Sections of such buildings were set aside expressly for such a

purpose. The notorious Columbia Camp, mentioned several times in *Ambassador Dodd's Diary* (William Edward Dodd was U.S. ambassador to Germany from 1933 to 1937), was actually the third floor of the Berlin SA headquarters.

Soon, many SA chiefs had concentration camps of their own. They vied with each other in the depravity of their individual camps where they gave vent to their hatred of their defenseless prisoners. Although Herman Goering was in charge of all camps, there existed no overall organization; each camp was individually administered.

Inevitably, newspapers published stories about the camps. The Nazis were not yet strong enough to suppress such stories nor to ignore the poor impression made by the SA which was made up largely of hoodlum elements. So early in 1934, the guarding of prisoners held in "protective custody" and the administration of camps themselves was given over to the Nazi elite, the SS under the command of Heinrich Himmler. He in turn placed a trusted lieutenant, one Theodore Eicke, in charge of

all camps. Eicke had been the commandant of the Dachau concentration camp from its inception in 1933. The job he did there impressed Himmler to such an extent that he made Eicke inspector of all concentration camps in the spring of 1934.

Dachau is a pleasant suburb of Munich, the city that gave rise to the Nazi movement. Barracks and stables located at Dachau were ideal to house prisoners rounded up in the wholesale arrests of March 1933. Eicke soon transformed the stables into a camp. After he became commandant of all concentration camps, he closed the small camps and enlarged the bigger ones. All were patterned after the center he had set up at Dachau, the camp that helped his advance in the Nazi hierarchy.

Under Eicke's administration as inspector of concentration camps, the old Oranienburg prison near Berlin was enlarged. In 1935 it became the infamous Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

Buchenwald, near the city of Weimar (famous as the seat of the assembly which adopted the republican constitution of February 1919), was established in 1937. Originally, this camp was known as Ettersberg, having been built on the slopes of the mountain by that name. But the Weimar National Socialist cultural authority raised objections on the grounds that Ettersberg has associations with the poet Goethe. Eicke, in a letter dated July 24, 1937, suggested to Himmler that the camp be named "Hochwald" or Tall Forest. Although this name did not suit Himmler, he reacted quickly. In a letter dated July 28, Koch, the commandant of Ettersberg, notified the Thuringian Privy Council that henceforth the official name, sanctioned by Himmler, was to be Buchenwald or Beech Woods.

By 1938, three large camps, Dachau, Sachsenhausen and Buchenwald, were ready to receive the Jews, who were Hitler's favorite prey. The excuse for wholesale arrests was provided by the assassination of a very minor official in the German legation in Paris. This event made banner headlines in German National Socialist newspapers. "Jewish Murder Attempt in the German Legation" was the headline of a typical Munich paper dated November 8, 1938.

"Crystal Night"

Ernst vom Rath had been mortally wounded by Hershel Greenspan, a young German Jew, who was enraged over the treatment of his parents by the Germans. He plotted to kill the German ambassador in Paris, but in his blind fury he shot the first person he encountered in the legation. This was vom Rath, who died from his wounds on November 9, 1938. That night, thousands of Jewish plate glass windows were smashed by organized groups of SA men while the local police stayed away by order of Reinhard Heydrich who had organized the entire affair. Because of the large quantity of broken glass, the night of November 9-10 was dubbed "crystal night."

Within the next few days, close to 30,000 Jewish men between the ages of 17 and 65 were arrested and sent to one of the three previously mentioned camps. The locality of a prisoner's residence determined the camp to which he was sent.

From documents found after the war, we learn that 10,911 Jews were sent to Dachau between November 10 and November 22; 9,845 were sent to Buchenwald between November 10 and November 14 and approximately 10,000 were sent to Sachsenhausen during the same period. The accuracy of these numbers

cannot be determined, as low-ranking SS men were notoriously lazy and well-known for slipshod work. Many SS men were uneducated peasants unsuited for the clerical duties they sometimes had to perform.


Women, too, suffered the fate of men. From early in 1933, they were sent to camps specially set aside for them. One of the early camps, which Eicke had reserved for women, was Lichtenburg in Thuringia. In 1938 when Lichtenburg could not accommodate all the women the Nazis designated to be sent to concentration camps. Ravensbruck in Mecklenburg was established. Inmates from Ravensbruck had to submit to brothel service and to quack medical experiments which were often performed by lesbian guards.

After the Austrian "Anschluss" in 1938, it was decided that Austria needed a camp of its own, so Himmler found a suitable place near Enns, a former cavalry barracks that had served as a prisoner of war camp in World War I. Soon, a formidable concentration camp emerged and the name of Mauthausen was added to the list of fear-inspiring names.


Among Mauthausen's inmates were important political and religious leaders whose execution had been ordered by Himmler. When Mauthausen was liberated by Allied troops on May 5, 1945, Himmler's orders had not yet been carried out, and many persons, who were marked for death, were liberated.

At the time Mauthausen was established, another lesser known camp, was set-up at the other end of what was then Germany. It was Neuengamme, located near the city of Hamburg. After the occupation of Holland and Belgium, the population of Neuengamme grew so large that not less than fifty satellite camps were placed under its administration. Some of the large camps of the "Neuengamme Ring" were Druette, Banterweg, Bullenhausendamm, Hannover-Ahlem and Schandelah. Although Neuengamme was designated as a KL, its satellite camps were actually slave labor compounds. During the last twelve months of the war, ninety percent of the inmates were Allied nationals who were imported as slave labor. Over 90,000 persons passed through the Neuengamme complex; some 40,000 never returned to their homes.

Concentration camps were established in Holland soon after the German invasion of that country on May 10, 1940. Hertagenbosch, Michielsgestel and Amersfoort were three of the large camps instituted in that small country. The largest camp, however, was Westerbork, located in the peat bogs in northeast Holland near the town of Assen. Barracks, built there by the Dutch government long before the war, were used to house the Jews who had fled Germany after the crystal night pogrom. The Germans needed only to surround the camp with barbed wire.



*“... a former cavalry barracks in Austria ...
... barracks in peat bogs in Holland ...”*



A form of government had been instituted at Westerbork when the camp was opened by the Dutch. This was continued under German occupation and the title "Eldest Council of the Jews" was given to this ruling body.

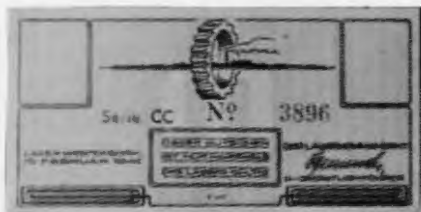
Food parcels at times could be sent to inmates, provided required "admittance stamp" was affixed to the package. Actually, this was not a stamp in the true sense, but simply a mimeographed slip of paper signed by a Nazi official.

Scrip was issued for the use of inmates at Amersfoort and Westerbork. Scrip from the latter camp is particularly interesting because the obverse of the notes show a view of the main road of the prison (known to inmates as the Boulevard des Miseres). This picture appears on all three of the denominations issued, 10, 25 and 50 cents. By order of the German commander of the camps, these notes were to be burned just prior to the liberation of the camps by Allied troops.

It should be noted that these notes were not considered currency. To avoid violating Hitler's order which prohibited Jews from possessing money, the word "Gutschein", meaning credit coupon, was printed in large letters on each bill.

Many camps were located in the mountainous regions in the south of France. These centers were built by the French to house the many soldiers of the Republican forces who had fled from the Spanish civil war (1936-1939). When the Germans invaded France, many of these soldiers fought with the French army against the Germans; others joined the Foreign Legion. These camps were almost empty when the western phase of World War II began.

After France capitulated to the German army on June 25, 1940, the



Westerbork's scrip

Germans commandeered the camps in the Pyrenees mountains which were so ideally located and suitable to hold Jews from Germany. So during the night of October 22, 1940, some 7,450 men, women and children were hurriedly shipped to Les Milles, de Gurs and Rivesaltes.

Other camps soon were crowded as Jews from the Saar and other localities were shipped into France. Since these camps were under the control of the Vichy government, censor's cachets on letters were in French.

Under Vichy rule, the Jews lived relatively unmolested although overcrowded in these camps. There were no mail restrictions imposed on inmates other than the inevitable censorship. Postage had to be paid by inmates, except for letters to the International Red Cross in Geneva. Such letters could be sent free of postage.

Finally in November 1942, Germany occupied the whole of France, and shortly thereafter, the transports began to roll from France to dreaded Auchwitz.

In Italy

The picture was somewhat different in Italy, for Mussolini was reluctant to establish concentration camps on Italian soil. It was only after repeated requests by Germany that he did acquiesce to his powerful neighbor's demands. Inmates of Italian camps, however, were treated

relatively well. They were not tortured nor starved as inmates were in other axis areas.

Several camps were built, the largest being Ferramonti which was located near the town of Tarsia in the province of Cosenza in southern Italy. About 85% of its 3,000 inmates were German refugees who had tried to escape from Nazism. Opened in June 1940, Ferramonti was liberated by U.S. troops in September 1943.

Many camps and ghettos were established in the Baltic regions. Inmates there had no writing privileges, hence very little mail is known to exist from these camps and ghettos. Stutthof, one of the first Baltic camps, was located near the city of Danzig. Among others were: Kurtenhof (Salispils in the Latvian language), a few miles southeast of Riga; and Kureme, Ponary, and Goldfilz in Estonia.

Large ghettos also were established in Riga and Wilna. The former was liquidated by the Nazis on November 3, 1943, the latter on September 23 of the same year. Few inmates survived: The crimes committed at the Vilna Ghetto did not become fully known until 1963, when the former administrator of this ghetto was finally brought to trial.

Auschwitz opens 1940

Perhaps the most infamous of all the camps which were instituted under the Nazi regime was the camp built near the Polish town of Oswiecim (Germanized Auschwitz), located southwest of the city of Cracow. Auschwitz was officially opened on June 14, 1940 as a concentration camp for Polish political prisoners whom the Nazis intended to treat with special harshness. It soon became a much more sinister place. With its four huge gas chambers and adjoining crematoria it became the

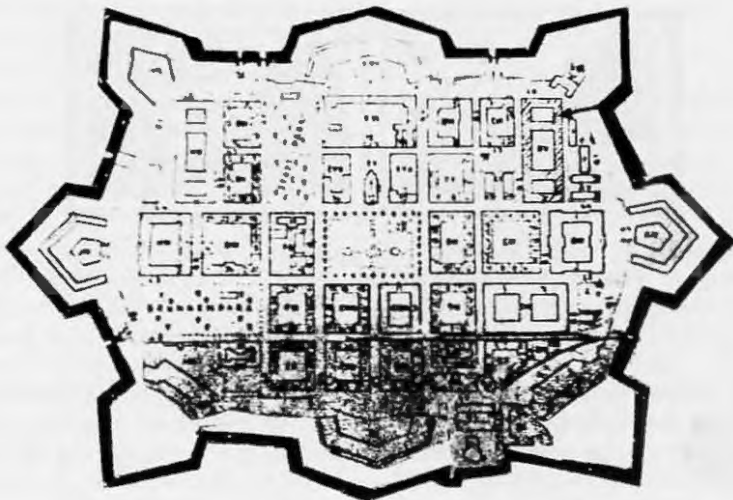
largest of the extermination camps with a capacity for a death and burial that far surpassed any other.

During the summer of 1944, transport after transport arrived in Auschwitz. New prisoners were given a regulation letter sheet (very much like the letter sheets of the German concentration camps) with instructions to write a reassuring note to a relative about "the pleasant new surroundings" which the writer found at Auschwitz. In most cases these letters reached their destinations long after the death of the writers.

Although many ghettos were established, mostly in Poland, the largest was set up in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, where the entire population of Terezin was evacuated and the town was then transformed into the Theresienstadt Ghetto.

The star-shaped fortress of Theresienstadt was established between 1850 and 1860 by Joseph II and named by him in honor of his mother Maria Theresia. It was designed by Italian engineers along the most modern lines of their time, but it never served as a fortress and it was abandoned as such in 1882. It remained a garrison town until 1941.

Theresienstadt is located in a flat, fertile plain along the river Eger, about 36 miles north of Prague. Its inside dimensions are about 2275 feet by 1625 feet. Heydrich, the "Reichsprotector" of Bohemia and Moravia, decided to use this rather dreary town as a special ghetto for Jews. The order to evacuate the approximately 10,000 inhabitants was given on October 10, 1941, and the first transports with Jews arrived on November 24, 1941, long before the town was completely evacuated. Theresienstadt remained a "model ghetto" for propaganda purposes until its liberation by Russian troops on April 17, 1945.

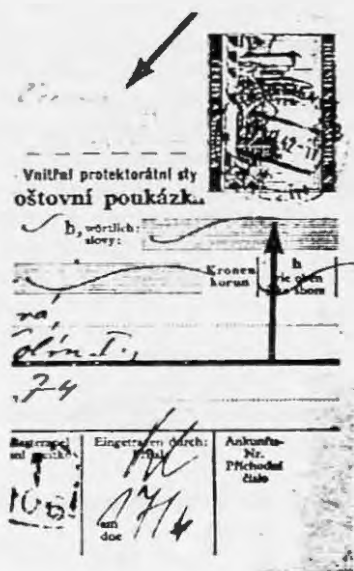


Theresienstadt ghetto, a star-shaped fortress, about 36 miles north of Prague, received its first prisoners on November 24, 1941. It was liberated on April 17, 1945.

Theresienstadt issued ghetto scrip. Although it was dated January 1, 1943, it did not get into circulation until March of that year. Since Jews were not allowed to own money, these notes were designated as "Quittungen" or receipts. This scrip was designed by two artists, Heilbron and Kien, both inmates of Theresienstadt. The scrip was printed in Berlin where the picture of Moses was changed to conform with the Nazi, stereotyped caricature of a Jew—crooked nose, long sideburns and long, slender fingers. On the reverse of the note is the printed signature of Jacob Edelstein who served as "The Eldest of the Jews in Theresienstadt" from December 4, 1941 (the day he arrived), until his arrest on November 9, 1943. He was executed in Auschwitz on June 20, 1944.

It has been stated, by surviving inmates, that if one individual should be singled out for having tried to help his fellow sufferers in Theresienstadt, that individual should be Dr. Leo Baeck, former

Chief Rabbi of Berlin. He arrived in Theresienstadt on January 28, 1943. From that day he served as a member of the Jewish Council whose head he



Postal money order sent by inmate of the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp.



Left, parcel stamp for use on food packages arriving at Theresienstadt. A counterfeit appears at right.

became on December 13, 1944. After the war he lectured in the U.S. and in England where he died on November 2, 1956. West Germany honored him on the first anniversary of his death with a commemorative postage stamp (Scott No. 777).

After the start of the war in 1939, Eicke lost interest in his job as inspector of concentration camps and he went on active duty as a major general. He was reputedly shot down during a reconnaissance flight near Kharkov while looking for a tank column led by his son-in-law. His body was later identified by fragments of his uniform.

His successor as inspector of concentration camps was Gluecks. Under the latter's leadership the Polish camps were established. There were 24 general concentration camps, 9 temporary camps, 60 hard labor camps and a large number of ghettos set up in occupied Poland. Some of the large camps, besides Auschwitz, were:

- Chelmo (from December 8, 1941, until January 1945).
- Belzec (from March 17, 1942, until December 1942).
- Birkenau, also known as Auschwitz II. (opened in March 1942).
- Treblinka (from July 1942, until the Autumn of 1943).
- Sobibor (from May 7 or 8, 1942, until November 1943).

Numerous camps were established in the district of Lublin, the largest being Majdanek. At one time all Jews were to be sent to this area, but this proved to be unfeasible.

The Warsaw Ghetto

Perhaps the most well-known of all the ghettos established by the Nazis was the one in Warsaw. Here, the most heroic, as well as the most dramatic of all resistance attempts to Nazi brutality took place.

In November of 1940, by order of the Governor General of occupied Polish territories, a separate Jewish quarter was set up in the poorest section of Warsaw, totally segregating the inmates from the rest of the city. The residents of this section had to build a ten-foot wall to surround their quarters. The few entrances, which were left open, were well guarded by German, Polish, Ukrainian and Jewish police.

The Nazis set up a quasi self-government which was called "The Council of the Elders of the Jewish Community in Warsaw." It consisted of 24 members and 24 delegates. As president of this council, the Germans arbitrarily selected one Adam Cherniakov, a member of the pre-war Jewish Community in Warsaw and an engineer by profession.

Mail between the ghetto and the outside world was exchanged at the council building. German postal authorities would occasionally bring a

large number of parcels and a large quantity of mail addressed to ghetto inmates to the exchange center. At that time they would pick up outgoing mail which had been censored at the council post office. Such mail as that which passed the Jewish censors received a small cachet "Judenrat Warschau" (Jewish Council Warsaw) in the upper left hand corner. Several types of cachets exist.

Incoming mail was distributed by ghetto mailmen who collected an extra fee payable in cash. They also distributed parcels, which had the usual package cards attached to them. Ordinarily the recipient of a parcel endorsed the package card, but in the ghetto it was the duty of the council to make the endorsements. Several types of rubber-stamped endorsement were used by the council. After the war, a large number of these cacheted package cards were found in the Warsaw post office. The cachets read "Mail Depository of the Jewish Living Quarters, Warsaw."


By 1941, close to 500,000 people were crowded into this ghetto. Although the death rate was high, it was not high enough to suit the Gestapo, so a sinister plan was instituted. It was decided that many of the Jews should be "resettled" and to this end the Jewish Council was ordered to supply 6,000 volunteers daily for "resettlement" on farms. To obtain this quota, the Council offered extra bread rations to the starving populace. This, and the prospect to work on farms enticed many.

Sinister "Resettlement" Rumors Abound


Soon rumors began to circulate in the ghetto that resettlement was in reality a trip to the gas chambers at Auschwitz and Birkenau. By order of the Gestapo, the Jewish Council tried to squelch this rumor. Cherniakov committed suicide in protest. Although some people would not believe the truth, only a trickle of volunteers came forward. To fill the now empty trains, the Nazis resorted to actual manhunts; they arrested people in the streets and in houses. Every person they could find was taken to the "Umschlagplatz", the point of embarkation to the death factories.

By April 1943, only 70,000 inmates were left in the Warsaw ghetto. They banded together and decided, as the late President John F. Kennedy put it, "to sell their lives as dearly as possible." With some smuggled guns of various sizes and makes, some ammunition which often did not fit any available guns, and some gasoline-filled bottles, they rose in revolt on April 19, 1943.

The outcome of this struggle was inevitable, but this ragged army of men, women and children held the supposedly invincible German army at bay for weeks. It was not until May 16, 1943, that Juergen Stroop, the SS general in charge of the ghetto liquidation, could send Hitler a leather-bound, gold-stamped report that "There exists no Jewish quarter in Warsaw anymore . . ."



"... rumors began ... resettlement was a trip to the gas chambers ..."



Litzmannstadt Ghetto Established

Lodz, Poland's second largest city and its leading industrial center, had another large ghetto. On February 8, 1940, all Jews living in Lodz and in its surrounding suburbs were ordered to move into the poor northern section of the city. On May 3, 1940, the ghetto gates were closed. Henceforth, this ghetto was known as the Litzmannstadt Ghetto, Lodz having been renamed Litzmannstadt by order of Hitler on April 11, 1940.

As early as October of 1939, shortly after Lodz fell without a blow to the advancing German army, a Jewish Civil Authority was set up by the Nazis. They placed as head of this authority a former Lodz orphanage director, Chaim Mordechai Rumkowski, who became the controversial "Eldest of the Jews in the Litzmannstadt Ghetto." He was feared and hated by the ghetto inmates to such an extent that two SS bodyguards were assigned to him by the Nazis. Filled with an exaggerated sense of importance, he served as the "Fuehrer" of the Litzmannstadt Jews until the beginning of the ghetto liquidation on August 21, 1944. Rumkowski, perhaps more than any of the other heads of Jewish Councils established throughout Poland, gave a stigma of collaboration with the Nazis to this post. It is, however, unfair for us, living in safety and security, to criticize.

These Eldest Councils received their orders from the SS and executed them. It was all part of a diabolical scheme set up by Heydrich for Jews to discredit themselves in front of their own people.

Lodz Ghetto scrip was issued on May 15, 1940. Ghetto inmate Ignacy Gutman designed a set of seven notes and they were printed outside the ghetto by the Manitius Printing Office in Lodz. Several printings

Scrip and Coins Were Designed by an Inmate for Use in Lodz Ghetto.



"Ghetto Crown," a 20-mark coin, issued in Lodz Ghetto.

were made on watermarked and unwatermarked paper. This set of notes is considerably scarcer than the one from Theresienstadt. A set of coins also was issued in the Lodz Ghetto. Szwarc, a former draftsman, was the medallist. Two different 10 pfennig coins were minted as well as a five, ten and twenty-mark coin. The latter is known as the Ghetto Crown. The coins were minted in aluminum and magnalium (an aluminum and magnesium alloy) in 1943 and 1944.

Lapel Pin Below Is a Facsimile of the One-Mark Note.



Enlargement of a lapel pin issued on the third anniversary of the Lodz Ghetto.

On the third anniversary of the establishment of the Lodz Ghetto, lapel pins were given to officials of the ghetto bank. These pins were produced in the ghetto in 1943 and depicted the one-mark ghetto note.

Henry F. Kahn

Konzentrations  Lager
der Gendarmerie 208.



CAMP MONEY IN THE EARLY CONCENTRATION CAMPS OF FASCIST GERMANY

By Hans Maur

German Democratic Republic (East Germany)

In the system of terror of the official fascist dictatorships, concentration camps play a special role. Also in fascist Germany of 1933 to 1945, they were a solid part of this system of rule. The purpose of the concentration camps was to isolate and exterminate opponents of the regime and to create a psychosis of fear among the people. The organ of the Nazi party, *Der Stürmer*, in August 1932 published detailed plans: "... immediate arrest and sentencing of all communist and social democrat-

ic party functionaries . . . , placing of suspects and intellectual instigators in concentration camps". What the concentration camps were to be was described in 1933 by the official SS organ *Das schwarze Korps*: "Thus, the concentration camps are island-like battle zones of the internal front, battlefields where a handful of men guard Germany against the internal enemy."

Photo: The Main Gate—Oranienburg, 1933. YIVO Archive

In Hitler's Germany, concentration camps were legally sanctioned under the Emergency Decree, "For the Protection of People and State" which was issued following the notorious Reichstag fire on February 28, 1933. Any person could be arrested and incarcerated arbitrarily. No one could defend himself. The Hitler fascists called this "protective custody". Helped by the "blacklists" prepared earlier by the police of the Weimar Republic (in the 1920s), mass arrests of members and functionaries of both workers parties and their organizations, above all communists, were made after the fascist Reichstag provocation.

Former penitentiaries and prisons, old fortresses and strongholds, shut-down factories and remote warehouses, as well as appropriated workers and sports premises were converted into concentration camps and torture chambers. Soon there were one hundred "protective custody camps" in Germany, in which political prisoners were herded together.

The most infamous fascist concentration camps of the early period were Lichtenburg near Prettin/Elbe (June 1933 to September 1937); Oranienburg near Berlin (March 1933 to August 1934); Papenburg in Elmsland (March 1933 to early 1940); Sonnenburg (March 1933 to August 1934, thereafter prison); Hohnstein, Saxon Switzerland (March 1933 to August 1934); Sachsenburg (May 1933 to September 1937), and Dachau near Munich (March 1933 to April 1945). Unimaginable cruelties took place in these concentration camps. By mid-1935, the fascists had already murdered 4,656 prisoners in their "protective custody camps". Tens of thousands more languished behind barbed wire fences and prison walls.

The Introduction of Camp Money

Along with the terrorization of the prisoners in the concentration camps, the Hitler fascists also used a shrewdly devised system of robbing them. It consisted in the introduction of the so-called *lagergeld* (camp money). This was valid only in the concentration camp for which it was issued. The camp money for prisoners was issued in two different periods. Concentration camp money is known to us from the early times of the camps (1933 to 1937) and the later war years (1943 to 1945).

After 1943, the camp money was paid as "bonus" for "overtime" to the prisoners and forced laborers who were exploited in the fascist German armaments industry to the extent of physical destruction. It was different in nature from the camp money that existed in the first years of the fascist dictatorship. (Emphasis by Editor.)

From the early period of fascist concentration camps in Germany, camp money of the concentration camps in Oranienburg and Lichtenburg/Prettin has been found. The purpose of introducing (this) camp money was to prevent the prisoners from having legal tender in case of a successful escape. If they had cash, the prisoners had to exchange this for camp money. Relatives of inmates could send money to the camp. Amounts were mostly small, less than 5.00 Reichsmark, as shown in the register of the Lichtenburg concentration camp. The prisoners received these amounts only in camp money.

The Money 'Hand-Out'

First, all money was credited to the prisoner in an account of the Administration handling the prisoners' money. The "humanity" of the fascists went so far as to establish



One of four notes issued at Oranienburg (1933-34).

canteens where prisoners with camp money could buy food and tobacco to supplement the meager camp meals. Delivery of the camp money was made to prisoners by the Administration every two to four weeks, often arbitrarily.

As reported by a former prisoner, "one had to stand for hours, subjected to all kind of chicanery, particularly before holidays like Christmas, when the money was handed out after two to three days' waiting in the cold. Being thrown down in the dirt, lying on one's stomach for half hour at a time, being turned back so that the first rows which had already stood there up to four to five hours became the last ones, these were the circumstances of receiving the money. That some . . . were missing as a result of the speed with which the amounts were thrown to the prisoners, was a matter of course, until the prisoners took charge of the distribution".

Of the actual Reichsmarks received in remittances or in the letters from relatives, 30 percent was confiscated (by the S.S. Administration.)

Lichtenburg

Lichtenburg castle in Prettin on the Elbe was closed as a penitentiary in 1928 because of its dilapidated condition. In 1933, after the establishment of the official fascist dictatorship, it became one of the first concentration camps in Germany. On June 12, 1933, the first political opponents of the Nazi regime were carried off from the court prisons and SA barracks to this new concentration camp. Later, prisoners from Sonnenburg concentration camp and Oranienburg concentration camp were added. At the end of 1936, there were about 1,500 prisoners in the "Lichte", as it was called. Among the prisoners there were many wellknown communist, socialist and union leaders along with writers, artists and intellectuals languishing within the masonry of the old castle.

In September 1937, the fascists closed the Lichtenburg camp. Most prisoners were transported to the larger concentration camps Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen.

1Pfg and 2Pfg Notes are Sole Survivors

From the Lichtenburg concentration camp, camp money in 1 Pfennig and 2 Pfennig denominations has



Translation

0.01

Prisoner Camp Money
Lichtenburg Concentration Camp
Valid only in the Concentr. Camp



Translation

0.02

Prisoner Camp Money
Lichtenburg Concentration Camp
Valid only in Concentr. camp

been preserved. Certainly there were camp certificates in larger denominations, however nothing has been found out about them. Neither has any information come to light so far about the establishment and printing of the Lichtenburg camp money. The *Pick/Siemsen* catalog (p. 18) mentions the 1 Pfg certificate, one specimen of which is in the Museum of German History in Berlin. Meanwhile one specimen of a 2 Pfennig certificate has also been found. This is in the possession of the *Lichtenburg Warning and Memorial Monument*.

Both money certificates from the Lichtenburg concentration camp are printed on one side. Evidently they

were cut out of a large sheet. Their size is 50mm x 50mm. The paper is yellow (1 Pfg certificate) and green (2 Pfg certificate). The camp certificates were accepted as money only after being stamped by the concentration camp administration, as is seen from the 2 Pfennig certificate. This camp money could be exchanged in the Lichtenburg concentration camp only in the canteen established by the SS.

It is to be hoped that further research will bring to light more about the camp money of the early concentration camps in fascist Germany.

(Translated from an East German numismatic article.—Ed.)

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THE FIRST CONCENTRATION CAMP NOTES.



Oranienburg, 1934 YIVO Archives Photo

THE HIDDEN STORY OF THE ORANIENBURG PAPER-MONEY ISSUES

by DR. ALAN YORK

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Long before Hitler came to power in 1933, the S.A. (Brown-Shirts) established their own private jails, mostly in National Socialist (NAZI) Party headquarters in the larger cities. In the chaotic later days of the Weimar Republic, it was a common practice of the Nazis to blatantly kidnap opposition members, then mostly communists and socialists, to brutalize them. Many were crippled or killed outright during these outrageous acts. The police and judges, many of whom sympathized with the Nazis ignored these flagrant violations of German law and permitted them to re-occur with impunity.

When ten years later Hitler became Reichschancellor, these subrosa jails were too small to contain all of the emerging anti-fascist opposition. Immediately, the Hitler police

system erected concentration camps to hold their victims. These were collection centers from the numerous little jails, hence "concentration camps." The fact that they were erected so soon after the 'legalization' of the National Socialist regime proves that the Nazis already had plans worked out for this method of isolation of all their opposition long before Hitler assumed office. Three concentration camps were soon established in 1933 at Lichtenburg, Dachau, and Oranienburg, a suburb of Berlin.

Hitler, and Hjalmar Schacht, his economic advisor, had convinced the banking and industrial giants that it would be well worth their while to contribute both financial and political support to the National Socialist cause. One prominent Berlin bank in March of 1933, donated

to S.A.-Sturm 208 of Niederbarnim County, absolutely free of charge, a gift of a huge lumber yard, adjacent to a branch office of the bank. This yard became the infamous Oranienburg concentration camp. Close to Berlin, it was easy for the S.A. round-up squads to initially contain their political opposition there. One of their first captives was the noted Socialist pacifist and Nobel Prize winner, Karl von Ossietzky.

To help prevent escape, all cash was taken from the prisoners, replaced with scrip paper money issued by the camp administration. On 31 July 1933 the "führer" of *Standarte 208*, sent to Dr. Fromm, the civil administrator of the Potsdam District, a communication containing specimens of the Oranienburg concentration camp notes along with regulations concerning their usage. The Brown Shirts in their cruel humor, ruled that 30% of all exchanged funds were to be seized by the camp authorities to cover the costs of camp maintenance. The captives were forced to pay for their own imprisonment!

Prototype Scrip

The Oranienburg paper-money notes became the prototype of future concentration camp scrip. It fulfilled the following functions:

1. Scrip was a security measure making escape from the camp more difficult. "Real money" was needed on the outside. Anyone found with these camp notes became subject to immediate imprisonment.
2. Scrip was a method of subsidization of the costs of maintaining the camp, instantly converting "real" money to taxed scrip.
3. Scrip served as a propogando device, further humiliating the prison population.

Despite public statements of Goebel's Ministry of Propaganda that the Nazis did not care one bit for public and governmental condemnation outside of Germany, they were, in

actuality, quite sensitive to world opinion. The existence of the concentration camps was no secret to the foreign press and radio services. The Nazi assaults on human rights were condemned, more or less, around the world.

To show the "human" side of the camps, Oranienburg was maintained as a 'model' camp for the foreign press and Red Cross by the Oranienburg *presseführenden* so that they could report back home that reports of the brutalities committed there were grossly exaggerated. (The same procedure was employed ten years later at the Theresienstadt ghetto in Czechoslovakia.) The scrip money was displayed to the foreign visitors to demonstrate just how 'civilized' the camps really were.



Reference Collection of Dr. Alan York

The four notes of Oranienburg. The 1-Mark note is rare.

Four notes of increasing size, depending on their nominal value, of striking graphic design were issued in 1933, in values of 5, 10, and 50 pfennig, and 1 mark. All notes are watermarked "Ad. Hausmann-Hell-dunkelmuster."

"Lippert, Horst-Willi" He Designed the Notes

We are indebted to the East German numismatic historian, Wilhelm Marquardt¹ for his research into the design and manufacture of the notes of this camp. In mid-July of 1933, we find inscribed in the still-extant roll-book of the Oranienburg Concentration Camp, (Those Nazis were punctilious bureaucrats!-Ed.) the inscription next to number 33, the name "Lippert, Horst-Willi," a graphic artist and portraitist. Lippert was ordered by the camp administration to design and produce the scrip notes for the camp. A close inspection of the notes reveals his logo: The initials "LIT," "LI" being the first

two letters and the "T" being the last letter in the name "Lippert."

These logos are to be found on the obverse of the notes. On the 5pf value, it is located in the lower right corner of the picture of the barbed wire fence. On the 10pf value it is found just below the overlapping of the two shields. On the 1 mark value, it may be seen on the ground between the two feet of the prisoner.

As a dedicated anti-Nazi, Lippert was one of the first to be incarcerated in Oranienburg for his political activities, not because of the Nuremberg racial laws which were not yet promulgated into law. He looked for a way to register his protest against the Nazi regime even on these notes. But, how? He submitted bold designs and art for the printing plates for these "notes" to the camp administration. In contrast to the stark earlier issues of pre-Nazi German prison camp money, these designs were quickly approved by the Camp Commandant as being just what they needed to show visitors.



Note "LIT" as these appear on 5Pfg, 10Pfg and 1 mark notes.

After a small initial run of the 50 pfennig notes, Lippert surreptitiously scratched away on the printing plate, in the word "Konzentrationslager" the top of the letter "g." A small number of the notes shows no opening there. Further press runs had a tiny opening; then a total opening was created.

Reference Collection of Dr. Alan York



First run: "...slagers"
in 50 Pfg note



Final run: "...slayers" (killers)
in 50Pfg note

Why was this done? The final result was that the word no longer read "Konzentrationslager" but "konzentrationslayer" . . . "slayer", an English synonym for "killer!" Lippert's protest was revealing the Nazis to be the murderers that they were.

The numismatic student may wonder if this is not a farfetched story. But how else could an artist secretly protest the atrocious situation in which he found himself without being caught and severely punished by the S.A. guards? During the Japanese occupation of China, for instance it is a well known fact that certain patriotic bank note engravers at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing engraved even more obscure protest messages than this heroic protest by a member of the Oranienburg underground².

To those who still doubt this artifact of an anti-fascist underground at Oranienburg concentration camp, we have the words of Horst-willi Lippert, himself, who confirms this event. As of 1981, Lippert was still

alive, though extremely ill, feeble, and near-blind, a resident of the tiny village of Brunsbüttel in the northern part of West Germany. He has related the events of 50 years ago to german numismatists.

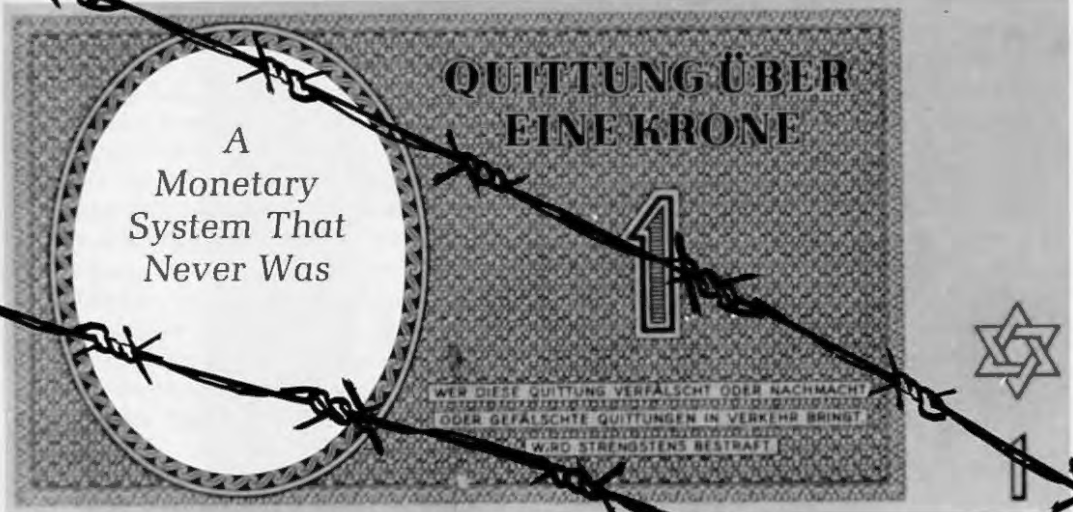
In August of 1934, the concentration camp of Oranienburg was closed. The lumber yard was no longer large enough to accommodate the ever increasing number of prisoners. Those unfortunate to still be there at its closing were transferred to more punitive camps.

These notes were in use at Oranienburg for about one year only. They are considered to be scarce. The 1 Mark note was unknown to Pick and Siemsen when they published their superb book on concentration camp notes in 1976³. It is illustrated here for the first time anywhere in the numismatic literature.

The author, Dr. Alan York, Number One Main Street, East Hampton, New York 11937 would welcome any additional information on these and other concentration camp notes.

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A
Monetary
System That
Never Was

QUITTUNG ÜBER
EINE KRONE

1

WER DIESE QUITTUNG VERFÄLSCHT ODER NACHMACHT
ODER GEFÄLSCHTE QUITTUNGEN IN VERKEHR BRINGT
WIRD STRENGSTENS BESTRAFT



THERESIENSTADT

By Yasha L. Beresiner, N. L. G.

Among the German endeavors to “normalize”, in the eyes of the World, living conditions in the Theresienstadt ghetto, unsuccessful efforts were made by the Nazis to create a complete monetary system. The first step taken in this direction was the formation of a “Jewish Self Government Bank” which established its premises in the former town hall and from there distributed notes of seven denominations: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 Kronen.

These Ghetto notes have a fascinating though somewhat gruesome story.

The word “Ghetto” is generally associated with the period just preceding World War II, but the term which has an Italian derivation was used as early as the Middle Ages in relation to those areas of a city which formed the Jewish quarter. The use of the word during the rise of the Nazis in Germany gave it far more unpleasant connotations due to the stern economic and social restrictions that were imposed on the Ghetto Jews. The large number of Ghettos that existed in Europe prior to World

War II were dissolved as a result of the mass deportation of the Jewish residents to the concentration camps which had been built for infamous reasons that are only too well known.

Situated in then Bohemia, now Southwestern Czechoslovakia, the establishing of the Theresienstadt ghetto by the Nazis in January 1942, was an exception to the normal “formation” of ghettos. In this instance all 7,000 local inhabitants of the town were evacuated in order to allow for the “resettlement” of entire Jewish families. Theresienstadt, the brain child of Hitler’s Gestapo Chief, Reinhard Heydrich, was part of the “final solution to the Jewish Problem”. It is interesting to note that part of the German reprisals for Heydrich’s death towards the end of the war included the shipment of 3,000 Theresienstadt Jews to extermination camps in Poland.

This Ghetto was simultaneously to become an “exemplary” settlement to satisfy world official bodies investigating the treatment and confinement of Jews.



The first deported families to arrive in Theresienstadt naturally were from Czechoslovakia, almost all of them from Prague. Soon, however, whole Jewish communities from the remaining German protectorates were arriving in Theresienstadt. These included Austrians, Danes, Dutchmen, Hungarians, Poles and German Jews. Within the first few months of 1942, nearly 140,000 men, women, and children were cramped in an area that had only just accommodated the 7,000 original inhabitants; and yet it was privileged Jews and their families alone that were to have the "advantage" of being sent

here! They had to be disabled German war veterans, commended war heroes or sufficiently prominent in the scientific or artistic field to have acquired international recognition; (clearly again, this was to avoid any embarrassment which may have resulted from enquiries regarding the sudden disappearance of any of these well known world figures).

Theresienstadt was also used as a "transit point" for Jews over the age of 65; more than 70,000 of them found only a temporary abode in the Ghetto while awaiting their transfer to Auschwitz, from where they were never to return.

In September 1942 an official and public announcement was made by the Nazis to the effect that an internal Monetary system would operate within the self governing Jewish community of Theresienstadt. By this time the first Chief Elder, Jakob Edelstein (who was succeeded by Dr. Paul Epstein and Rabbi Nurmelstein before Theresienstadt was liberated at the end of the war) had been elected and was instructed to produce designs for a series of paper notes which were to be put into circulation within the town on January 1st, 1943.



The designs, basically as they appear on the notes, were duly presented on time; the S.S. however, decided that Moses as depicted, was far too attractive and consequently they added curls to his temples and changed the shape of the nose before printing some 14 million Kronen worth of notes in Berlin. (It has been reported that 53 million Kronen had been printed).

All of the different currencies in the possession of the Jews had been confiscated and the notes to be issued were, in fact, receipts for these monies and were accordingly headed "Quittung".

The notes finally were distributed on May 12th, 1943, four months behind schedule.

The German efforts to portray Theresienstadt as a model and ordinary Jewish settlement (and not a ghetto or another "camp") continued as late as mid-1944; this is evidenced by the following circular letter issued by the Central secretariate of the S.S. to the Jewish elders of the community on July 9th, 1944.

"The term Ghetto money or *Ghetto-Kronen* is no longer to be used. Instead the term "*Theresienstadt Kronen*", is to be used or in its shortened form "*Th-Kr*"."

All of the notes have Moses with the Commandments-on which the first Hebrew characters of each law appear-within a circular frame. At the centre is the legend "*Receipt for . . .Kronen*," and the denomination in figures; below is the falsification clause. The Star of David and denomination appear on the extreme bottom right.

The reverse states the denomination in words, the place and date-Theresienstadt, 1st January, 1943-and Jakob Edelstein's signature. The serial number appears at the top left hand side and a serial letter at the bottom right. The star of David and denomination are again repeated on the left hand bottom corner.

The seven notes have but small differences between them; each note is slightly larger than the previous one, the 1 Krone being 2" x 2" and the 100 Kronen 2-13/16" x 5-14/16".

The currency policy of the Nazis proved a complete failure; primarily, the distribution, which differentiated between men and women taking into consideration their earnings and individual needs, allowed for payment of only a small part of the beneficiary's wages in actual cash. Each member of the community was forced to "save" part of his wages. In order to promote the actual circula-

tion of money and the stability of the bank, the Nazis set up small shops selling, at inflated prices, goods originally confiscated from the Jews. Ludicrous situations arose when some of the inhabitants of the Ghetto saw their own possessions in shop windows marked at prices that they could not possibly afford! It is not surprising that under the circumstances the Jewish community did not take this monetary system seriously.

The result of this failure led the Nazis to take sterner measures in an attempt to force the movement of money. Every Jew was ordered to pay a 50 Kronen monthly tax for free time! Taxation was also imposed on parcels and by October 1st, 1943 the bank had to decrease its distribution of notes. All this, however, was to no avail and the Nazis were never able to control the utilization of the currency and their scheme was an utter fiasco.

Theresienstadt notes are normally catalogued as concentration camp money but Theresienstadt was a ghetto and not a concentration camp. This classification is due to the fact that the small known quantity of ghetto paper currency does not justify a separate grouping for this topic.

From a collectors point of view, it is important to note that many of these notes are found in a absolutely uncirculated condition. There have been constant rumours in the past, (somewhat supported by the different quality of paper and the unsatisfactory serial numbering) "that the original plates have been found and large quantities have been reprinted."

Although designed by the Jewish community itself one cannot help but wonder whether the sixth commandment "Thou shalt not kill" was intentionally left out of the frame

within which Moses is holding the tablets. It is altogether ironical and one feels rather dry humored for the German S.S. to issue notes with the three symbols of Judaism which must have had so much meaning at the time, the Star of David, the Ten Commandments held by Moses and the signature of the elder of the Jewish community. It may be of little consolation that the only practical and final use these "monies" did find was as coupons and counters for card games.

When Theresienstadt was liberated by the Russians early in 1945 just over 17,000 Jews were still there. Almost 87,000 had been deported for liquidation, about 33,000 had died in the ghetto. 2,000 are still unaccounted for and presumed to be dead.

In conclusion, no feelings can be better expressed than in Mr. J. H. Fisher's words:

"It is hoped that numismatists of the future will never have the opportunity to collect notes of their generation with such a background as the Theresienstadt notes; it is humbly hoped that the last notes with such a story and history of Theresienstadt have been issued, never to be issued again. This is my hope and it is my optimistic prayer that my hope is heard by all peoples of the world."

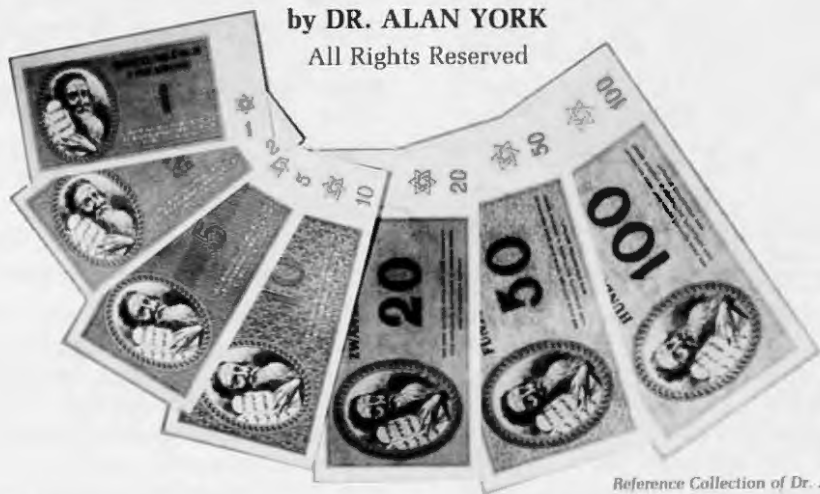
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**See THE SHEKEL
Sept.-Oct. 1982
for additional
Holocaust Numismatics**



THE PAPER MONEY USED IN THE THERESIENSTADT GHETTO: THE INSIDE STORY.

by DR. ALAN YORK
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Reference Collection of Dr. Alan York

As is well-known, Theresienstadt (Terezin) in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia which was part of occupied Czechoslovakia, was designed by the Nazis as a "model" ghetto. There the world could observe the "humane" incarceration of the Jews. (For an excellent historical background, see the fine article by Evzen Sknouril, *Theresienstadt's Bleak Story* in *The Shekel*, September-October 1982.) This essay will concentrate on the banknotes themselves so as to fill in some of the numismatic background to Sknouril's excellent report.

In September of 1942, inmates of Theresienstadt were informed that as of 1 January 1943 a mandatory form of paper currency would be issued there, denominated in units known as "getto kronen" (ghetto crowns.) The crown was the historic unit of Czechoslovakian currency. Peter Kien, an artist and playwright imprisoned there was ordered to design these notes (See the *Shekel*,

September-October 1982.) The scrip notes were to portray Moses holding the Tablets of the Law. Kien submitted dignified designs which appeared to satisfy the needs of the Camp Commandant. However, he took the precaution of submitting them to his superior, the *Reichsprotektor* of Bohemia and Moravia, the infamous Reinhard Heydrich, who rejected them out of hand.

The portrait of Moses, he maintained, was too Aryan in appearance. Moses drawn as in a painting known to Czech Jews, had to have a more "Jewish" appearance: A long, hooked nose and curly hair was ordered. In a pique of sardonic humor, Heydrich further decreed that the hand of Moses was to cover up that commandment of the *Decalogue*, "Thou shalt not kill!" In addition, the words "getto kronen" were not to be used. "Theresienstadt kronen" sounded much better, he reasoned.

A new set of designs incorporating Heydrich's orders were resubmitted

and approved. The print order went out to the *National Bank* in Prague which directed the *State Printing Works* to proceed with all deliberate speed to produce the world's first paper money, ordered by a governmental authority, to be used by Jews exclusively. The contract was given to Bedrich Potasek, the graphic designer, and then to Jindra Schmidt, the distinguished Czechoslovak engraver of many banknotes, postage stamps, and fiscal paper. In his reference collection, this writer has a complete set of the Theresienstadt notes, each personally autographed by Potasek and Schmidt.

When the "notes" arrived at Theresienstadt in May of 1943 (five months behind schedule), the problem of what to do with them arose. A real circulating currency within the confines of the ghetto was never intended. The intended function of the ghetto kronen was cosmetic, a cover-up aid with which to impress visiting delegations from the *International Red Cross Commission* and foreign press correspondents. A circulating currency, vital to a stable society, would demonstrate to the outside world how well the Jews

were being treated by their "civilized" captors.

The first distribution of these notes is believed to have taken place on 12 May 1943. On that date, all cash money still in the hands of the Jews was exchanged for these "quittungen" (receipts) on the basis of one Reichsmark for 10 Theresienstadt kronen. Valuable and useful items were taken from all prisoners and, along with inferior goods, were placed on "sale" in special shops at inflated rates of 10 to 100 times their original value.

Salaries and Pensions Paid to Inmates

Theoretically, it was possible to buy back confiscated goods with these "receipts" but few could afford to do so. On 5 November 1943, the Nazi authorities promulgated a series of salaries and pensions paid to inmates to give this "money" some slight semblance of official circulation. According to a communication received recently from the (non-Jewish!) Director of the *Jewish Museum* in Prague, elderly Jews and those unable to work received greatly reduced salaries.

HOW THE NAZIS STRIPPED THE ELDERLY JEWS

Nazi archives at the Ministry of Finance and at the Reichsbank have yielded substantial data which is open to the public and so comprehensive that many heirs of those eligible for *Wiedergutmachung* (Reparations) discovered holdings of which they had not been aware, such as utility shares or treasury bonds purchased long before Hitler came to power.

In some instances, the files of internment centers, notably the one at Theresienstadt, turned up meticulously detailed inventories of property taken from inmates. Here, for example, is a partial list,

with values, of the worldly goods of Frau Ansbacher, a widow who left for Theresienstadt on September 23, 1942:

Chest of drawers	Reichsmark 10
Kitchen table	5
Washstand	3.50
Bench	5
2 easy chairs	6
Bedsteads	15
Brushwood kindling	7.5
Sofa	5
Desk	20
Bamboo chairs	10
Stove and pots	44
Coverlet	5

—A *Backward Look*,
by Daniel Lang

SWINDLING THE JEWS INTO A MODEL "GHETTO"

Before their deportation to the ghetto in Czechoslovakia, all inmates had to fill out forms (*Heimeinkaufsverträge*, "Home Purchase Contracts") containing more than two hundred queries designed to elicit a disclosure of one's total property. Apprised though they were that completion of the forms would mean automatic confiscation of that property, those bound for Theresienstadt answered the queries unhesitatingly, the reason being that the

camp was played up throughout Germany as a model "old people's ghetto" (*Altersghetto*) to which only the truly fortunate among deportees could aspire; in exchange for their property, so the regime's promises went, applicants could look forward to spending their sunset years in safety and serenity. (Theresienstadt was a way station to Auschwitz, nearby.)

—A *Backward Look*,
by Daniel Lang

The monthly salary and pension schedule of Theresienstadt was published:

Working men, according to their jobs	105-205 Th. kr.
Working women, according to their jobs	95-205 Th. kr.
Part-time workers	80 Th. kr.
Caretakers (make-work jobs)	70 Th. kr.
War-wounded and holders of the Iron Cross.	
First Class degree or higher	105 Th. kr.
"Prominente" (doctors, professors, scientists, well-known cultural artists and politicians)	145 Th. kr.

A complex banking system employing about 75 bookkeepers and clerks was established by the Nazis to keep track of the circulation (or lack of it.) This bank was known as the *Bank der Jüdischen Selbstverwaltung* (The Bank of Jewish Self-Administration.) Desider Friedman, a prominent Austrian Zionist leader was appointed Manager of the Bank. Relatives on the outside were encouraged to send funds in legitimate

1502-V/7-44/rk

BANK DER JÜDISCHEN SELBSTVERWALTUNG
Schäfer Jenny
111/43-6

Theresienstadt, den 18.10.1944

Wir buchen in Ihr: Bahnhofstrasse 19

gesperrtes Spargeldkonto 64-604	SOLL	Val:	HABEN
für Überweisung Bank der Deutschen Arbeit A.G., Niederlassung Frankfurt a.M. auftrags Altbauenz, Baustelle O.T., O.B.L. Rouen RM 212.52	Th. Kr		Th. Kr
Gegen Vorlage dieses Schreibens kann die Abhebung des Ihnen gutgeschrieben Betrages in die Sparkarte sofort erfolgen.			2.125.20

BANK DER JÜDISCHEN SELBSTVERWALTUNG

TRANSFER FORM OF THE BANK OF JEWISH SELF-ADMINISTRATION

Reichmarks 212.52 were transferred to the account of Jenny Schäfer from a bank in Frankfurt and credited to the amount of 2,125.20 Theresienstadt kronen. It is from this document that we learned for the first time of the 10 to 1 (10:1) valuation formula of Theresienstadt kronen to official German Reichmarks.

currency to the accounts in the Bank of the inmates. There, they were converted to Theresienstadt crown receipts at the standardized rate of 1RM to 10 Th. kr. Of course, nothing could be bought with them so that the funds exchanged for the "receipts" was yet another Nazi swindle, one of many.

After the Red Cross Commission left Theresienstadt, the Nazis made a film (still in existence) showing how well the Jews were being treated. One scene shows long lines of elderly Jews with Theresienstadt crowns and savings Pass Books in hand, in front of the Bank waiting to deposit their "savings."

The swindles and taxes were many. In order to receive a needed package of food or clothing from the outside, the inmates paid a minimum of 50 Th. kr. depending upon its size. This payment was in addition to the 1000 Protectorate kronen paid by the sender to the Nazis at Gestapo headquarters (a frightening experience in itself) for the *Special Theresienstadt Parcel Post Tax stamp*. This had to be affixed to all packages destined for the Theresienstadt inmates. Payment of these fees, even then, did not guarantee safe arrival of the packages, since many were confiscated (stolen) by the guards.

In order to keep up the semblance of a circulating currency, the Nazis in August of 1943 devised a "free-

time tax" with its accompanying bureaucracy of a Free-Time Administration (*Freizeit Gestaltung*.) All inmates had to pay a tax of 50 Th. kr. monthly for the privilege of relaxing. If a Jew wanted to relax in a coffee house, he had to pay 5 Th. Kr. for admission and for the privilege of then buying a cup of "ersatz" tea or coffee for 2 Th. kr.

The inmates, many of whom were talented playwrights, composers and entertainers often put on plays, concerts, operas and other entertainments to maintain their skills and for their own amusement. Admission fees of 10 Th. kr. were decreed by the Free-Time Administration for the privilege of a prisoner watching a performance by other prisoners. Illustrated here for the first time anywhere in numismatic literature are two admission tickets issued by this

Reference collection of Dr. Alan York



Two "Free-Time Administration Tax Tickets" for admission to performances of *THE KISS* and *THE BARTERED BRIDE*. Note the number of Free-Time Administration on the ticket to *THE KISS*.

Reference collection of Dr. Alan York



Special Theresienstadt Parcel Post Tax Stamp affixed to all food and clothing packages destined to inmates of the ghetto. It could only be purchased at local Gestapo HQ.



Personally autographed 10 and 20 Th. Kr. notes (above the star of David) by Jindra Schmidt, engraver of these "receipts."



Reverse of the 100 kronen note, personally autographed by Bedrich Potasek, graphics designer (following the concept layout of Peter Kien) for the note.

Richtlinien:

- Jeder Ghettoinsasse ist verpflichtet, stets den Arbeitsausweis bei sich zu tragen und auf Verlangen den hierzu berechtigten Organen vorzulegen.
- Er ist verpflichtet seinen Arbeitsausweis bei Überstellungen der Evidenz, bei Änderungen des Arbeitseinsatzes der Einsatzstelle, bei Erkrankungen der Aufnahmekasse der Ambulanz, bei Fassung von verschiedenen Medikationen dem Apotheker, bei Umfunktisierung der Arbeitszentrale zwecks amtlicher Berücksichtigung vorzulegen.
- Er hat ferner dafür zu sorgen, dass sein dienstlicher Tag von der zuständigen Abteilung in der Arbeitsausweis eingetragen wird.
- Unterlassung der obengeführten Vorschriften wird geahndet. Ebenfalls wird eine eigenmächtige Änderung der Angaben im Arbeitsausweis bestraft.

AUSGESTELLT am 19. VII. 1944 von *[Signature]*

Spezial Nr. 42 *A931* Unterschrift des Eigentümers *Jenny Schaffer*

GHETTO THERESIENSTADT *XII-6143*
 ARBEITSAUSWEIS Trp. Nr.

Name *Schäfer*
 Vorname *Jenny*
 Geboren *4. IV. 1868* Nr. *A. 95544 Ffm.*
 Verfallskategorie

UBIKATION:

Datum	wohnt	Bestätigung d. Evidenz
<i>11. IV. 1944</i>	<i>Bahnhofstr. 19</i>	<i>EF 7 FV. 3</i>

DIESER ARBEITSAUSWEIS IST IN DEN PERSONALAUSWEIS EINZULEGEN.

Reference collection of Dr. Alan York

Work Pass for 75-year-old Jenny Schaffer. The filled-in pass was used to determine the salary in Th. Kronen.

“Free-Time” bureaucracy. These were to the productions of *The Kiss* and Smetana's national opera *The Bartered Bride* at the theatre on Hauptstrasse.

According to the rules of the ghetto, it should have been possible to purchase food and sundries at the ghetto stores. But again this was only cosmetic. All food in the ghetto was strictly rationed and in very short supply because of war-time shortages. There were exceptions however: Mustard and horseradish were always available! Any form of mercantile trade with the “receipts” was impossible because nothing could be bought with them. They did fulfill a function however; they were used by card players as ‘chips’ in their card games!

According to Julius Sém's superb official state catalogue of Czechoslovak paper money (*Papírové Peníze Na Území Československa 1762-1975*. Second Edition, only 251-350

sets of the Theresienstadt notes were available to collectors after the war's end. The Czechoslovak State Bank as a service to collectors for some years sold sets, at reasonable prices, of the wartime notes of the Protectorate, Slovakia, and Theresienstadt perforated (sometimes unperforated) imprinted with the world “specimen” or its equivalent in the Czech language. What little that was on hand in November of 1952 was destroyed by burning.

How Many Notes Are Available to Collectors?

So, why if only a tiny amount was sold by the Bank to collectors are they so plentiful today? One possible answer lies in a 1973 Hans Schulman (New York) auction catalogue, long before today's heightened interest in concentration camp notes. Excerpts from that catalogue offers one answer:

"World War II Concentration Camp
Theresienstadt Notes"

"Our collector friend succeeded after the War to buy up a quantity of Jewish Concentration Camp Money found in the camp. He did not buy the unused sets. . . . He bought what was "in cash" only. All USED (author's emphasis) paper money . . . 15,198 notes. He obtained thus the total of 941 complete sets and a large balance of miscellaneous quantities. A set has thus 7 pieces. Originally a set cost \$10.00. . . . He has only 941 complete sets because in the 100 kronen there are only 941 to be obtained."

In addition to the 941 sets sold in eight lots at this auction there were 15 additional lots totalling some 9000 additional notes of all denomi-

nations with the exception of the 100 Th. kr. Not known as yet is the quantity of new notes he left behind. So, when a collector hears that there is a factory in Brooklyn or elsewhere turning out fakes of the Theresienstadt notes, he should realize that a goodly part of the available notes today originated in part with this hoard.

If any readers can shed light on any concentration camp or displaced persons camp paper money, I would be grateful to hear from them.

Dr. Alan York
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East Hampton, New York 11937

Certificates of the Teresin Ghetto

In accordance with the orders of Reichprotektor Reinhard Heydrich of Jan. 1, 1942, Teresin was set apart as a ghetto, an institution for confinement of an international group. There the Germans concentrated prominent European leaders, scholars and artists. Ultimately it held 139,654 people: From Germany 42,832; the Sudetenland, 73,608; Austria, 15,254; Holland, 4,897; Slovakia, 1,447. By the war's end, only 17,320 persons survived; 33,419 died in Teresin; the others had been taken away to death elsewhere.

Money was made available with the noted technical data and denominations:

Banknote artwork was prepared pri-

or to 1943 under the direction of the National Bank in Prague. A portrait of Moses from the library was prepared by Jindra Schmidt who was obliged to alter his art to depict an ugly appearance. The drawing featured the signature of Jacob Edelstein, "The Chief Elder of the Jews in Theresienstadt."

The 1, 2, 5 and 10 K notes are numbered with letter A and 3-digits. All others have six-digit serialized numbering. Papers are watermarked; the smaller denomination notes are on paper less heavy than the others.

After the Liberation, only some of the certificates survived. A large portion was destroyed in November 1952 by order of the State Bank. A supply was salvaged for collectors.

Value	Size	Color	Quantity printed
1 K	100x50mm	Green	2,242,000
2 K	110x55mm	Rose	1,019,000
5 K	120x58mm	Blue	530,000
10 K	125x63mm	Brown	456,000
20 K	135x66mm	Green	319,000
50 K	140x70mm	Dk. green	159,000
100 K	150x75mm	Red-brown	279,000

(Translated from "Papirové Peníze Na Územi Československa 1762-1975, Second Edition, 1975, Hradec Králové," by Julius Sém, pp. 134-135.

LODZ'S GHETTO MONEY

by William Rosenblum

Concentration camp money of Lodz, Poland elicits intense interest among collectors.

Jews were not allowed to possess money and were forced to exchange their Polish and German money for *Quittung* (receipts). This was money to be used only in the ghetto. The notes printed on March 15, 1940 (and all dated 15 May 1940) were issued in denominations of 50 pfennig, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 mark.

The description of the notes is as follows: Obverse — Upper left, Star of David in circle; upper right, QUITTUNG UBER (receipt for); and in the center, the denomination. In the lower left, LITZMANNSTADT 15 MAY 1940; lower right, DER ALTESTE DER JUDEN IN LITZMANNSTADT, and Rumkowski's (the Eldest) signature. The right margin has the denomination in figures, and a serial number.

The reverse has various designs but will contain the denomination, a Menorah, occasionally the Star of David, and a warning that all forgers will be prosecuted.

These notes were the "regular issue" notes, but we will soon see that smaller denominations were needed, and later crude notes and coins of magnesium and aluminum were issued. Many of the notes come in various different shades and at least the 10 and 20-mark notes were printed on both plain and watermarked paper. Pick-Siensen lists, these two varieties (the watermarked being the scarcer), but it does not list the two serial number colors that exist on the 5-mark. The two colors are orange and red, with the orange being the scarcer.

The 50-pfennig, 1 and 20-mark are the most common denominations, the 5 and 10-mark notes are scarce, while the 2 and 50-mark notes are rare. The three common denominations are very common in Unc. The 5 and 10-mark notes can usually be found in EF or better, while the two rare denominations are collected in all grades.

Litzmannstadt Coins

The inhabitants of Lodz ghetto faced a lack of small denomination money. Both coins and notes were issued. In his book on Polish coins, Terlecki lists eight coins, while the *Standard Catalog of World Coins* lists five under Lodz ghetto.

We have used both Lodz and Litzmannstadt to describe the ghetto. The Polish name was Lodz, but on April 11, 1940, Adolf Hitler, by special decree, changed the name in memory of General Litzmann who was killed nearby in World War I.

The first coin issued was a 10-pfennig aluminum-magnesium piece dated 1942. It is 21mm and is listed as Ter-250 and KM-1. The coins depicted, among other things, two oak leaves, and it was because of this that the Nazis thought the coin bore too close a resemblance to German coinage and the piece was withdrawn.

Another 10-pfennig was issued later that year with a more acceptable design (Ter-250, KM-5), but two factors caused by the war in 1943 made this a very short-lived issue. There was severe inflation which made the demand for 10-pfennig coins much less than the previous year, and be-

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THE ENIGMATIC "M W H" SCRIP NOTES



Reference Collection
of Dr. Alan York

OF THE HOLÝŠOV CONCENTRATION CAMP IN THE OCCUPIED SUDETENLAND

BY DR. ALAN YORK

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It is now nearly two years since the distinguished Danish cataloguer, Carl Siemsen, co-author with Albert Pick of *Das Lagergeld der Konzentrationslager und D.P. Lager 1933-1945* in a personal communication first called to my attention some sets of sixteen "prämianschein" scrip coupons. These had the letters "M W H" and values of 1 Rpf to 2 RM printed on them. They had recently been found in Czechoslovakia.

About three months later, a single chit of 5 RM also surfaced. Superficially, they resemble admission tickets to a movie theatre, both in size and in feel. All of these vouchers are of the same size, about 54 by 30mm varying slightly in size by ± 1.5 mm. All are perforated on all four sides, printed uniface in black ink, with the nominal value and the "M W H" logo. Beneath is a light gray underprinted security background with an additional eight "M W H" logos. The card stock paper varies in color.

The color description following is only approximate.

1 Rpf - Gray	9 Rpf - Dark Pink
2 Rpf - Light Blue	10 Rpf - Yellow
3 Rpf - Light Grey	
Green	15 Rpf - Light Pink
4 Rpf - Buff	20 Rpf - Light Gray
5 Rpf - Red - Orange	40 Rpf - Yellowish
	Cream
6 Rpf - Gray	50 Rpf - Salmon
7 Rpf - Tannish	1 RM - Tan
8 Rpf - Gray Green	2 RM - Gray Blue
	5 RM - Buff

What follows here is based loosely upon a photocopy of an article from the Czechoslovak journal *Notafilie*. Regrettably, the only copy available did not include the author's name or the date of issue. (If and when that information becomes known, it will be given full credit in this publication.)

Siemsen has identified the "M W H" logo on these chits from a contemporary letterhead in his possession; it belongs to the Nazi German industrial firm "Metallwerke Hol-



FIRST REPRODUCTION OF A COMPLETE
 SET OF HOLYSOV CONCENTRATION
 CAMP NOTES ANYWHERE IN THE
 NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

(from the Reference Collection of Dr. Alan York)

leischen, G.m.b.H.," a slave labor ammunition work camp in the occupied Czechoslovak Sudetenland territory.

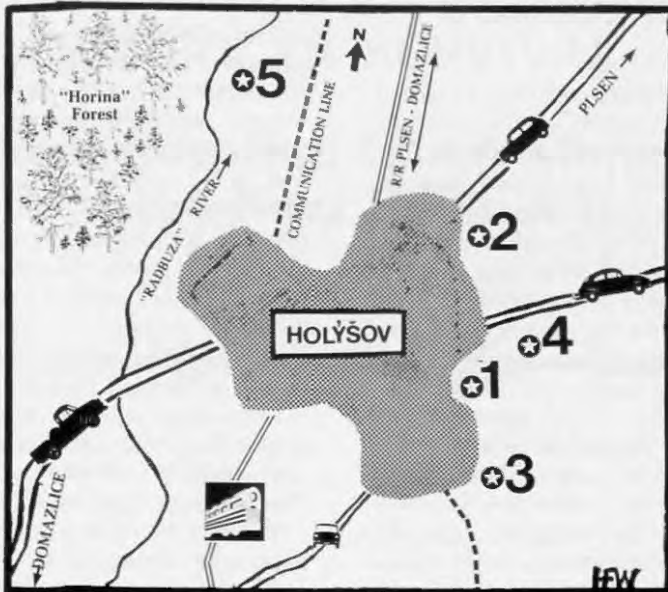
Holleischen was the Germanized name of the small Czechoslovak village of Holýšov about 20 km southwest of Plzen (Pilsen) in the county of Domazlice. This factory complex was established as a sub-camp of the infamous Flossenbürg concentration camp. The S.S. provided the guards for the ammunition factory which was built by the Berlin-based "Baupruppe Schlempe," which specialized in "lager" (camp) construction.

It was constructed about 2 km north of the town, deep in the Horina forest there. As war demands for its ammunition increased to meet the Allied bombings of the major German armament factories, the enlargement of the Holýšov factories was



ordered by the War Ministry. This effort was given the secret code name Projekt II. The Holýšov manufacturing complex (slave labor camp) was divided into five sectioned areas, cordoned off by work teams.

Section 1. For civilian male laborers. This camp was made up of Czechs 75%, with the balance from Hungary, France, Holland and Greece. A total of 2200 men passed through this section.



1. CAMP FOR CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (MEN)
2. PRISON CAMP FOR CZECH WOMEN
3. P.O.W. CAMP FOR FRENCH SOLDIERS
4. P.O.W. CAMP FOR ITALIAN SOLDIERS
5. CONCENTRATION CAMP FOR JEWISH WOMEN

Section 2. For Czech women. It was built in April 1941, north of the village. It housed an average population of 720 women.

Section 3. For French prisoners-of-war soldiers captured during the 1940 blitzkrieg into France. Started in July 1940 to the east of the village, at any given time it contained an average population of 360. These POWs were forced to make ammunition in violation of the Geneva convention governing treatment of prisoners-of-war.

Section 4. For Italian Prisoners-of-War. With the collapse of the fascist government in Italy, Italian soldiers who fought against the Germans were captured and imprisoned. About 1000 were sent to Holýšov to a new section established in July 1943, northeast of the village. They too were forced to make ammunition.

Section 5. For Jewish women over 14 years of age. Established late in the war. (June 1944), it was a maximum security sub-camp of Flossenbürg. The buildings of former agricultural farms sheltered an average population of about 2000.

In the short time from the creation of the Jewish section until liberation on 28 April 1945, about 5000 Jewish women and 120 Jewish men passed through the Holýšov labor camp.

They were from Slovakia, Hungary, France, Poland, Romania and the Ukraine. Vicious S.S. women guards trained at the Ravensbruck and Flossenbürg concentration camps drove the women to greater production of ammunition by verbal abuse, kicking, beating, reduced rations, and the threats of savage dogs. Allied bombings on 26 April 1945 destroyed a large part of the Holýšov complex, setting conditions for a successful revolt of the prisoners in the camp two days later.

Those guards who were not killed in the bombings, fled to prevent capture by the approaching Allied armies. Many prisoners escaped and those too weak to flee waited until the day of Liberation.



Reference Collection — Dr. Alan York

The scrip notes of Holýšov, as were most concentration camp scrip notes issued mainly where slave laborers were employed, permitted wage schedules, rewards, etc. Those "M W H" notes seen to date appear to be unused remainders. They were printed in sheets of an unknown quantity of notes. Their relative rarity is hard to assess at this time. The 5 RM value seems to be the scarcest. Fewer of these notes have been offered in the past months.

Collectors should remember that at one time the notes of the Westerbork transit camp were considered scarce; today they are common.

The "M W H" scrip story has not been told until now in our press.

I wish to express my thanks to Henry Wasielewski for his encouragement and art work and for translation services for this article.

Further information will be welcome. Dr. Alan York, Number One Main Street, East Hampton, New York.



50-pfennig note from the Oranienburg-Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp (only front of note is shown). Taken from *The Beauty and Lore of Coins, and Medals* by Elvira and Vladimir Clain-Stefanelli. Copyright 1974 by Riverwood Publishers Ltd., New York, Reprinted with permission.)

SYMBOL OF SURVIVAL

Concentration Camp Money of the Nazi Holocaust

by Steven Feller, ANA 96212

In the April 1981 issue of *The Numismatist*,¹ the article *Ghetto Money of the Nazi Holocaust*, written by this author, presented an introduction to the monies issued for use in the ghettos of Europe during the Second World War. It is the purpose of this paper to present several types of currency issued by some of the concentration camps in Nazi Europe. The camps that will be discussed include Oranienburg-Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald, Dachau, and

Nordhausen in Germany, Westerbork in Holland, and Auschwitz in Poland. This is meant to be representative and is by no means complete. Many other camps issued currency, including Amersfoort and Vught in Holland, Bozen in Italy, Lichtenburg, Flossenbürg, Gross-Rosen, Haselhorst-Nord, Herzogenbusch, Neugengamme, and Ravensbrück in Germany, Mauthausen in Austria, Stutthof in Poland (then West Prussia), and Grine in Norway.²

SACHSENHAUSEN

Oranienburg-Sachsenhausen was established as a camp for political prisoners. Located near Berlin, this camp developed into one of the largest concentration camps of the Second World War. It has been estimated that of the 200,000 people interned here 100,000 died.³

This camp was the first to issue a camp currency for use by inmates. Before the issuance of a currency prisoners were allowed to possess German banknotes, and purchases were allowed from the nearby town. However, the camp administration soon thought of the idea of establishing a camp canteen with an exclusive currency for use there. All other money in the possession of the prisoners had to be exchanged for the camp money (less 30 percent for "expenses").⁴

The obverse of the 50-pfennig note shows the striking symbolism depicted on the note by the SS guards in front of barbed wire. The reverse of the note (not shown) describes the money in words. Other denominations of 5 pfennig, 10 pfennig and 1 mark were also issued in this design, among the most graphic of any issued by the various concentration camps. A later, more plain issue of notes was also printed but is seldom seen today.

A most interesting issue of notes from this camp are the famous "Operation Bernhard" counterfeits of English currency. Bernhard Kruger (an SS major) gathered together the most skilled engravers, artists, printers and related craftsmen to be found in the concentration camps and organized the world's greatest counterfeiting scheme of all time. During the period between December 1942 and February 1945 essentially perfect English currency was produced. Arlie Slabaugh estimates that between



A counterfeit 50-pound English note from "Operation Bernhard."

100,000,000 and 1,400,000,000 English pounds were printed, with 300,000,000 a reasonable estimate.⁵ The Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior quotes the more authoritative sounding total of 134,609,945 English pounds printed.⁶ The 50-pound "Operation Bernhard" counterfeit is quite good, being extremely similar to the genuine note. Plans were even underway to have American currency counterfeited but large-scale production runs never took place, although Slabaugh notes that plates were prepared for the \$100 note.⁷

BUCHENWALD

Opened in July 19, 1937, near Weimar, Germany, Buchenwald was considered the worst of the pre-war camps. Originally planned for the incarceration of professional criminals, its population soon included political prisoners, particularly Jews. Following Kristallnacht (Crystal Night) in 1938, 10,000 Jews were sent to this camp. Of the 238,380 who were officially entered on the rolls, 56,549 died. An armed underground took over the camp near the end of the war and handed the camp over to the American army on April 11, 1945.⁸

Numismatically speaking, Buchenwald issued a variety of notes in 0.5-, 1-, 2- and 3-mark denomina-



A 0.5 mark premium note from the Buchenwald Concentration Camp (Rottleberode Subcamp). This note was overprinted *Aussenkommando* for outside work.

tions. The notes generally can be divided into two groups: regular canteen and *Aussenkommando* canteen notes. Translated into English *Aussenkommando* means outside command or unit and refers to the use of the note as a premium for field work.

The use of premium notes was specifically authorized under the "Service Regulations For the Granting of Favors to Inmates" issued by the SS on May 15, 1943.⁹ These regulations listed industriousness, carefulness, good behavior, and "special work" achievement as reasons for the granting of favors. These favors were to be: 1) Lighter imprisonment for German prisoners. This included letter privileges and the ability to keep one's hair; 2) supplementary food; and 3) money premiums. Each prisoner was allowed up to 10 marks per week to be used for the purchase of cigarettes at the camp canteen, other canteen purchases, brothel visits, or credit to a savings account. The regulations went on to specify

that a visit to a brothel would cost 2 marks for which 1.5 marks would be kept by the SS and 0.5 marks would be used for "expenses."

A 0.5-mark note for outside work (*Aussenkommando*) was issued for use at the subcamp Rottleberode (hence the overprint S.S. Ko. Rottleberode on the note). The note is very crude, being roughly printed on one-side only on coarse paper. Of the concentration camp issues the notes from Buchenwald are among the most common.

DACHAU

Dachau, the first SS organized camp, was established on March 10, 1933, less than two months after Hitler had taken power. The main camp was located in the suburb of Munich, but by the end of the war some 150 subcamps of Dachau had spread over southern Germany and Austria. The first experiments on human beings were performed on the concentra-



A 1-mark note from the Dachau Concentration Camp. (Taken from *Das Lagergeld der Konzentrations- und D.P.-Lager 1933-1945* by Albert Pick and Carl Siemsen. Copyright 1976 by Baltenberg Verlag, München. Reprinted with permission.)

tion camp inmates at Dachau. Of the 40,000 people who died there, it has been estimated that 80 to 90 percent were Jewish.¹⁰

Premium notes were issued as in Buchenwald but the Dachau notes were of a distinctly different design. The notes from this camp are among the rarest of all the concentration camp notes.

NORDHAUSEN

Located in central Germany, Nordhausen was north of the Buchenwald camp. At the work subcamp Mittelbau nine different denominations of notes were issued spanning a range from 0.01 marks to 10 marks. The printing on the reverse of the note refers to the use of the note at the canteen and also gives a stern warning against counterfeiting. (See next page for illustration.)

WESTERBORK

The main transit camp used for transporting the Jews of Holland to the concentration camps further east, Westerbork was located in the northeast part of Holland near the German border in a very remote part



A 100-cent note from the Transit Camp at Westerbork, Holland, 1944.

of the country. Originally the camp was set up by the Dutch Government in 1939 as a refuge to house Jews escaping from Nazi Germany. Three years later, after the German occupation of Holland had taken place, the SS took over the camp. More than 100,000 Dutch Jews (including the teenager Anne Frank), are estimated to have passed through Westerbork. As in the ghettos, Jews were placed in charge of the internal operation of the camp. A Jewish police force was established to maintain order; a theater, an orchestra and even a hospital with 1725 beds and 20 surgeons were set up.¹¹

Notes were issued in denominations of 10, 25, 50 and 100 cents and are dated February 15, 1944. All of the notes share the same distinctive design. The front of the note has a vignette showing the camp and the notation that the note is a gutschien, a coupon or note. The reverse of the note also shows a picture of the camp but this time the scene is in profile. Superimposed on the camp is a gear (a work symbol?). Somer Jones notes that the chimney that is clearly visible was symbolically meant to be a factory chimney but was in reality a chimney from a hot-water boiler used for washing clothes!¹²

The notes from Westerbork are not rare and complete sets of four notes can be readily obtained from dealers.

AUSCHWITZ

Today, Auschwitz is a synonym for horror. It was the largest concentration and extermination camp set up by the Nazis. Auschwitz was located near the Polish town of Oswiecim in southwestern Poland. The camp was established by direct order of Heinrich Himmler on April 27, 1940. It has been estimated that between 1,000,000 and 2,500,000 Jewish people were systematically killed there, along with thousands of other "undesirables." At Auschwitz murder was performed on a mass production basis. The Soviet army found 7650 people alive when they liberated the camp on January 27, 1945.¹³



A 1-mark note from the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. (Taken from *Das Lagergeld der Konzentrations- und D.P.-Lager 1933-1945* by Albert Pick and Carl Siemsen. Copyright 1976 by Baltenberg, München. Reprinted with permission.)



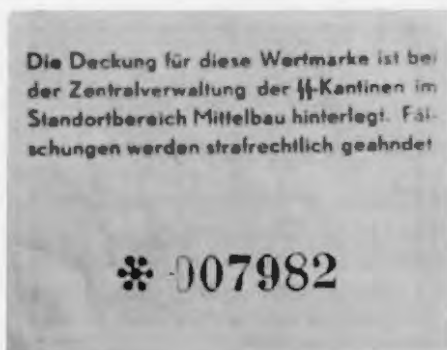
A 0.01-mark note from the Work Camp Mittelbau at Nordhausen Concentration Camp is fairly common. Other denominations are less common.

At a death camp it would seem that there was very little need for money. This seems to be the case, as the Auschwitz issues are extremely rare today. The note is stamped with the seal of the "Kommandtur, K.L. Auschwitz Waffen SS" or Commander, Concentration Camp Auschwitz, Waffen SS. The money is very crude as one would expect judging from its origin.

The numismatist interested in this subject has but two book references: Arlie Slabaugh's *Prisoner of War Monies and Medals*, published in 1966 and the more detailed *Das Lagergeld der Konzentrations- und D. P.-Lager, 1933-1945* by Albert Pick and Carl Siemsen published in 1976 and printed in Germany. Another excellent source of information is auction catalogs put out by auction houses specializing in Judaic material.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to acknowledge Dr. Herb Wiese for his help in translating German. Dr. Charles Hamilton and Mr. Tom Foss are gratefully acknowledged for their photographic assistance, and Mr. Michael Wojtowycz is thanked for his generous gift of the Mittelbau note.



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NOTES

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4. Pick and Siemsen, p. 45.
5. Slabaugh, pp. 39-41.
6. Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior, *Report on Forgery in Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp*, (reprinted in Copenhagen: Jorgen Somod, 1981), p. 14.
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8. *Encyclopedia Judaica*, (Jerusalem: Keter, 1971), IV, pp. 1442-1445.
9. Pick and Siemsen, pp. 48-56.
10. *Encyclopedia Judaica*, (Jerusalem: Keter, 1971), V, pp. 1218-1219.
11. *Encyclopedia Judaica*, (Jerusalem: Keter, 1971), XVI, pp. 466-467.
12. Somer Jones, "Inmate Unveils Concentration Camp Notes," *Bank Note Reporter*, May, 1981, p.21.
13. *Encyclopedia Judaica*, (Jerusalem: Keter, 1971), III, pp. 854-855.

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LODZ Continued from page 34

cause there was little or no fuel and these coins were used to kindle fires. Magnesium is a very flammable metal, even used in fire-works, and probably most were destroyed in this manner.

The magnesium 10-pfennig is even scarcer than the previous issue.

There were two 5-mark coins issued. One struck in aluminum and one struck in magnesium.

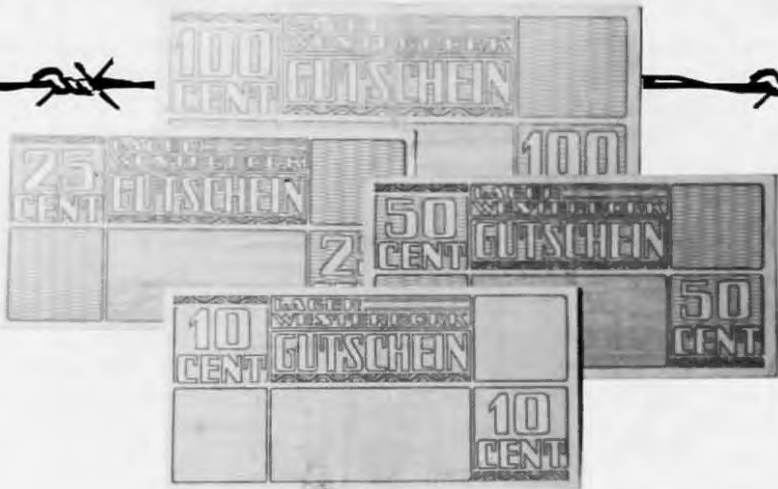
There are three 10-mark pieces, an aluminium and a magnesium, each worth about the same as the 5-mark, and another in aluminium struck from a different die. Terlecki lists all five of these coins while the *Standard Catalog* concentrates on the two commoner pieces.

Both sources list only an aluminium 20-mark coin and make no mention of a magnesium piece. We've heard unconfirmed reports that at least one piece exists.

One piece that does exist and is not listed in any reference we know of is a 20-mark aluminium piece, exactly as the last, but with the 'N' in the word 'IN' struck retrograde—that is, backwards. We know of less than five pieces extant.

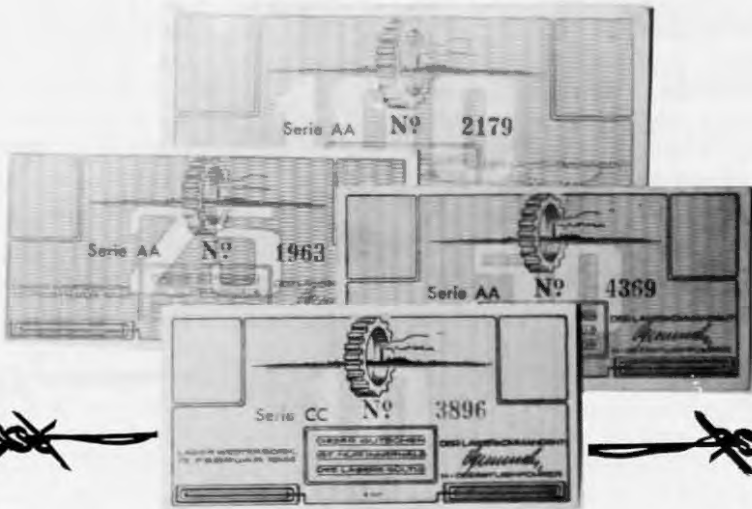
William Rosenblum is a well-known Colorado numismatist and dealer specializing in Israel coinage.

Reprinted from 'Judaic Numismatic Newsletter' and from 'The Central Jersey Lamp'—Editor.



WESTERBORK

By Arnold L. Shay



During the German Occupation of the Netherlands, 1940-1945, over 100,000 Dutch Jews, 75% of the pre-war Jewish population, were deported and liquidated. Same as in other countries under German occupation, the Jews were plundered, lost their social positions and the right to assemble.

Holland (The Netherlands) was occupied May 10, 1940. Seiss-Inquart, the infamous Austrian traitor, immediately ordered the formation of a Jewish Council, with the inten-

tion that this Council would "help the Germans in speeding up the liquidation of the Jews." All over Holland the Nazis set up Concentration Camps. Westerbork was one of the largest.

In order to accommodate the Jewish refugees from Germany, Westerbork was set up in 1939 by the Dutch Government; the first 22 German refugees arrived October 9, 1939 and by May 1940, 750 Jews were in Westerbork. The Nazis took over the Camp on July 1, 1942. The official name

was "Polizeiliches Durchgangslager"—police transit camp.—In nomine veritas, a "Transit Camp" it became. The camp was immediately fenced in with barbed wire. As. Depper, Camp Commander, saw to it that almost daily transports left for Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, Belzec, Laufen, Liebenau, Majdanek, Treblinka, etc. and even for Vittel, France. It is known that one of these transports arrived in Birkenau, was inspected by Himmler who then supervised the "liquidation."

The Gestapo rounded up many of the Jews who were "on the run" or in the "Resistance" and brought them to Westerbork which became one of the biggest reservoirs of "slave labor". The Nazis called the camp "Jerusalem"—the saying was "all roads lead through Westerbork".

Westerbork was one of the two camps in Holland with their own camp money. This "currency" was the brainchild of Depper, in order to strip the inmates of their few possessions and to line his own pockets and the pockets of his staff. In the beginning the inmates got a "receipt" for all money or valuables tak-

en and by 1944 they were "paid" with the camp money. All the notes are dated February 15, 1944—denominations are 10 (pink and blue) 25 (red and brown)-50 (blue and brown)-100 cent (green and brown). The numbers and prefixes (AA-BB-CC) are in black—the size of the first three notes is $4\frac{1}{8}$ by $2\frac{1}{8}$ ", the 100 cent is $4\frac{7}{8}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". There are known to exist 50 cent notes in brown on light brown background, numbers and prefix are brown as well.

Camp Commander Depper had a motto: "Jewish labor is needed for the German victory". The inmates of Westerbork were "farmed out" to factories to do slave labor. For this strenuous work they received "premium pay" in the Camp money. They were the lucky ones . . . with the "premium pay" they could increase their meager rations.

References: The Destruction of the Dutch Jews, Jacob Presser Documents of the persecution of the Dutch Jewry 1940-1945, Joods Historisch Museum, Amsterdam Athenaeum—Polak & Van Gennep, Amsterdam 1969 Der Gelbe Stern, Gerhard Schoenberger Research from the private collection of the author.

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- The Jews of Rome
 - New Official Medal Issues of Israel
 - AINA's First Convention of 1983
 - Varieties in Israel's Coins



Reference collection of Dr. Alan York

COUNTERFEIT of Buchenwald P/S 64a Note.

FRAUDULENT, COUNTERFEIT, FORGED, SPURIOUS AND CONTROVERSIAL: BANK NOTE ISSUES OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND GHETTOS.



By DR. ALAN YORK

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Fraudulent issues have always plagued collectors. False notes and scrip of concentration camps and ghettos of the Holocaust era, designed to deceive collectors, are now appearing with alarming frequency, as the demand for the original notes increases. Collectors must differentiate between those spurious notes designed to dupe collectors and those forged notes made to pass in commercial circulation. There is no quick way to determine which pieces are genuine. Experts find it necessary to research the original literature of the numismatic press of the occupied European countries. Polish, Czech and German writings establish that certain issues, are under a cloud of suspicion. There are some notes whose genuineness may never be ascertained with a great deal of certainty.

Collectors and researchers must handle as many notes as possible to learn about the papers, type faces, watermarks (or lack of them) and graphic designs generic to certain locales and time periods. As there is a paucity of information in the numismatic press on Holocaust period issues, it is recommended that one study the postage stamp issues of the same period and area in the philatelic literature. Philatelic research in the area of Holocaust studies today is more advanced than the numismatic. One method of detection of forgeries current among philatelists, is commended to all numismatists: the technique of ultra-violet light detection. The best type of ultra-violet lights to use for this purpose combine separate light bulbs for both long and short-wave propagation. Certain papers exposed to ultra-vio-

let radiation in a dark room fluoresce brightly; others not at all.

Some reflect a purplish glow. Some inks, particularly those used on rubber stamp pad overprints, when exposed to ultra-violet radiation will glow a bright gold or orange-yellow shade. Some researchers note that fluorescent papers and inks used in non-experimental services were a post World-War II development. Others believe that commercially-available fluorescent stamp pad inks were used prior to and during the war. Much work needs to be done in this area of study. This is a challenge to collectors to undertake original research which they would share, rather than always leaving everything to the "experts." Start by turning on an ultra-violet light source and note its effect on all of your concentration camp, ghetto, and Holocaust items: Bank notes, covers, yellow stars, all. Compare your results with fellow collectors; publish your results. Everyone will benefit from what you may discover.

BUCHENWALD

In 1950, the *Bulletin de la Société d'Études pour l'Histoire du Papier Monnaie*, published in Auxerre, France, first made a cryptic statement about the "Schwerte (Ruhr)" cachet overprints on Buchenwald notes which translates: "A counterfeit overprint 'Schwerte (Ruhr)' an apocryphal cachet applied by a Russian internee at the Münchenof (sic!) Displaced Persons camp."

This warning has further been repeated by Pick/Siemsen, Söllner, Slabaugh and others. (It is not uncommon for cataloguers to repeat that which has been published by others.) Now, Schwerte (in the Ruhr) was indeed a sub-camp of Buchenwald. At the time of the utilization of the D.P. camp at Mönchehof, a bundle of Buchenwald notes could be



FORGERY

This note has been created on watermarked paper with a slight greenish tint. Original Buchenwald notes do NOT have a watermark or the SS insignia placed on the reverse.

bought for a dollar or two. Few collected them. Indeed, hardly anyone at this time collected any kind of paper money. Concentration camp notes were hard to give away. So what would be gained by creating another (unwanted) variety? True, at Mönchehof there were created many philatelic covers, stamps, souvenir sheets and postal cards for the then-booming philatelic market, but not for the paper money market of 1945-1948. That market was almost non-existent at that time.

In a personal communication to the author from David Atsmony of Tel-Aviv, one of the first to scientifically study concentration camp notes, who knew the "overprinter" personally, Atsmony attests to his honesty and integrity, and to the genuineness of these overprints. Aside from this initial 1950 French caution nothing else original has been published to prove the Schwerte (Ruhr) overprints to be fraudulent.

A particularly dangerous (recently printed) counterfeit exists of the Buchenwald P/S 64a note, the unoverprinted red RM2 Aussenkommando issue. It is offered in absolute crisp uncirculated condition on sparkling white paper, which to the uninitiated eye looks like a fabulous find, a truly beautiful note. This is what gives it away as a fake. The genuine ones just don't come that way.

As the United States Army approached Buchenwald, the Nazis

ried the genuine notes together into tight bundles of hundreds of notes and consigned them to the fire, along with other evidences of their criminal activities. This tight binding prevented their total destruction; it left the edges of the notes charred and scorched and well indented where the cord binding cut into the edges. *It is this edge destruction which marks the genuine notes.* All of the fakes look fresh enough to have been printed this morning. *These fraudulent issues all bear a diagnostic 5-digit serial number starting in the 90,000 series.*

During the past year, a particularly crude concoction of the P/S58 RM - .50 Buchenwald note has emerged. This should deceive no one but beginning and uninitiated collectors. It is printed on watermarked paper (the genuine ones are unwatermarked) with a slight greenish tint. There are slight differences in the type faces of the same letters on the obverse. On the reverse is a crude circle with an enclosed S.S. runic symbol. The genuine notes are all uniface and do not bear this symbolism.

BOLZANO (Bozen)

Dr. Söllner in his fine article in *The Shekel* (September-October 1982) suggests that the notes of the Police Transit Camp of Bolzano bearing the rubber-stamped cachet of the camp stamped upon them have been tampered with, and that these are souvenirs produced at the time of Liberation by someone in the camp office with access to the official S.S. camp seals. Consider this however: The S.S., when they discovered these notes, used them in the city of Bolzano to "buy" goods from the same merchants who accepted them from the internal camp resistance. The bureaucratic Nazi mind probably was such that when they circulated the camp notes in the city, it had to be done according to S.S. reg-

ulations, i.e., a service stamp (*Dienststempel*) had to be applied to them to establish their validity. The Pick/Siemsen catalogue is replete with illustrations of other concentration camp notes with similar validating stamps. So these overprints could be genuine.

LODZ (LITZMANNSTADT)

It becomes necessary to distinguish Lodz notes meant to defraud the Ghetto and Nazi authorities by forgery for wartime commercial circulation from those post-war counterfeited emissions designed to cheat unsuspecting collectors.

The original Lodz notes were printed at the S. Manitius Press at Zeromski Street, 87 on the "Aryan" side of the town. The designer of the notes, Ignacy Gutman, an architect in the ghetto, was instructed to put certain secret markings on each of the notes in addition to the many random dots in the design, so that Rumkowski's ghetto bank could determine whether or not a note was genuine. These secret marks are illustrated here so that owners of Litzmannstadt notes may verify them. Not surprisingly, since so many of these notes survived the Holocaust, it will be very difficult to locate a "genuine contemporary forgery." When the notes were first issued, they had considerable purchasing power. A ghetto printer, Raucherberger made some 5500 brilliant forgeries of the 2 Mark note. However, he omitted the secret mark. Also, he released them into circulation before the first day of issue for the 2 Mark notes. (All values were not released on the same day.) The absence of the secret dot on the prematurely released 2 Mark note alerted the Bank to the counterfeiting plot. All 2 Mark notes were demonetized.

A specimen of this forgery, made in the ghetto, by a Jewish forger would be quite a find indeed. There



Top: The GENUINE 20 Mark note. Below: The "Large Number Variety" fraud.
Note its flat top on the numeral "7" and the flat bottom of numeral "2".

is also a known contemporary ghetto forgery of the 5 mark note marked "counterfeit" by the Bank.

It is believed that the plates used to print the Lodz notes still exist in Poland, and that from time to time notes are still run off to be made available for sale periodically in government tourist shops.

As the notes in this series have been found with varying watermarks, (or lack of them), serial numbers in differing colors and sizes, and papers of varying thicknesses, and some even on fluorescent papers, it is possible that some of these varieties might very well be post-war productions. It is definitely known that there is a variety of the 20 Mark note which was made for collector consumption. This is the so-called "large number variety." Illustrated here are the two numeral varieties for comparison. Here are the characteristics of the "large number variety." Those seen so far have a six-digit serial number starting with the numbers 27—. These numbers are poorly printed and the digits are not printed on a straight line. One or more of the digits are higher or lower than the others. Sometimes the red ink of the serial numbers are smudged. Most obvious, aside from the height of the digits, are the different type faces, particularly on the numbers 2 and 7. On the fakes, the top of the 7 is in the form of a straight bar, as is the bottom of the 2.

LITZMANNSTADT 20 MARK COIN

During 1946-1947, the present curator of the Numismatic Cabinet of the City of Lodz, Anatol Gupieniec, Director of the Bureau of Liquidation, was given several sacks of 20 Mark Ghetto coins for evaluation. These had been found in a cellar where a movie was being filmed.

Knowing that the 20 Mark coin was selling for 500 to 1000 zloty each on the open market, he was amazed at the huge quantity found in mint condition of this scarce coin. Analysis of this horde revealed at least 4 die varieties in addition to variations in metallic content and thickness. There were "rarities" in silver, brass, and even a rumored specimen in gold. There were "die trials" on odd-shaped blanks in several different metals. While these were being studied over the period of a year, further better fabricated varieties came up to his attention. Determining all to be post-war forgeries to dupe collectors, he ordered them to be melted down, preserving only one specimen of each for the museum. What is not known are the figures of how many had been "exported" that he could not destroy.

Reported here for the first time in the numismatic literature of the "West" are the specifications of the original coin as authenticated by the authority of Lodz.

SECRET SECURITY DOTS ON LODZ MONEY ORDERED BY THE RUMKOWSKI GHETTO BANK



Locations of the secret security dots ordered by the Rumkowski ghetto Bank. Dots centered in the illustrations have been intensified to assure guidance to collectors.

1. The coins were struck in aluminum with a diameter of 33.3 mm. and a thickness of 3 mm.
2. On the obverse are six stars, all six-sided in very closely spaced double lines.
3. The left side of the "M" in "Mark" is thinner than the right.
4. The "J" in "JUDEN" is a true "J." On some forgeries it appears as letter "I."
5. This is the most diagnostic of all—on all of the ORIGINAL 20 Mk. coins there is a small mintmark on the reverse, in the space between the letter "R" in "Mark" and the first "A" in "Litzmannstadt," in the shape of a triangle. This triangle is the German symbol for prisoner found on their unified paper money issues for prisoners-of-war and the concentration camp issues of Amersfoort.

It is most likely that as the forgers become more skilled that other varieties will appear in all coins in this series.

Since there is so much documentation of fakery in the official Polish numismatic bulletins, of the ghetto bank notes and coins, it would behoove the serious collector to be wary of all Lodz material, particularly those which can be duplicated easily, such as the 10 pfg. *Postabteilung* notes.

CREMONA

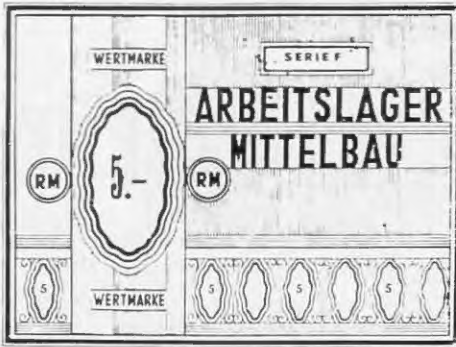
The notes of this Italian concentration (transit) camp for civilian internees, with overprinted Star of David on them, have had their

genuineness challenged lately. For years, the highly respected Italian Bobba paper money catalogue (*Cartamoneta Italiana dal 1746 ai Giorni Nostri*) has listed the Cremona notes along with every other important piece of Italian paper money ever issued. The important Italian paper-money expert, Guido Crapanzano, who first reported the find of these and other Italian camp notes for prisoners-of-war, in a personal communication to the author also testifies to their genuineness.

However, Dr. Gastone Söllner, the important expert on the Italian military and camp issues of World War II, states categorically that they are fraudulent. Most of the Cremona issues are found in an excellent state of preservation and printed on a considerably heavier paper than those few circulated notes found without the Star of David on them. At this late date, few of the inmates of those camps who still survive can remember the minor details of the paper money used there.

Here we have a serious situation where two of the most important experts in the same area of specialization, both of whom who have scientifically studied this area of collecting for many years, come to diametrically opposite viewpoints on the same notes. If experts can't

Continued on page 57



THE PAPER MONEY USED AT THE MITTELBAU DORA BY THE SLAVE LABORERS OF THE NORDHAUSEN CONCENTRATION CAMP.

by
DR. ALAN YORK
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Unless they are well studied in the tragic history of the Holocaust, numismatists viewing for the very first time, the paper-money used in the different concentration camps may look upon these artifacts as just pieces of paper money to fill in spaces in a collection.

This article, in addition to describing these numismatic evidences of concentration camp scrip, provides the background reasons for their issuance.

Part of Heydrich's "Final Solution to the Jewish Problem" as laid down at the Weissensee Conference in January of 1942, was the policy of "Vernichtung durch Arbeit," the systematic extermination of undesirables by working prisoners to death. A classic example of this policy was

the establishment of the work camps as sub-camps of concentration camps. Prisoners were forced to work to support the Nazi war effort in conjunction with the NSDAP and its supporting organizations as well as the monopolistic industrial and banking establishment. Aside from incomplete physical descriptions of the concentration camp scrip in numismatic catalogues, there is no description in them of the intertwined political and economic systems that caused them to be issued.

All prisoners, upon entering the concentration camp system were immediately stripped of all money and valuables. In order for them to survive, it was necessary for them to put forth extra work effort to earn scrip notes with which they were able to

Die Deckung für diese Wertmarke ist bei der Zentralverwaltung der H-Kantinen im Standortbereich Mittelbau hinterlegt. Fälschungen werden strafrechtlich geahndet.

* 000058

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Reverse of the rare RM 10 note of Mittelbau.

purchase additional food supplies. In addition, it was possible for inmates to receive up to RM 30 per month (about \$7.00 U.S.) paid in this scrip of course, from their families on the outside. To transmit these funds to the prisoners, it was necessary for the donors to make a frightening voluntary trip to the local Gestapo headquarters to complete the necessary paperwork. Many members of the anti-fascist underground refused to accept this scrip; they felt that to do so would contribute towards perpetuating an oppressive system which exploited them. This refusal to accept concentration camp scrip could have had stringent consequences because in itself, it could be considered an act of insubordination and a demonstration of anti-Nazi sentiment.

Scrip money was issued mainly in the camps and sub-camps that had attached "factories" contributing to the German war effort. The scrip notes were issued with the connivance of the S.S. who managed the camps and the industrialists who benefited from a cheap source of labor which would never complain.

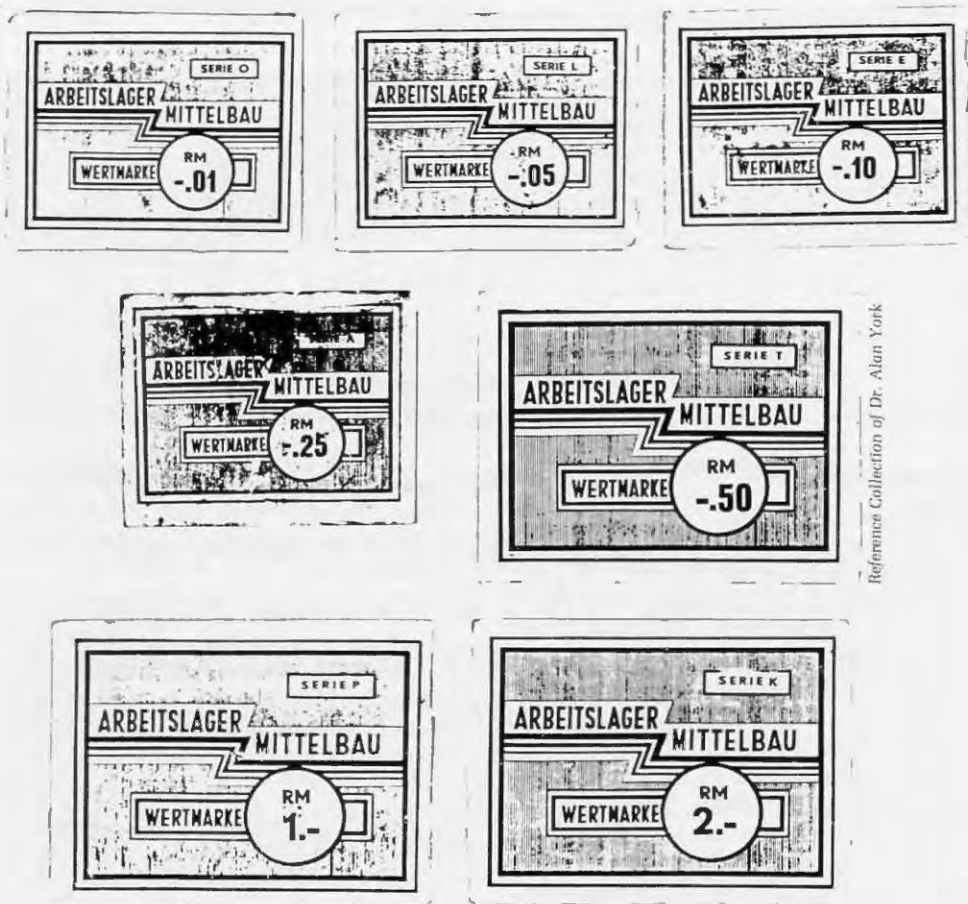
In extermination camps, where prisoners were murdered shortly after arrival, there was no need for these scrip notes. This explains why

paper money does not exist from Treblinka, Sobibor, Chelmno and Maidanek.

A still-existing document, of the "Work-Specialization Conference" at the Krupp Armament Works, issued on 16 May 1941, laid down general guide lines for use in slave labor factories:

Each prisoner will wear a badge attesting to the quality of his work output, in grades of one through three.

1. **Group One workers**—the good workers will wear a white badge entitling them to better quarters and better food. They will be entitled to extra scrip notes and special passes admitting them to movie theatres, football (soccer) matches, etc.
2. **Group Two inmates**—the average prisoner - will wear a blue badge. They will receive average nourishment and from time to time will be awarded premium scrip.
3. **The Group three prisoners**, those unwilling to work, poor workers, and those who violate camp rules wear a red badge. They receive the most severe reports to the factory and camp administrators. This results in the removal of what few privileges they had - such as loss of mail privileges, smoking, reduced rations, etc. but not enough to weaken them physically in order to force them up to Group Two performance levels.



Reference Collection of Dr. Alan York

First publication in any numismatic literature of a complete set of nine Mittelbau notes (including RM5 and 10 on first page of this article).

Herein lies an element of conflict. The Hitlerite program was to wear out the prisoners physically to the point of exhaustion and death. ("Vernichtung durch Arbeit".) The industrialists however required the slave laborers to survive in order to fill the demands of the Nazi war machine. In a document dated 11, August 1944, at the Osram (electric) Works, it was ruled that each full-working prisoner there was to be paid the free labor rate of RM 4 daily.

This money was never seen by the prisoners. It went into the coffers of the S.S. On 15 May 1943, S.S. Major-General Pohl, in charge of the ad-

ministration of concentration camp operations issued a long edict detailing the use of 'premium scrip' notes in slave labor camps.

A copy of this chilling order may be found in its entirety in the Pick-Siemen catalogue.¹ It details the use of scrip as an encouragement to increased productivity. It was desired that all prisoners produce the greatest work-effort and that current work norms be pushed to higher levels. He suggested that this could be done by "educating" the prisoners by means of scrip currency awards. These benefits would ease their captivity. The scrip could be used for addition-



Photo: YIVO Archives

Nordhausen—1945 when Russian troops entered in April.

al food rations, better grade tobacco, low alcoholic content beer, additional mail privileges and even the right to use a bordello! Among other privileges, scrip holders would also have the right to invest earnings in this scrip in a savings account. (The reader can easily ascertain where these funds went.) Prisoners holding these vouchers had the right to purchase cigarettes and sundries at the canteens. The items there were usually of the most inferior quality, and available only when it suited the S.S.

The “currency” was designed to fulfill the following functions:

1. To perfect the system of “destruction through labor” and to force the camp inmates to greater production.
2. To prevent escape. The concentration camp prisoner without legitimate currency could not easily escape. If any camp money (lagergeld) was found on any person outside of a camp, it was considered prima-facie evidence of an escape from a concentration camp.
3. It was used as a means to divide those prisoners who worked within the system from those who were part of the resistance movement within the camp. The S.S. rewarded with camp scrip stool-pigeons who de-

nounced those who were part of the camp underground opposition. (When a prisoner had a surplus of these vouchers, he was marked by the other prisoners as a profiteer or an S.S. informer.)

4. It contributed to the wealth of the S.S. state because of the exchange of confiscated funds for camp money. This non-redeemable scrip issued by the slave labor cartels became a source of tremendous profit to the industrialists.

Inmates Resisted Scrip

Many concentration camp prisoners, particularly those of the communist resistance group became aware of the intimate relationship among the S.S., the N.S.D.A.P., the giant corporations and the prison scrip. They tried not to accept this lagergeld as part of their passive resistance. Others contributed in trying to bring down the fascist regime by acts of sabotage. It is a continuing myth that all inmates, Jews and others, meekly accepted their lot in the camps. Many instances of heroic acts have been recorded from the various camps. Much research is needed yet in this field to document these heroic acts.

Documented materials pertaining to the issuance of camp money at Mittelbau Dora no longer exist. These and other evidences of the criminal activities at Nordhausen were destroyed just before the liberation by the Soviet armed forces in April of 1945. However, some scrip remained and these remain as a testimonial of man's inhumanity to man.

The name "Mittelbau" is a contraction of "Mitteldeutschen Baugesellschaft A.G.," the industrial giant concern which was a prime contractor for the V-1 and V-2 rockets, the secret terror weapon (till 1944) used against heavily populated areas of England. These rockets were Hitler's last hope of winning the war. Parts for these rockets were made at Nordhausen.

The slave labor camps which were sub-camps of Buchenwald from 27 August 1943 were three in number. Mittelbau 1, the main camp was established near the town of Nordhausen in the Eastern part of Germany. Mittelbau 2 was located at Ellyrich and Mittelbau 3, the smallest, was located at Harzungen. Their work was considered so important to the Nazi war effort that on 1 November 1944, the Mittelbau complex was separated from the Buchenwald command to become an independent slave labor concentration camp of the first rank. The three camps were liberated by the Red Army on 4 through 9 May 1945.

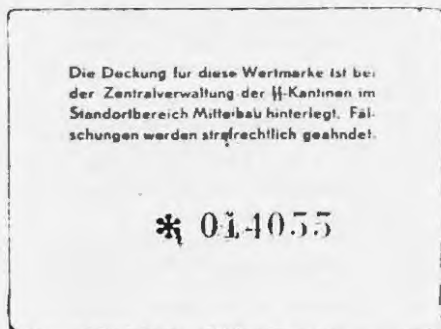
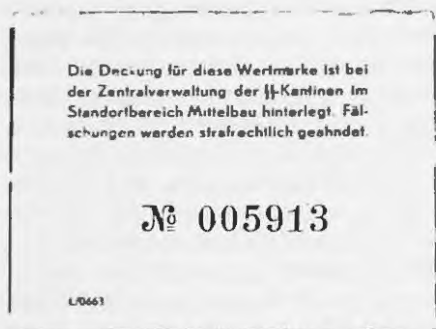
While the actual orders concerning the printing of the Mittelbau notes were destroyed by the Nazis before the liberation, we now know who printed them. The distinguished East German numismatic researcher, Paul Lauerwald, interviewed some of the surviving print shop workers. From them he learned that they were printed at the "Buchdruckerei - Theodore Müller" in Nordhausen, Königshöf.

A Listing of Notes

Listed here are all of the known varieties of Mittelbau notes. All notes were printed on watermarked paper as a security device. The notes are all similar in layout with minimal art work on them. It appears then, that their designs were created locally.

The inscription on the reverse side of all the notes translates: "*The safe-keeping of the funds for these vouchers is maintained by the Central Administration of the S.S. canteens in the Mittelbau area garrison. Counterfeiting will be dealt with in the most severe manner.*" The obverse wordings are all the same (except of course for the nominal value of the note.) "Work camp Mittelbau" with certain exceptions noted as follows:

1. RM .01—charcoal gray; serie N, O, P.
2. RM .05—brown; serie L.
3. RM .10—olive green; serie E, F, H.
4. RM .25—red-orange; serie A, H.



Two of the reverses found on RM1 notes.

5. RM .50—black
 - a. without a period before the value; serie R, S, T.
 - b. with a period in front of the value; serie R, T.
 - (1) On the reverse, the word "Fälschungen" on the last two lines of the text is divided "Fä-lschungen."
 - (2) The word is divided "Fäl-schungen."
6. RM 1—green serie N, O, P, Q.
 - a. On the reverse there is a type number L/0663 at the lower left.
 - b. No type number on the reverse. Both reverses are known with:
 - (1) a six-pointed star preceding the serial number.
 - (2) a N^o preceding the serial number.
7. RM 2—red; serie J, K, L, M: all with a square period after the numeral 2 in the value and on the reverse a type number L/0663 in the lower left hand corner and, a six-pointed star preceding the serial number.
 - a. a square period standing on end after the numeral 2 in the value; serie K.
8. RM 5—blue with a square period standing on end after the numeral 5 of the value; serie F, G.
 - a. with a round period after the numeral 5 of the value; serie E, G, H.
 1. On the reverse a N^o preceding the serial number; serie H.
 2. a six-pointed star preceding the serial number, serie F.
9. RM 10—magenta; serie C, D.

References

1. Pick, Albert and Siemsen, Carl. *Das Lagergeld der Konzentrationslager 1933-1945*. München, 1976. pp. 49-56.
2. Lauerwald, Paul. *Das Lagergeld des Konzentrationslagers Mittelbau-Dora bei Nordhausen in Beiträge zur Heimatkunde aus Stadt und Kreis Nordhausen*. Heft 4, 1979. Nordhausen pp. 38-44.



FRAUDULENT *Continued from page 51*

agree, how is the average collector to know? I have my own opinion on these notes; it will not be revealed here. The collector who wishes to know which items are worthy of collection must study them for himself and reach his own conclusion.

WARSAW GHETTO NOTES

The same advice holds for the paper-money/postal essays of the Warsaw Ghetto. There is still so much

This is obviously a very complicated series to collect in depth. We should assume because of the many printing varieties in this series that the output of these notes was very extensive. Aside from the low value RM .01 notes which are in plentiful supply as yet, the other values vary from *scarce* to *excessively rare*. None of the previous cataloguers of this series such as Söllner, Pick/Siemsen, and Lauerwald (who has done the finest research on the Nordhausen notes) has been able to even list the complete nominal values issued.

The RM .05 and RM .10 notes are illustrated here for the first time anywhere in the numismatic literature. It is certain that other varieties of this involved series of notes will turn up in the future. Anyone having further information on these notes or from any other concentration camp or displaced persons camp is cordially invited to write to the author. Full credit will be given them in the forthcoming book on the subject.

Dr. Alan York
One Main Street
East Hampton,
New York 11937

that is unknown about those chaotic times. As time passes we will no longer have the opportunity of interviewing remaining survivors. It is up to all of us to search out the truth so that future generations will have a complete history of the Holocaust. Hopefully, some of our readers can share their knowledge with us to extend what is already known or to prove or disprove what we publish.

Dr. Alan York
Number One Main Street
East Hampton, New York

Cyprus Canteen Chits

by Sylvia Haffner

From *The History of Modern Israel's Money*

The year was 1946. Palestine was still governed by Great Britain under the mandate of the defunct League of Nations and of its year-old successor, the United Nations. Great Britain had decreed that only 1,500 Jews a month could enter the Mandate of Palestine. To the Jews of the world this number was an incredibly small answer to the needs of hundreds of thousands.

Most war survivors who had come back from death camps decided that they had had enough. Enough of war and enough of anti-Semitism. They began to cross river and mountain,

country after country, on foot, by rail, by truck or by steamer to the Mediterranean shores of Italy and France where boats prepared and manned by the "Aliyah Bet" workers of the Hagana forces of Palestine waited to bring them to Eretz Israel or Palestine.

Steeled by years of war, disillusioned by a world callous to their agony and deaf to their cries, the surviving Jews and their self-sacrificing, heroic Palestinian brothers gave their own answer—a defiant, aggressive daring answer. They determined to break the evil decrease



FIRST ISSUE

SIZE: 114 x 72mm (for all notes)

FACE: Above in Hebrew, "THE UNITED AMERICAN COMMITTEE ASSISTANCE (JOINT); below in English, "AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE"; to the right in Hebrew and to the left in English, "GOOD FOR PURCHASE IN THE CANTEENS IN CYPRUS OR FOR EXCHANGE FOR CASH IN JERUSALEM"; in the center the denomination in black; above in Hebrew below in English, "SHILLING/S"; below the serial number in black, the control letter A, B, or C in blue; to the right the signature of "MORRIS LAUB" in Hebrew and below, "THE JOINT OFFICE IN CYPRUS."

[Cancellation on 1 Shilling note in Hebrew, "CASHED AT THE BANK ANGLO-PALESTINE, JERUSALEM BRANCH."

1 SHILLING

2 SHILLINGS

5 SHILLINGS

BLUE

YELLOW

PINK

NO. 1—12000

NO. 1—12000

NO. 1—12000

(The legend "OR FOR CASH IN JERUSALEM" WAS DELETED in the 2nd Issue at the insistence of the British government.)

of 1,500 entry permits a month by sending boat upon boat with 100, 500, 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 5,000, 10,000 a month to Palestine, openly or secretly; to risk the blockade of the British navy which guarded the shores of Palestine and which had orders to scuttle the boats and, if necessary, shoot their passengers, rather than permit them to land. Despite the blockade and the scuttlings and the shootings and the drownings, thousands did manage to land in Palestine.

Watching all this with embittered rage and unabated frustration was Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Minister of Great Britain. His rage and frustration grew in proportion as his scheme failed. Until one day, in the second week of August, 1946, he ordered that all immigrants coming on "Aliyah Bet" boats be transferred to British gunboats in Haifa harbor and transported forcibly to Cyprus, 200 miles away, the third largest island in the Mediterranean, at the time a British Crown Colony.

These Jews were "illegal Jewish immigrants," said Bevin, and like others who acted illegally had to be jailed. Since jails large enough did not exist, Bevin ordered concentration camps built for them. They were surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by armed soldiers on watchtowers from which powerful searchlights circled the camps.

Bevin and his governmental allies—the Palestine Mandate, the British Colonial Office, the Cyprus administration and the British army—permitted the world's largest and most famous Jewish overseas welfare organization, the "Joint Distribution Committee," to send workers into the camps to bring relief supplies and school and welfare services to the inmates.

53,000 Jews came to Karaolos and Dekhelia where the two complexes of camps, 18 miles apart, were situat-

ed. 51,000 came by boat, 2,000 by what the inmates dubbed "internal immigration"—infants born to their parents in the camp. The "illegal Jewish immigrants" were referred to as IJI's by the British but the first initial simply meant "intercepted" to the director of the American Joint Distribution Committee in Cyprus, Mr. Morris Laub.

Depending on the size of the population, which fluctuated between 10,000 and 35,000, Mr. Laub's staff numbered anywhere from 40 to 400 persons: doctors, nurses, teachers, social workers, warehouse workers, truck drivers, cooks, sanitation men, electricians, carpenters . . . Mr. Laub was the only "outsider." All of the staff was recruited from Palestine or from among the detainees themselves for the IJI included great surgeons, teachers, writers and men and women from all walks of life.

Laub was in effect Mayor of a small city—but a Mayor who never knew how big his population was for it fluctuated wildly, day by day. On December 31, 1947, the inmates numbered about 15,000. The very next day, January 1, 1948, the number was suddenly doubled by the arrival of 15,200 persons packed like the proverbial sardines on two former Hudson River liners, called the Pan Crescent and Pan York, soon to be renamed the "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) and the "Atzmaut" (Independence).

The average internee's stay in camp was 14 months. During his stay, he studied Hebrew, learned a trade, had his health looked after and saw his children receive the same kind of education as was given to children in Israel. So much did the spirit of Israel prevail in the camps that the time spent in them came to be called "Erev Eretz Israel" (the eve of Israel). What was a concentration camp in physical appearance, in actuality became a spiritual extension of Israel.



SECOND ISSUE

FACE: Above in Hebrew, "THE UNITED AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR ASSISTANCE (JOINT) CYPRUS"; below in English, "AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, CYPRUS"; to the right in Hebrew and to the left in English, "GOOD FOR PURCHASE IN THE CANTEENS"; the rest similar to First issue except the denomination is in blue and the control letter is in Hebrew.

1 SHILLING	BLUE	NO. 1—6000 A
2 SHILLINGS	YELLOW	NO. 1—6000 B
5 SHILLINGS	GREEN	NO. 1—6000 C

THIRD ISSUE

Same as SECOND ISSUE EXCEPT FOR:

Above in Hebrew, "THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR ASSISTANCE (JOINT) CYPRUS."

1 SHILLING	BLUE	NO. 6001—12000 A
2 SHILLINGS	YELLOW	NO. 6001—12000 B
5 SHILLINGS	GREEN	NO. 60001—12000 C

Courtesy of: Shalom Renan

On May 15, 1948, the State of Israel came into being. But this did not mean the automatic closing of the camps. Bevin remained adamant. And a fantastic series of diplomatic negotiations involving the Israel government, the British Foreign Office, the UN observer of the truce between Israel and her warring Arab neighbors, Count Folke Bernadotte and the Director, Mr. Morris Laub, began. It went on for months and months, until Bevin finally realized his folly and on February 18, 1949 announced the closing of the camps.

Morris Laub served as Director of the American Joint Distribution Committee in Cyprus during the entire period of the internment camps, except for the first three months. An article by Mr. Laub appeared in the

magazine, "Our Age" Volume 8, Number 5, Week of December 4, 1966, entitled "MAYOR OF THE IL-LEGALIS." This was the only article ever written by Mr. Laub on the internment camps at Cyprus and he graciously consented to its reprint in any form. The research on the camps presented here is taken from Mr. Laub's article. He concluded his letter with this last remark:

"I regret that none of us kept a diary nor that I had the foresight to engage a historian right on the spot to record day to day events. The reason is simple: all of us worked literally during all our waking hours—seven days a week. Never in my life have I had the privilege of

working with so dedicated a group of people for whom time meant nothing. But fool that I was not to recognize the need for preserving documents and records for the future historian. I hope that you and all others will forgive me.”

Morris Laub later directed another type of organization, the United Synagogue's Joint Commission on Social Action in New York City.

The British authorities forbade the use of money in the internment camps on Cyprus. Mr. Morris Laub, Director of the American Joint Distribution Committee on Cyprus, worked out an arrangement whereby script or chits were issued for work done by the internees in various aspects of the camp operation. These chits could then be used in the canteens for merchandise available, not to exceed more than 4 Pounds per month per individual.

Due to the lack of metal the issue was made of paper and printed in Jerusalem by the Sinai Printers: they were designed by Mr. Schweig. The chits were issued in the years 1947-1948. When the camp disbanded all outstanding chits were exchanged for cash in Israel by the American Joint Distribution Committee, who in turn destroyed the notes. These chits are exceedingly rare as they were all destroyed after they were redeemed.

The chits were printed in three issues on one side only. The background of all of the notes is composed of parallel lines of faint Hebrew lettering, "THE UNITED AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE FOR ASSISTANCE (JOINT)": this legend repeats itself three times in each line with about 28 lines covering each of the notes. This was evidently used as a security measure.



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HOLOCAUST NUMISMATICS



WE'VE SEEN BUT THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

by Stanley Yulish

For many years, I have been collecting the numismatic, philatelic, literature of the Holocaust. After visits to the solemn sites, and study of the paper currency, chits, postcards, package receipts, documents, letters and other evidence, I've many times stopped and thought: "We only know of a little bit of this material; there must be so much more yet undiscovered."

Sadly, this musing appears to be true. With all of our research into Holocaust numismatics, we come often to the conclusion that a great deal more remains yet unpublished, sleeping within old archives, piles of old letters, boxes of forgotten possessions in dusty attics and basements . . . or destroyed long ago as unwanted leftovers of a time many preferred to forget.

A glance through the excellent Pick-Siemsen reference on concentration camp currency acquaints us with scrip of Dachau, Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen, Lodz and a few others of the famous camps, ghettos and extermination facilities. Yet numis-

matic researchers realize that the Nazis in their methodical manner employed hundreds . . . no, THOUSANDS . . . of locations for mass imprisonment and execution. Many of these locations were semi-permanent, intended for use over extended periods. Hence, it seems quite logical that scrip or currency could have been issued for use by camp guards and/or inmates at a significant number of these locations. We know of just several dozen sites for which numismatic evidence exists. My theory maintains that hundreds of additional sites may have issued (or had issued for them) scrip, currency, chits, tokens or like numismatically related material.

Today we recognize a number of broad categories of numismatic and related Holocaust evidence. First, there is the universal facility scrip which could be employed by SS and other German authorities within any of the locations. Second, we recognize the canteen scrip issued primarily for guards' use within specific

camp sites. Third, there are currencies such as those of Litzmannstadt (Lodz) and Theresienstadt Ghettos designed specifically for use by the inmates themselves as a quasi-monetary medium or accounting receipt (*Quittungen*).

Fourth, we know of ancillary numismatic items, mostly employed outside of camps and ghettos but nonetheless instrumental in telling a real part of the Holocaust story. Among these are the *Konversionkasse* notes issued first in 1933 or 1934 in exchange for the property and Reichsmark legal tender holdings of Jews lucky enough to emigrate Germany prior to the round-ups. These *Konversionkassenoten*, like the receipts of Theresienstadt, were in reality redeemable for nothing but they did serve as exchange receipts or markers, if only until their hoax was discovered. And they are legitimate testimonies to their purpose of deviously, but "legally," parting the German Jewish population from its economic base. Also in this category are the fascinating German counterfeits of the British Bank of England notes, made by Jewish artisans under close Nazi supervision, and designed to be used in destroying British public confidence in that nation's currency.

Still another class of Holocaust-related numismatic evidence is the Nazi occupation currency itself. These notes and coinage represented the general legal tender utilized in areas in which the Holocaust was carried out. Included here are Polish General Government notes and other occupation series such as the general *Wehrmacht* small denomination currency.

Yet another category cannot be overlooked, a broad, almost endless source of supporting information: The documentation, records and other original paper and card memorabilia such as covers, package receipts, identity cards, passes, visas,

meal tickets, work orders, arrest orders, possession receipts and so on that could mean life or death at any moment to their owners during that dark period in our history. Each item had its economic value; each, therefore, has a real place in the larger Holocaust numismatic picture.

For the collector anticipating entry into this fascinating area of numismatics, it is strongly recommended that he or she begin by trying to locate a specimen or two from each Nazi facility. The collector will soon differentiate with research, the scrip and tokens of the different classes of facilities:

- a. collection and transport centers (such as Amersfoort in the Netherlands);
- b. concentration, camps and internment facilities (such as Dachau, north of Munich, Germany);
- c. extermination camps (such as Auschwitz in Poland, the "final destination");
- d. and the ghettos or "resettlement areas" (such as Lodz in Poland, or Theresienstadt in Czechoslovakia).

The Holocaust collector is therefore a detective in a very real sense of the word, an individual whose study and preservation of the numismatic evidence may be the key to uncovering a bit more of that enormous story of suffering and, as a people, survival of the Nazi nightmare. We still, in fact, understand relatively little about those types of currency, scrip and coinage of which we are aware; we still wonder how much was issued, who specifically was entitled to use it, how was it redeemed if at all, what "real" value did it have in the camp and ghetto financial structures, how much was destroyed, and so forth. Already, eyewitness accounts are growing fewer and fuzzier with age. We numismatists can be the critical contributors with additional facts and documentation. The

research is sometimes not easy; it is always sobering, but it is also always very rewarding.

Some of these notes are relatively easy to secure; others are elusive. A good number are excessively rare, a great challenge for the advanced collector. Whether beginners or advanced collector, all must be wary. Counterfeits of a number of items . . . very good counterfeits . . . do exist. The advice of experienced collectors is an excellent tool to use in this endeavor. For example, the fake Litzmannstadt 20-mark coin has fooled many a collector. In one instance, the collector will seek the counterfeit over the original; it's very difficult to tell the Nazi *Operation Bernhard Sachsenhausen* counterfeit British "white" notes from their *Bank of England* genuine counterparts.

Despite the caveats, the collector of Holocaust numismatic material and related items will profit greatly in satisfaction, education and pure collecting enjoyment. In addition, we collectors have a real duty in preserving these reminders of that dreadful time so that those who come after us will not forget its lessons.

My own theory is that many camps and extermination sites have already been forgotten for the most part, as the Nazis and some of their confederates tried hard, and are still trying, to bury and otherwise obliterate the historical record of their gruesome work. Who knows how much paper currency, chits, scrip, documentation, records and other items found their way into the furnaces to preclude their use as evidence by the advancing Russians, British and American armed forces?

This issue of *The Shekel*, like the initial Holocaust issue of September-October 1982 takes a great step toward aggregating what we currently know and theorize regarding the numismatic evidence of that period. We are uncovering more and hope to present it on as regular a basis as possible. I've never ceased to be challenged and, at the same time, sobered by this exciting area of numismatics. I cannot recommend it more strongly to anyone seeking a Judaica numismatic hobby specialty area filled with historical importance and great meaning for us today and in the future.

—S.Y., Cleveland, O.



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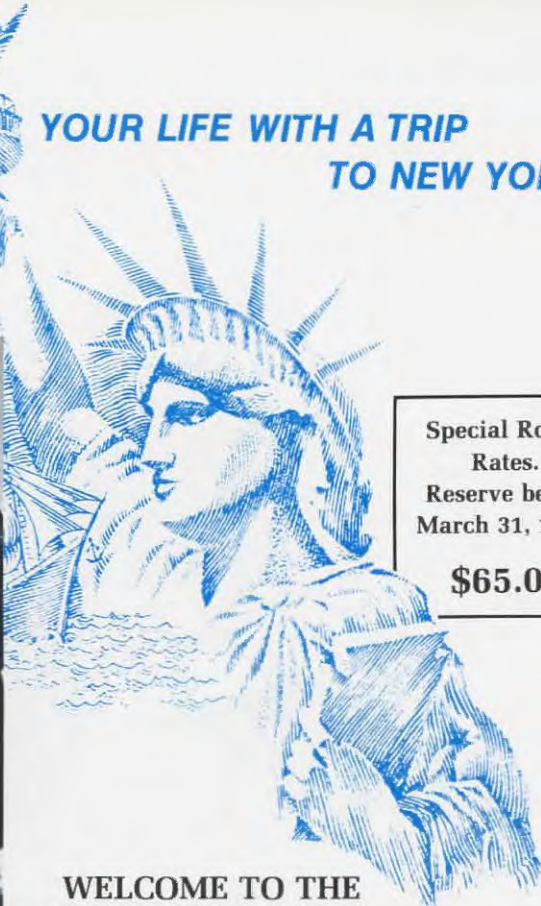
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