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Award-Winning Holocaust Exhibit Going To Shanghai and Nanjing, China

A one-of-a-kind, award-winning exhibit of 300 World War II artifacts, "Postal & Monetary Evidence of the Holocaust -- A Breakdown in Humanity," will be publicly displayed in Shanghai and Nanjing, China in May by an Illinois-based charitable foundation.

The nonprofit Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation has been displaying and adding to the exhibit since it acquired a Holocaust postal collection intact from noted researcher, writer and collector, Ken Lawrence, who began assembling the material in 1978.

The exhibition in China will be part of educational activities about the 1937 Nanjing Massacre and the 70th anniversary of the establishment in 1943 of the Designated Area for Stateless Refugees in Shanghai's Hongkew District, also known as the "Hongkew Ghetto" or Shanghai "Jewish Ghetto." This will be the first time the exhibit's narrative text has been translated into Chinese Mandarin by students at the Glazer Institute of Jewish and Israel Studies at Nanjing University (<http://a200981104.oinside.cn>).

The exhibit includes documents and mail from concentration camp inmates in Europe, prisoners of war, European ghetto residents and from their family in Europe into the Shanghai Ghetto.

The displays will be free and open to the public in the Museum of Modern Coins at Shanghai Finance University (www1.shfc.edu.cn), May 15 - 18, 2013,

and in the Jingwen Student Center at Nanjing University (<http://www.nju.edu.cn>), May 20 - 23. Former residents of the Shanghai ghetto and survivors of the Nanjing Massacre will be among the speakers at the event.

"This exhibit of World War II era mail and documents related to the Nazi's attempted extermination of Jews and others are evidence of the torments, ravages and terror of war and genocide in Europe from 1933 to 1945. They also show that many prisoners never lost hope, and the human spirit survived," said Danny Spungen, a member of the board of the Spungen Family Foundation who has been working for over a year to arrange and get government permission for the upcoming exhibits in Shanghai and Nanjing.

"We have been acquiring more postal items from the era to preserve them and showcase them in educational displays around the world to educate people about the Holocaust and genocide."

The display includes post cards; letters; specially-designated postal stationary used exclusively by concentration camp inmates, Jewish ghetto residents and prisoners of war; and counterfeit Bank of England paper money created for the Nazi government by slave laborers during World War II.

"One of the most heartbreaking artifacts and historical evidence of Nazi desecration is a torn fragment of a hand-written Hebrew parchment from a Bible scroll taken from a Russian synagogue. A German soldier used the holy scripture to wrap a parcel he mailed from Russia to Austria in 1942," explained Spungen

Professor Xu Xin of the Jewish Study Center of Nanjing University emphasized the importance of observing the 70th anniversary of the Hongkew Ghetto:

"Between 1937 and 1940, approximately 20,000 Jewish refugees escaping the rise of the Nazis and World War II fled to Shanghai. These refugees were welcomed by their new Chinese neighbors even though conditions were very poor. On February 18, 1943, under pressure from Nazi Germany, the Japanese authorities created the Designated Area for Stateless Refugees in Shanghai known today as the Hongkew Ghetto," he explained.

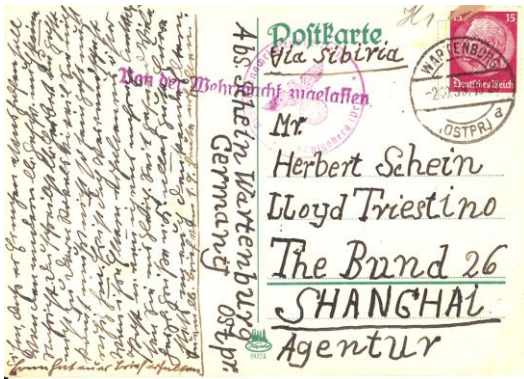
"Jewish refugees were forced to move into this 2.8 square kilometer area which was already densely populated by the poorest of the Chinese. The hardships were tough but the kindness and support by the Chinese to their new Jewish refugee neighbors made the chances of survival much more possible. This is an important piece of history that should continue to be recognized," said Professor Xu.

Special 70th anniversary commemorative medals produced by the Shanghai Mint will be displayed for the first time and released to the public in conjunction with the exhibits in Shanghai and Nanjing.

For additional information about the exhibits, visit www.shfc.edu.cn and www.SpungenFoundation.org.

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Separate Attachment in email/release and related captions below:



captions (for attached photos):

JPG titled 1939 postcard to Shanghai

This postcard dated October 2, 1939 was sent by a Jewish family in East Prussia to friends and family members who earlier fled to Shanghai. It is one of more than 300 items in the Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation Collection of World War II era Holocaust-related mail that will be exhibited in China, May 15 - 18, 2013 in Shanghai and May 20 - 23 in Nanjing. (Photo credit: Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation.)

JPG titled Holy Scripture Parcel Wrapper

A torn fragment of a hand-written Hebrew parchment from a Bible scroll (*Tanakh*), stolen from a Russian synagogue and used by a German soldier to wrap a parcel mailed from Russia to Austria in 1942. This is one of hundreds of items from the Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation Collection of World War II era Holocaust-related mail that will be exhibited in China, May 15 - 18, 2013, in Shanghai and May 20 - 23 in Nanjing. (Photo credit: Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation.)