

Translation for website
Combination of translations by Danny Spungen

Exhibition
Letters With a Past

The largest collection of postal correspondence from the Lodz ghetto will visit Polish schools, universities and museums. "I'll be very happy to share the collection with the largest number of Poles. Most of all, I would like Polish youth to become acquainted with the tragedy the Jews of the Lodz Ghetto experienced [during World War II]," said Danny Spungen to Polish Newsweek. As of a month ago, the foundation, run by Americans of Jewish descent, is the owner of the unique archives worth 240,000 Euro. The archive is a collection of over 1,200 pieces containing letters, postal stamps and money printed in the ghetto (the Lodz ghetto was the only one in Europe during the Nazi occupation of Poland, that printed its own money.)

According to Jacek Kucharski - an expert on stamp collecting and the owner of an auction house in Sopot, [Poland] - "the material is a treasure trove of information about businesses, that were active in the ghetto and the fate of the families who were locked up within. He adds, "that on the basis of the documents in this collection, one could write several doctorate dissertations."

Museum experts, also acknowledge the uniqueness of this material. "This is the only large collection of stamps from the ghetto in the world and it is easily exhibited," said Wojciech Zrodlak, curator of the Lodz Museum of Tradition and Freedom. Now, there is a chance, even if briefly, that the letters written in the Lodz ghetto will return to the places from which they were written.

Marcin Marczak