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International, Award-Winning Holocaust Collection Sets Three-Day Tour in Memphis

Renown postal memorabilia exhibit provides paper trail of Nazi persecution

MEMPHIS (March 12, 2009) – Thirty years ago, a Pennsylvania stamp collector set out to uncover an emotionally-charged paper trail portraying the tragedy and persecution of the Holocaust. The collection has grown to more than 250 pieces of Holocaust related materials - stamps, postcards, letters, manuscripts - that provide a painful, yet awakening reminder of the historical connection made through written word.

The collection, known as the Spungen Holocaust Postal Collection, now travels the country along with collector and philatelist Danny Spungen. Memphians will have the opportunity to view the exhibit March 28-30 at the following locations:

- March 28: National Civil Rights Museum: 1-3 p.m. (free with regular admission)
- March 29: Belz Museum of Asian & Judaic Art: Noon – 3 p.m. (free to public)
- March 30: The University of Memphis Ned R. McWherter Library: 1:30 - 3 p.m. (free to public)

The Spungen Holocaust Postal Collection three-day tour is sponsored by the Belz Museum of Asian & Judaic Art and Bornblum Judaic Studies of the University of Memphis. In addition to the public viewings, Spungen will present the collection to the Memphis Rotary Club and students at St. Benedict High School in Cordova. To find out more about the exhibit's trip to Memphis, visit BelzMuseum.org. For more information on the Spungen Holocaust Postal Collection, including pictures of many documents in the collection, visit www.spungenfoundation.org.

More on the Spungen Holocaust Postal Collection

Formally known as "The Nazi Scourge: Postal Evidence of the Holocaust and the Devastation of Europe," the award-winning, ten-frame collection was created by philatelic researcher and author Ken Lawrence. The collection is noted by some scholars as among the

most important surviving evidence of Nazi desecration and includes Holocaust materials related to stamps, covers, postcards, letters, bank note forgeries and manuscripts from concentration camps and Jewish ghettos.

In April 2008, the collection was acquired by the Florence and Laurence Spungen Foundation. Foundation board member Danny Spungen continues adding materials to the collection and travels the country advocating Holocaust awareness.

The Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation was established in 2006 by Florence and Laurence Spungen and focuses its grant making on health related issues, especially cancer research, care and treatment and Jewish causes.

About the Belz Museum of Asian & Judaic Art & Bornblum Judaic Studies

Founded in 1998, the Belz Museum of Asian & Judaic Art is home to a collection that of more than 900 pieces of art reflecting Asian and Judaic history and culture, including China's Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) and contemporary Judaica, a selection of natural history objects and various examples of art and craft from around the world. For more information, contact the museum at 901-523-ARTS.

Bornblum Judaic Studies explores the experience of the Jewish people within the contexts of world cultures. Non-theological in its orientation, it provides students the opportunity to study the history of the Jewish people, the Hebrew language, the religious, intellectual and aesthetic traditions of the Jewish people, and structures and politics of Jewish communities. For more information, visit <http://www.memphis.edu/jdst/>.

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