

'Operation Bernhard' notes acquired

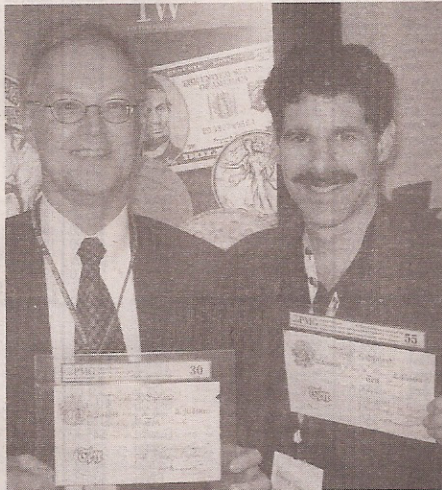
Counterfeit Bank of England notes created by the Nazis' "Operation Bernhard" are part of a collection of more than 250 pieces of Holocaust ephemera including mail, documents and other items that has been acquired by the Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation.

Between 1942 and 1945, inmates at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Germany produced nearly nine million fake bank notes. "Operation Bernhard" has been the subject of a number of books as well as the recent motion picture "The Counterfeiters."

Including recent additions contributed by Daniel Spungen, a member of the board, the collection now contains a dozen examples of the £5, £10, £20 and £50 counterfeit Bank of England notes created by slave laborers during "Operation Bernhard," the Nazis' failed plot to undermine England's economy.

Paper Money Guaranty certified the notes.

The Spungen Foundation, based in Northbrook, Ill., obtained the collection



from Ken Lawrence of Bellefonte, Pa., a native Chicagoan and a former vice president of the American Philatelic Society.

Among the holdings are envelopes, postcards, letters and postage stamps used by concentration camp inmates, ghetto residents and prisoners of war.

"We will be giving educational institutions and museums around the world the opportunity to use the exhibit mate-



Dave Harper, left, and Daniel Spungen hold "Operation Bernhard" notes at the F+W Publications booth during the Central States Numismatic Society convention in April. An "Operation Bernhard" £5 is also shown.

rials for displays, lectures and research," said Florence Spungen, the foundation's founder. "This is a permanent educational tool for all generations to document this important period of time that cannot be forgotten."

The Spungen Foundation was established in 2006 to support charitable and educational causes. For more information, see www.SpungenFoundation.org.

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