

Spungen foundation acquires Lawrence's Holocaust exhibit

In April, the Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation acquired Ken Lawrence's award-winning 10-frame exhibit "The Nazi Scourge: Postal Evidence of the Holocaust and the Devastation of Europe."

The Illinois-based charitable organization will offer the exhibit for public use at Holocaust and genocide educational venues.

The exhibit can also be viewed online at the foundation's web site, www.SpungenFoundation.org.

Danny Spungen, a member of the foundation's board of directors, added



A torn fragment of a handwritten Hebrew *Tanakh* parchment page from a Bible scroll. A German soldier used the scripture page to wrap a parcel he mailed from Russia to Austria in 1942.

additional material to the 250 items in Lawrence's exhibit and collection of mail and documents related to the Nazi extermination of Jews and other groups.

Shown here is one of the items from the exhibit, a torn fragment of a hand-

written Hebrew *Tanakh* parchment page from a Bible scroll. A German soldier used the scripture page looted from a Russian synagogue to wrap a parcel he mailed from Russia to Vienna, Austria, in 1942.

Lawrence is a former vice

president of the American Philatelic Society and is a noted stamp expert, collector, writer and exhibitor.

Lawrence began assembling the material for the exhibit in 1978. The exhibit received a gold medal at the 2002 Garfield-Perry March Party stamp show, and a large vermeil medal at the Washington 2006 international exhibition.

Including items added by Spungen, the collection has more than 250 covers; letters; concentration camp, ghetto and prisoner of war local post stamps; and counterfeit Bank of England paper money created by

slave laborers during Operation Bernhard.

"We will be giving educational institutions and museums around the world the opportunity to use the exhibit materials for displays, lectures and research," said foundation founder Florence Spungen.

The insured value of the collection is \$1 million.

The Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation was established in 2006 to support charitable and educational causes. For more information about the foundation or the exhibit, visit the foundation web site address noted previously. ■