

New Book Announcement

Feller and Feller complete World War II Camp Book

Silent Witnesses: Civilian Camp Money of World War II is out!

This volume, by the daughter and father team of Ray and Steve Feller provides a detailed look at these historical camp currencies. The book spans the time period 1933 to almost 1950 and includes German concentration camps, ghettos, internment camps from all sides, and displaced persons camps. Nearly a thousand illustrations are used and they are in full color. Hundreds of notes from the famous Charlton Meyer, Jr. collection (now at Holocaust Museum Houston) are used to help illustrate the book. Included are very real camp notes..

Special features abound. A *You are There* section gives various first-hand accounts of visiting camp sites, archives, museums and more. You will travel to the Isle of Man, the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey, Westerbork in Holland, Yad Vashem in Israel, Theresienstadt in the Czech Republic and more. The details behind the notes are manifold and unprecedented accounts emerge. Many new discoveries, essays, and more are included. Up-to-date pricing is provided, a much needed feature since the second edition of Campbell's book was published in 1993.

The currencies of the civilian camps of World War II speak to all of tragedy, horror, liberation, hope, and salvation. These bits of paper and metal can speak to us as witnesses of one of the world's worst tragedies. After all, money has been used everywhere, even within eyesight of the chimneys of Birkenau, inside the barbed wire at Auschwitz. When you hold a piece of concentration camp currency from the Westerbork Camp in Holland, with its vignette of



Jewish men exchanging 20 mark notes in the Lodz Ghetto (Yad Vashem).

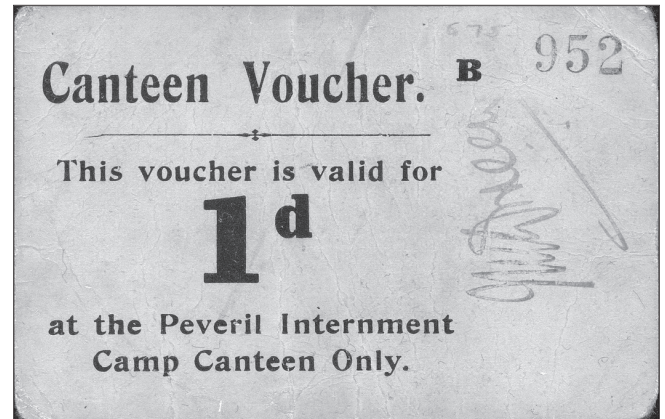
the main road of the camp, you can imagine a young Anne Frank walking on it to the trains to the "East" in 1944. These paper and metal survivors are connected to some of the saddest tragedies and the bravest heroes of World War II.

Camp money from the Second World War is an enormously broad topic. In the book the focus is on the civilian camps.

This book is divided first according to types of camps, and second, when appropriate, according to the power behind the camp: Axis, Allied, or Neutral. Within each section, camps are listed alphabetically. The book begins with concentration camps, as they were the first civilian camps to have money, beginning before the war, in 1933. This section is divided between the camps that were officially part of Germany and the camps that were among Germany's occupied countries. Next, is a look at the complicated systems



1 mark note from Oranienburg, 1933.



1 penny chit from Peveril on the Isle of Man.

of money and ration coupons in the ghettos. Third, the discussion turns to the civilian internment camps that were found in Axis, Allied, and even Neutral countries. The final chapter extends after the war, to the displaced persons camps that were set up for the survivors who had no homes to return to. The geographical dimension will include camps from all of the inhabited continents except South America, which to current knowledge had no camp monies from the war.

On the Axis side there were concentration camps, work camps, and civilian internment camps. On the Allied side there were civilian internment camps. While money is known from all of these places, the differences in these camps are important and are discussed further below.

Axis Powers

There were terrible and inhuman concentration camps and work camps. These places exhibited the worst of the Nazi regime, and names like Auschwitz, Dachau, and Buchenwald will forever be associated with mass murder.

Civilian internment camps were commonplace in Italy, where many of the camps issued currency. Japan had civilian camps in the Netherlands East Indies, and these also issued

currency. The Philippines, which were occupied by Japan, also had civilian internment camps. These camps issued special meal coupons.

Allied powers

Allied internment camps were of a very different character from Axis camps. For example, German businessmen and Jewish refugees were taken into camps, sometimes together, and sometimes for years. These camps were sprinkled throughout the world, including: Australia, Canada, India, and especially on the Isle of Man. Camps were also established in the United States for Japanese, German, and Italian Americans, as well as Japanese, German, and Italian nationals. These Allied camps were not death camps, as many of the Nazi camps were. However, Allied internment camps also tell an important story of what was often wrongful imprisonment. Many devoted citizens were removed from their jobs and lives, and made to endure poor living conditions while feeling the shame of imprisonment. The book also covers the special camp issues in these locations.

After the war, displaced persons camps were established, first under the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) and the Joint Distribution

Committee (the Joint), and later by the International Relief Organization (IRO). Many issues of money are known, and several are unreported elsewhere.

Neutral powers

Neutral countries, such as Switzerland and Ireland, had camps for civilians and soldiers. The book covers those camps that issued money to their prisoners.

For the book as a whole, money is known from: Australia, Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Netherlands East Indies, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanganyika, United Kingdom, and the United States.

This volume is much more than a catalog as the camps are described in much detail, much more than has ever appeared in the numismatic press.

The book is available from BNR Press for \$35 + handling (\$4 to U.S., Canada and Mexico; \$8 elsewhere; \$15 airmail). A special edition of the book is available, please enquire. Please contact BNR press at: 132 East Second Street, Port Clinton, Ohio 43452-1105-04, or by phone at 1-419-732-6683, or by email at: bnrpress@papermoneyworld.net.