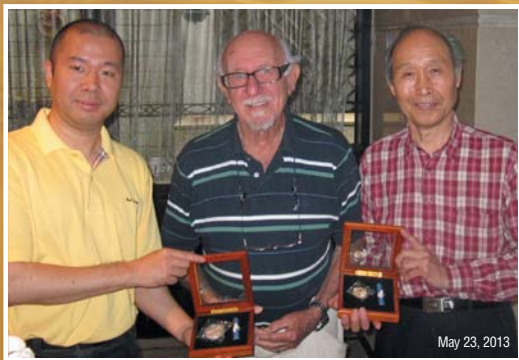


# FIRST TIME IN HISTORY



- First time a mint in China produces a numismatic piece with a Jewish theme
- First time a Chinese mint etches every medal with a number for definitive identification
- First time mint designer Rocky Zhao collaborates with his father, Qiming Zhao, the legendary engraver of Chinese paper money and stamps.



Rocky Zhao and Qiming Zhao present 92 year old Gary Matzdorff with etched set #39 in China. In 1939, Gary was fortunate to escape Germany and find refuge in Shanghai. In 1948, he settled in America.

Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the forceful relocation of  $\approx 18,000$  European Jewish WWII refugees by the occupying Japanese into a restricted area, The Shanghai Ghetto.

QTY	OZ.	Metal	Price/pedia
36	5	Gold	PAN594A
570	1	Gold	PAN595A
5773	1	Silver	PAN596A

For more incredible details on the history of this series, inquiries and distribution info visit [WhyNotCollectibles.com/ChinaFirst](http://WhyNotCollectibles.com/ChinaFirst)

**For immediate release**  
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## **China Produces First "Jewish" Medals**

(Shanghai, China) -- The Shanghai Mint has struck a limited edition series of "Shanghai Memory" silver and gold medals to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Designated Area For Stateless Refugees, commonly known as "the Shanghai Ghetto" or "Hongkew Ghetto." That area in Shanghai became a temporary home for an estimated 20,000 Jewish refugees who safely escaped from the Nazi onslaught during the World War II Holocaust.

"This is the first time any China mint has ever produced numismatic items with a theme related to Jewish history," said Danny Spungen, President of Why Not Collectibles of Lincolnshire, Illinois.

"The design of the medals is filled with symbolism related to the humanitarian efforts by China to offer safe refuge for those who fled Europe starting in the 1930s," explained Spungen. He has been involved with the planning of the project for the past three years after an initial meeting with Shanghai Mint officials in December 2010.

The medals are composed of 99.9 percent pure gold or silver and have been struck in sizes of one-ounce silver, one-ounce gold and five-ounces gold.

Each medal is individually etched with its limited edition number. The mintages are only 36 for the five-ounces gold, 570 for the one-ounce gold and 5,773 for the one-ounce silver. In the Jewish calendar, 5773 is the current year.

Each medal also is accompanied by a Shanghai Mint certificate of authenticity written in both Chinese and English.

The medals were designed by engraver "Rocky" Zhao who has created designs for over 40 Chinese commemorative coins and medals including the 2008 Beijing Olympics commemorative 10 Yuan, 2011 gold Panda and next year's 2014 gold Panda.

One side of the new Shanghai medal depicts a street scene with a Chinese lady holding an umbrella over a young girl who is holding a toy panda. The other side has a harbor scene with the SS *Conte Biancamano* (one the steamer ships that carried refugees from Europe), the Bund business district and the words, Shanghai Memory. Birds in the sky over the harbor fly in a formation that resembles the number, 70, to represent the 70th anniversary of the Shanghai Ghetto.

The little girl, "Sara," represents a young Jewish refugee, the panda she holds is a symbol of China and the woman with the umbrella is symbolic of China offering kindness in sheltering the refugees. A mezuzah, a small parchment with a Biblical passage housed in a small case and traditionally placed by Jews on doorposts of their homes, can be seen on a doorway to the left of the child. The address on a door to the left of the Chinese lady is 1943, symbolic of the year the District opened to the refugees.

A small scroll in English and Chinese that accompanies each medal has an explanation of some of the symbolism written by Xu Xin, a Nanjing University Professor of Jewish Studies.

The medals and scroll are housed in a wood box with a glass top representing the story of *Kristallnacht*, "The Night of Broken Glass," in 1938 that escalated the flight of Jewish refugees out of Nazi Germany and Austria as described on an accompanying certificate written by the Center of Jewish Studies Shanghai.

The USA release of the medals will be in conjunction with the American Numismatic Association World's Fair of Money<sup>SM</sup> in Rosemont, Illinois, August 13 - 17, 2013. A special dinner event that will honor former Shanghai Ghetto residents will be held on August 15 during the convention.

For additional information about the Shanghai Memory medals, go to [www.WhyNotCollectibles.com/ChinaFirst](http://www.WhyNotCollectibles.com/ChinaFirst), or contact Danny Spungen by email at [danny@whynotcollectibles.com](mailto:danny@whynotcollectibles.com)

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Front



Back

*The front of the Shanghai Ghetto 70th anniversary commemorative medals symbolically depict a Chinese woman holding an umbrella over a young Jewish girl. (Photo by Donn Pearlman.)*

*The back side of the Shanghai Ghetto 70th anniversary commemorative medals depicts a harbor scene with one of the ships that carried Jewish refugees to Shanghai with Seagulls flying overhead in a formation resembling the number, 70. (Photo by Donn Pearlman.)*



*This close up of the Shanghai Ghetto 70th anniversary medals shows the mezuzah on the doorpost to the left of the little girl and the number "1943" on a door to the right, the year the Designated Area For Stateless Refugees was established in Shanghai. (Photo by Donn Pearlman.)*

\*Full images of medals sent with PR Release to media outlets\*