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U.S. RETURNS RARE ANCIENT COIN



FROM JEWISH REBELLION AGAINST ROME TO ISRAEL



FEATURING:

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MEDALS IN MEMORY OF THE CRIMEAN HOLOCAUST VICTIMS by V. A. Bernshtam

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MEDAL IN MEMORY OF THE CRIMEAN HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

By V. A. Bernshtam

In 2016, the All-Crimean Jewish Congress created a medal in honor of the 75th anniversary of the mass executions of Jews and Krymchaks in Crimea by the Nazis.

According to the 1939 census, 65,452 Jews lived in Crimea, including more than 7,000 Krymchaks, a Jewish ethnolinguistic Turkic-speaking group who adhere to Rabbinical Judaism. Previously, they lived only in the Crimea, but now, those who survived the Holocaust also live in other places. Of the total number of 1,200-1,500, 600-700 Krymchaks live in Israel and about 200 in the Crimea.

From November 1941 to July 1942, the Nazi invaders killed about 42,000 Jews, including Krymchaks: women, old people and children. From December 11 to December 16, 1941, on the 10th kilometer of the Simferopol-Feodosia highway, the Nazis killed thousands of people in an anti-tank ditch. December 11, which was the day of the largest mass execution of 13,000 people, is now commemorated as the Day of Remembrance in the Republic of Crimea. The Krymchak community also commemorates this day.

The funeral ceremony held on this day was first performed in Simferopol, Crimea in 1945. Nowadays, it takes place in

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the premises of the Simferopol society, Krymchakhtar, on Krylov Street. Twice a year, in the evening, Krymchaks from all over the peninsula gather here, read Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead, sing songs about the tragic death of fellow countrymen, and serve traditional Krymchak dishes. In the morning, in any weather, the participants of the ceremony go to the 10th kilometer of the Feodosia highway, to the monument installed at the site of the execution of Krymchaks and Ashkenazi Jews.



The memorial at the site of the mass executions in Crimea during the Holocaust.

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In 2016, on the initiative and with the sponsorship of the chairman of the All-Crimean Jewish Congress, Jan Epshtein (1947 - 2021), a medal was established in memory of the victims of the Holocaust in Crimea.



On the obverse of the medal with a diameter of 60 mm, there is an image of the memorial sign installed at the 10th kilometer of the Simferopol-Feodosiya highway at the place of execution of Jews. Along the perimeter, there is an inscription: “TO KNOW AND REMEMBER! ALL-CRIMEAN JEWISH CONGRESS.” On the reverse side, there is an inscription: “MEMORIAL DITCH” and “SIMFEROPOL-KERCH-YALTA-YEVPATORIA FEODOSIYA,” which are the names of locations Jews once lived.

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The commemorative medal was awarded to people who made an outstanding contribution to the development of the culture of the Jews of Crimea and to the preservation of the memory of the victims of the Holocaust on the peninsula.

The medal was presented in a special case measuring 20 x 20 cm. Those awarded were also given a certificate.



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