BIGLITTLE TECHNOLOGY
THE WERNER VON BOLTENSTERN SHANGHAI

PHOTOGRAPH AND NEGATIVE COLLECTION
WHY TUMBLR?

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communities stress strong family ties; this can create a need to only stick with family. However, there are some cases where the Chinese have aided the refugees.

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Life in Shanghai: The Baghdadi Jews in Unity with European Jewish Refugees

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Interaction with Jewish Refugees in Shanghai

By the end of 1939, relief committees manned by amateurs established a network to attend to the basic needs of some 16,000 refugees. Wealthy Baghdadi's were at the helm of the relief work. When the Japanese occupied the foreign concessions of Shanghai at the outbreak of the Pacific war in December 1941, they classified Baghdadi’s who were British subjects as “first-class enemy nationals.” They were interned in civilian assembly centers where they were underfed and housed in painfully cramped conditions. Others were categorized as “second-class enemy nationals,” were required to wear armbands and their movements restricted. Foreign owned houses or apartment blocks were requisitioned and troops moved into many spacious houses owned by Baghdadi’s. A large number of Baghdadi’s employed in British and American companies lost their jobs, or were obliged to work under Japanese management.

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Noted as “people sitting on chairs, Shanghai, China” however, as discussed in the video, *Shanghai Ghetto*, this group of people were possible Baghdadi Jews who assisted the Jewish refugees.

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*Shanghai Ghetto* depicts life in Shanghai as many Jewish refugees fled the Nazi’s in Europe. The video mentions The Baghdadi Jews. It mentions that this was the first “batch” of Jews that reached Shanghai. The Baghdadi Jews were wealthy, spoke English and they thrived because of the Chinese trade. They became wealthy specifically for trading Opium. They were the main source of help for the refugee Jews that came over. They stood in solidarity with the Jews that needed help.

From Youtube. Directed by Amir Mann & Dana Janklowicz-Mann
Other than plays and musical performances, were there other forms of entertainment for the Shanghai refugees?

In addition to the numerous plays and musical performances, there were variety shows, cabaret, and several refugee comedians. Two popular comedians were Herbert Zernik and Gerhard Gottschalk. Zernik drew material from his life, joking about “the filthy and insects in the camp, even about the women who made their living as prostitutes, [and] turned tragedy, at least for a few moments, into laughter” (Reichman 73). Gottschalk drew his material from his surroundings, taking advantage “of that which surrounded him in the Hongkew Jewish Ghetto and produced skits” in order to ease his audience and distract them of their own miseries (Reichman 73).

Unity & Music

“The performing arts remained important during the ghetto period among both the Central and Eastern European refugee communities, and during this time the two groups increasingly united over music” (Reichman 76). Between 1941 and 1943, several musical concerts were held including performances from Raja Zonzina as well as solos by the baritone cantor Hersch Friedman, “the Yiddish folk singer and master of Oriental Jewish songs”, cantor Max Warschauer, Greta Kleiner (“a well-known Yiddish folk singer and formerly a successful Western art song performer in Vienna”), Liu Morgenstein, and piano accompaniments by Max Rettler, Siegfried...
Jewish Theatrical Performances

Despite their refugee status, the Jewish community of Shanghai managed to put on several theatrical productions during their exile. In an interview, Gerard Slaxon, a Jewish man who lived in the Shanghai Ghetto during World War II, talked about how while many of the productions were put on at the Jewish Camp in Shanghai, a place in the Jewish Ghetto where Jews could eat, sleep, and keep in touch with the community, there were some plays put on by independent producers at private theatres in Shanghai (Slaxon Interview). The theater productions took a couple of different forms such as Yiddish plays and cabaret performances. Also popular were shows known as Bunte Abende, a type of variety show in which plays, musicians, magicians, comedians, and cabaret performers would all take the stage in the same night (Slaxon Interview). As you make your way through this vein of the blog you will learn more about the specifics of the productions, such as who was involved as well as what these performances meant for the spirit of the Jewish people while in exile.
TANGRAM
Die Ejas auf der Fussballbuehne

Bild 1 Eingang der EJAS
Bild 2 Jenny Raaschitz besorgt den Anblick
Bild 3 Die Abwehr des Elfimeters nach einer EJAS-Spieltag
Bild 4 Boris Sapino als Ballmeister
Bild 5 Zweis betrübte Gesichter nach dem ersten Tor der Presse
Bild 6 Rustelli in Aktion
Bild 7 Zornik wird gelacht
SHANGHAI JEWISH REFUGEES