

Censorship

Categories: Phenomena

Within the Archives Department (see), there was a Censorship Committee composed of Henryk Neftalin (see), Dr. Abram Kamieniecki (see) and Mosze Karo (see). There is no information about the Committee's powers, but it most likely supervised the work of the Department, primarily the Daily Chronicle Bulletins (see) produced there. The Commission's activities were rather preventive in nature (self-censorship) and consisted of monitoring both the content concerning the German authorities, commonly referred to as the Authority (see), and the Jewish administration of the ghetto. Mordechaj Chaim Rumkowski (see) and his closest associates, as well as the actions taken by this group, were not subject to criticism. This is clearly visible in the Chronicle, especially in the first two years, when the Chairman's actions were glorified.

At the request of the German authorities, school textbooks were also censored. For this purpose, a teachers' commission headed by Eliasz Tabaksblatt (see) was appointed, which removed passages relating to Polish history from textbooks, including stories about Piłsudski and the Legions. The checked copies were stamped with the word 'Geprüft' (checked).

Another manifestation of censorship was the control of correspondence, carried out by a censorship unit operating within the ghetto post office. Information about the need to check mail was provided in announcement no. 81 (see) of 12 July 1940. : 'By order of the authorities, I have introduced checks on all letters, postcards and other printed matter leaving the ghetto in my Post Office. All letters, postcards and other printed matter containing orders addressed to companies or private individuals, or those in which the recipient is asked to send food or other items to the ghetto, either for payment or free of charge (alms), will be The next day, a complete postal blockade was introduced (see), justified by an epidemic of dysentery in the ghetto, which was lifted on 16 September 1940. At that time, only postcards written exclusively in German and not containing any information about the situation in

the ghetto were allowed to be sent. Only 3,200 cards were accepted daily. They were checked by the Censorship Office, located in the post office premises (see Postal Department) at 4 Kościelny Square. 3,200 cards were accepted. They were checked by the Censorship Office, located in the post office at 4 Kościelny Square. The names of the censors are unknown. The cards detained in the ghetto by the censors bear only the censors' numbers, usually placed next to the sender's address the sender.

Censorship marks were left by hand or with a stamp. They took the following forms: A handwritten reason for detention, most often: 'zurück' (return), 'Inhalt unzulässig' (prohibited content), 'unsauber' (untidy), "ungzeilig geschrieben" (written unevenly), "größer schreiben" (write larger), "unleserlich" (illegible), "radieren imzulässig" (erasing not allowed), "schmutzig" (dirty), "Zu jüdisch unverständlich!" (too Jewish, incomprehensible zumały).

The word 'Ghetto' added to the address.

Censorship stamps with the information:

'In hebräischer und jidischer Sprache verboten' (prohibited in Hebrew and Yiddish);
'INHALT UNZULÄSSIG' (content prohibited);
"ZURÜCK" (return);
'DEUTLISCH SCHREIBEN' (indistinct writing);
'ZURÜCK. AUSLANDSPOST MUSS AM SCHALTER PERSONLICH ABGEGEBEN WERDEN' (Return. International mail must be handed in personally at the counter).

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Resources

APŁ 278/2317, Karty pocztowe nie wysłane przez pocztę z getta; Kronika, t. 1, s. 247, 22.07.1941;
Rok za drutem kolczastym (na marginesie obwieszczeń Pana Prezesa Ch. Rumkowskiego). Obwieszczenia Przełożonego Starszeństwa Żydów z getta łódzkiego (1940–1944), oprac. A. Sitarek, E. Wiatr, Warszawa: ŻIH, 2019, s. 156.

Tags

Jewish administration|German administration|communication
occupation law|legal system in the ghetto

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