



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

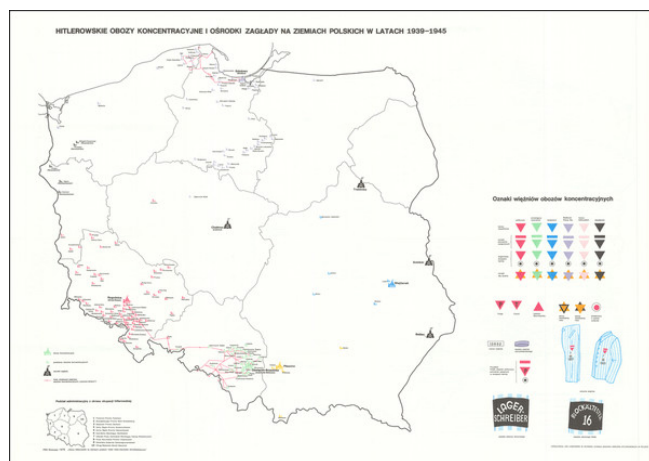
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## **(Second World War - Holocaust) Hitlerowskie obozy koncentracyjne i osrodki zaglady na ziemiach Polskich w latach 1939-1945 | Hitlerowskie obozy jenieckie na ziemiach Polskich w latach 1939-1945 [Nazi concentration camps and extermination centers in Poland in 1939-1945 | Nazi POW camps in Poland in 1939-1945]**

**Stock#:** 82909  
**Map Maker:** Laskowski  
**Date:** 1979  
**Place:** Warsaw  
**Color:** Color  
**Condition:** VG+  
**Size:** 30 x 22 inches  
**Price:** SOLD



### **Description:**

Terrifying pair of maps showing the locations of German POW and internment camps in Poland during World War II, highlighting the widespread locations of these establishments. In some parts of the map, the information becomes so dense that three inset maps are shown. This map was designed by Jan Laskowski and printed in 1979 as part of a work on the Nazi extermination machine produced by PWN Warsaw, a state-owned research-focused publishing house in Poland.

The map on the front is particularly interesting for its depiction of symbols used to classify internees in German camps. The uppermost of these depictions shows the combinations that can be made for different types of prisoners of different levels of importance. The armbands that would have been worn by these prisoners is shown, as well as the prison uniforms. Other details are also shown.

The map lists hundreds of sites run by Nazi operators throughout the country. These include concentration camps, death camps, transitional camps, and ghettos. The map is divided according to Poland's voivodeships, with a key in the lower left. Names of cities too long to spell are also provided in the lower left.

This map was produced during a point in Poland's history during which it was actively revisiting the period during the Second World War. Leading social scientists devoted their time to trying to gather all the living as well as the recorded history of the events of the Holocaust and related atrocities before this information vanished. Leading these efforts, particularly during the 1960s and 1970s, was the Główna Komisja



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Ścigania Zbrodni przeciwko Narodowi Polskiemu, known as the Chief Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation. They were active in publishing maps both for domestic educational purposes and for international remembrance and diplomatic efforts regarding the Holocaust. Jan Laskowski was a leading cartographer who produced a number of maps in this field.

These maps were produced as part of a series of maps that purported to combine to form an atlas of all of Hitler's crimes in Poland. Many of the large wall maps produced during this period could only show a fraction of the crimes, or only the atrocities committed in one region. Thus, a series of maps was needed to show all the points necessary, which this present work contributes to.

#### **Polish Reinterpretations of the Holocaust**

Studying the effects of German occupation in Poland is a delicate subject. While it is certain that Poland suffered at least as badly as any other European nation during the Second World War, reinterpretations of the Holocaust in the country have also been used to satisfy nationalistic tendencies. It has become evident to Western observers in the last several years that there is a strong nationalist movement in Poland that seeks to place blame for the Holocaust solely on the shoulders of non-Polish actors, a movement originally fostered under Soviet rule. This movement has gone so far as to limit freedom of speech, criminalizing (with a three-year sentence) the suggestion that Poland or its citizens (in any form) participated in the murders committed by Nazis. As such, the term "Polish concentration camps" has been deemed unacceptable, with the government-approved term being "concentration camps on Polish territory."

All lines of evidence show that this map was produced using the most accurate and impartial historical sources. The language on the map is simple, naming only "Hitler's Atrocities," and there is no evidence of a clear anti-German bias. However, it is impossible to separate this map, one of the most important productions of the remembrance movement during this period, from the social situation in which it was produced. Maps like these can easily be converted into propaganda instruments, and today's Polish leaders, most of whom grew up during Soviet occupation, will have formed their understanding of the Holocaust through maps like these.

#### **Soviet Censorship**

While the content of the map appears to have been produced free from bias, the map still had to go through Soviet censorship. Mentioning prisoner of war camps, in which primarily Soviet troops were



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na ziemiach Polskich w latach 1939-1945 | Hitlerowskie obozy jenieckie na ziemiach  
Polskich w latach 1939-1945 [Nazi concentration camps and extermination centers in  
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interned, would have been a prerequisite condition upon which the publication of the map rested. Further, the lack of mention of any Soviet killings or camps requires no explanation. In addition, the Warsaw Ghetto is not referred to at all, with only general symbols used around Warsaw.

The map, unlike many later maps, makes no differentiation between the populations who suffered at the various camps. This represents the Soviet agenda that all nations suffered, fought, and won equally, which sought to limit divisions in this post-identity state.

**Detailed Condition:**

Printed front and back on a single sheet.