

fake. On many pieces, the oxidation of the silver was purple, a tell-tale sign that they were not antiques; also, very few conformed to the artistic style of the period in which they were purportedly created and used.

Fortunately, my friend was able to receive a refund for many (though not all) of the counterfeit pieces.

True antique Judaica is very rare. Hitler not only murdered our people but destroyed hundreds of years of European Jewish art and history. His henchmen looted silver and gold objects from both families and synagogues and melted them down. Very few objects survived. Most of what remains was saved by immigrants who escaped Europe before World War II.

With so few Judaica objects on the market, unscrupulous dealers, mostly in Israel, have made a business of crafting forgeries that they sell to unsuspecting tourists who come in to "buy a piece of their heritage." If you are not a Judaica expert, you're better off placing your trust in silversmiths and dealers

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