

Jewish tin plate



- Date of production 18th/19th century
- Place of creation Zwickau, Germany
- Dimensions height: 3.7 cm, diameter: 31.9 cm
- ID no. MCh-S/3580
- Museum [Irena and Mieczysław Mazaraki Museum in Chrzanów](#)
- Subjects [multiculture](#), [religion](#), [at the table](#)
- Technique [engraving](#)
- Material [tin sheet](#)
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- Tags [judaika](#), [naczynie](#), [szabat](#), [święto](#), [3D](#), [wielokulturowość](#), [Żydzi](#), [złotnictwo](#), [zastawa stołowa](#), [domena publiczna](#)

This plate could have been used on the Sabbath or, more likely, during the *Purim* holiday celebrated in the month of *Adar*, which symbol is fish, used as an decoration motif in this exhibit.

A tin plate decorated with engraved fish in the mirror and the image of two fish facing each other on the collar, between them monogram „T S” was placed. The engraving on the collar is clearly older than the engraving on the plate mirror. On its reverse, the engraving with the „T S” letters was repeated, and below it, in the middle, three punches were placed (two of which are the same), which were the signs of the Saxon town of Zwickau and master Christian Gotthold Scherfig (master since 1780).

The plate decoration in the form of an engraved image of a fish is undoubtedly linked to the separation of meat dishes from dairy dishes in the Jewish religion. They were prepared and served with the use of separate utensils. On the plate, there are visible traces of use in the form of numerous cracks and dents.

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Purim

One of the customs associated with the holiday *Purim* is sending each other gifts (*mishloach manot*), for which at least two portions of different delicacies are to be made. They may not require any additional treatment from the recipient; they must be suitable for immediate consumption. The most common are: cookies, fruit, grape juice, sweets, drinks, and alcohol. The gift is traditionally provided by a messenger. In the past, these types of gifts were passed on using special plates—called *purim*—usually made of ceramics or tin, whose mirror was usually decorated with scenes from the Book of Esther or representations of three entwined fish (meaning the constellation of Pisces in the month *Adar*). On this day, generosity should be shown towards all the poor (*cedaka*). Fulfilling this mitzvah (*matanot lewjonim*) manifests itself in giving donations or presents, or funding a meal for at least two people. In this case, the dish is transferred via a middleman (*szelijacha*), for reasons of anonymity. Both of these commandments must be completed within one day.

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