

Cape Colony: Great Synagogue Cape Town Consecrated

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Form: Circular

By: ?

Date: 1905

Ref: Laidlaw: 0971;

Variations:

Size	Metal	Mass	Value
37.9 mm	White Metal	19.6 gm	\$180

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Front view of Synagogue. In the exergue: "5665", the year 1905 in the Jewish calendar.

Reverse: Star of David with Hebrew abbreviation: "ק" above and motto: "תקוה ישראל" below. Legend above: "GREAT SYNAGOGUE CAPE TOWN" and below between stops: "CONSECRATED 13 SEPT. 1905".

Notes: The motto: "תקוה ישראל" (Tikvat Yisrael) meaning: "Hope of Israel" has been used by the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation since its inception in 1841. It is probable that the abbreviation: "ק" could be interpreted and translated to mean: "Established in the name of G-d, Hallelujah."

The Great Synagogue (Gardens Schul) is located at 88 Hatfield Street, Cape Town. The congregation is the oldest Jewish congregation in South Africa.

The building replaced the St John's Street Synagogue when that became too small. It was designed by the Architects J. Parker and Forsyth in the European Baroque style and built at a cost of £26 000. It has a capacity for 1,500 worshippers. The foundation stone was laid by the Governor of the Cape, Sir Walter Hely-Hutchinson, on 2 June 1904. The synagogue was consecrated on 13 September 1905 by Rev A.P. Bender and opened by the congregation president, Hyman Lieberman, Mayor of Cape Town.