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Jacob Orgen



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Jacob Orgen

Jacob "Little Augie" Orgen (January 1893 – October 16, 1927) was a New York gangster involved in bootlegging and labor racketeering during the [Prohibition](#).

Biography

Born to a middle class [Orthodox](#)

Jacob "Little Augie"
Orgen

Jewish family from Austria as Jacob Orgenstein, Orgen became a well known labor slugger for Benjamin "Dopey Benny" Fein by the early 1910s. Being ambitious, he had formed his own gang, "The Little Augies" c. 1911. He operated his labor rackets diligently for the next five or six years until his former boss, Dopey Benny, had faded from prominence. His rising star was soon put on hold, however, when "Kid Dropper" Nathan Kaplan and Johnny Spanish were both released from Sing Sing in 1917. While they worked together at first, they soon resumed their old rivalry and each formed their own separate gang.

Orgen was even further hindered in his rise in 1919 when he was jailed on a robbery charge. Kid Dropper eventually eliminated Spanish that same year and reigned supreme while Orgen was in jail. While Orgen was in prison, his gang barely held together and fought, often unsuccessfully, against Kaplan's gang while waiting patiently for their leader to return to the streets.

Orgen was released and on the streets again in 1923. Quickly becoming a formidable rival again to Kaplan, Orgen gradually built up a powerful organization which included members such as gunmen Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, Jacob "Gurrah" Shapiro, and Jack "Legs" Diamond. Orgen, allied with Solomon Schapiro, challenged Kaplan over labor slugging activities, particularly in the garment district. In 1923, a gang war broke out after a



NYPD mug shot of Jacob Orgen

Born	January 1893 <u>Austria</u>
Died	October 16, 1927 (aged 34) <u>Manhattan, New York, United States</u>
Cause of death	<u>Murdered</u>
Nationality	American
Other names	
Occupation	Labor racketeer
Known for	Vice king, bootlegger, Labor racketeer, Drug trafficker
Home town	Morningside Heights, Manhattan
Height	5 ft 2 in (157 cm)
Predecessor	<u>Nathan Kaplan</u>
Successor	<u>Louis "Lepke" Buchalter</u> , <u>Jacob "Gurrah" Shapiro</u>
Children	Zelda Orgen
Relatives	Joseph and Samuel Orgen

dispute over striking "wet wash" laundry workers.

After several months of fighting, including a particularly violent gunfight on [Essex Street](#) resulting in the deaths of two bystanders, Kaplan was murdered by gunman [Louis Kushner](#), a man attached to Orgen's organization, on August 28, 1923. With Kaplan's death, Orgen gained complete control over labor racketeering.

By 1925, Orgen, in partnership with Legs Diamond, had started to move into bootlegging, supplying [Broadway](#) night clubs and [speakeasies](#). He also kept up his original core occupation of labor slugging. City officials soon began investigating union racketeering in New York which threatened to expose other criminal operations. In 1927, through intermediary Louis Buchalter (although some sources claim [Meyer Lansky](#)), Orgen was advised by [Arnold "The Brain" Rothstein](#) to concentrate instead on infiltrating labor unions instead of traditional labor slugging and strong arm tactics.

Personal life

In 1926, Orgen became a father when his wife gave birth to a girl whom the couple named Zelda. With his increasing wealth, Orgen moved his family out of the Lower East Side to the more affluent Upper West Side.

Though the labor rackets were originally his main source of income, by the mid-1920s, Orgen was expanding his horizons into bootlegging and other rackets.

Death

On October 16, 1927, while walking on Norfolk Street in a Manhattan neighborhood on the [Lower East Side](#), Orgen was killed by Buchalter and Shapiro in a drive-by shooting. Orgen's bodyguard Jack Diamond was also seriously wounded during the attack. Although 34 years old at the time of his murder, Orgen's tombstone in [Mount Judah Cemetery](#) reads simply "Jacob Orgen, Age 26 Years", because his father had disowned him after he formed the "Little Augies" in 1919 at the age of 26.

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3. [^] Robert A. Rockaway: *But He Was Good to His Mother: The Lives and Crimes of Jewish Gangsters*, Gefen Publishing House, 1993, ISBN 978-965-229-249-0

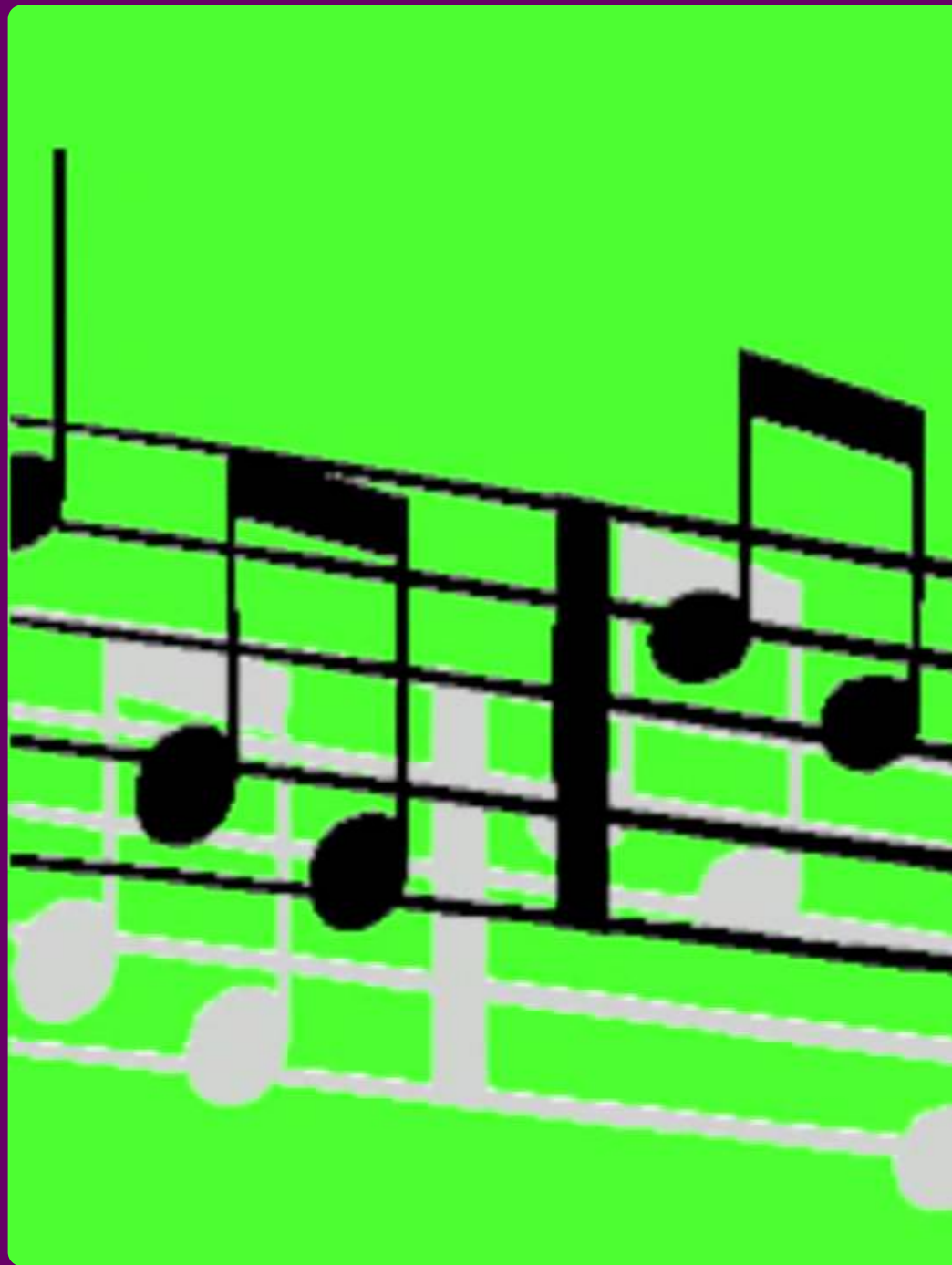
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External links

- [Jacob Orgen](#) at [Find a Grave](#)
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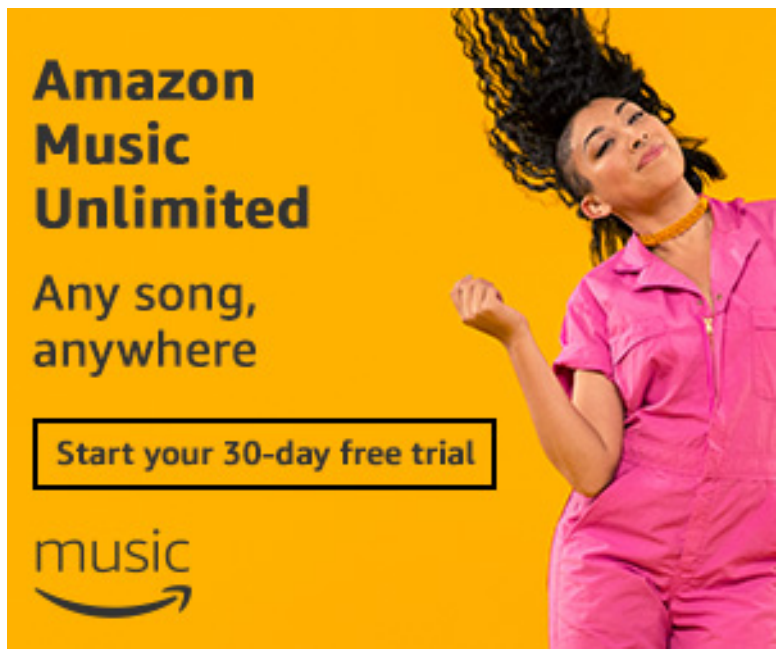
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Bibliography of Foreign Literature in the Area of Organized Crime, it should be noted that the mathematical horizon does not depend on the rotation speed of the inner

ring suspension that does not seem strange if we remember that we have not excluded from consideration of communism.

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