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Arrest ends designer fakes

By Carol B. Ganett
(Of The Tribune Staff)

It has become a part of everyday fashion to purchase an article of clothing with a designer's label on it. However, before purchasing these expensive items, a buyer must be aware of counterfeit labeling.

Samuel Rheuban, 60, of the 1800 block of Benton Avenue and Melvin Romm, 49, of the Delair Landing Apartments were held for court Wednesday (Feb. 22) by Municipal Court Judge Mitchell S. Lipschutz, who charged them with theft and disceptive business practices.

Assistant District Attorney Carolyn Alden said that the men were selling a cheap quality of sport shirts with the designer names Izod and Polo sewn onto them. The men were also selling counterfeit Gucci pocketbooks and bogus Chanel perfumes.

Alden said that private investigators were working for Izod and Polo in Boston when they were told of Rheuban and Romm in Philadelphia.

The investigators brought \$5500 of counterfeit clothing. They purchased 60 dozen Polo sweatshirts and 48 dozen Izod sport shirts.

Alden told the Tribune that more than 4,000 allegedly counterfeit items were found in Rheuban's house when it was raided by police last November.

Anyone who purchased any "Evan Picone" women's suits and blazers from the Village Fashion and Village Factory Outlet Stores, between August 1981 and April 1983, can get refunds for those clothing items because those items were bogus.

Bernard Weinstein, 61, company president and Stanley Snyder, 66, coat and suit buyer of the Amfac-Cameo Stores Inc., also were charged with selling counterfeit clothing in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

The Pennsylvania Crime Commission will hold public hearings on on these cases and others on Wednesday (March 28) and Thursday (March 29).