

The SA Marine Dagger

[Here we have a dagger with an interesting background.](#)

<http://www.craigottlieb.com/engine/inspect.asp?Item=4677&Filter=German+Militaria>

It was created in the 1960s by James P. Atwood and based on a legitimate piece made in Solingen, Germany, for the Argentine Navy.

Atwood used the original, eagle-head cross guard and added an SA insignia taken from an original period lapel pin and a newly-invented finial. The scabbard with his hammered throat was the scabbard intended for the Argentine piece.

Atwood bought one hundred of these fantasy pieces from the maker for DM 100.- each (then about \$25) and the new fittings and the fake Damascus blade cost him another DM 150 each. The total cost to James was less than \$100 and after giving them space in his dagger book, he sold these to collectors and dealers for \$500 each. Now, we note that one of these is being offered for only \$70,000! The markup here is phenomenal!

But recently, another Atwood invention, the "Damascus Himmler Letter Opener" sold to a foolish Russian collector for only \$25,000. Since these fake "Müller" pieces cost James only DM 125 each to have made, including this laughable fraud in his book was more than profitable.