



MEMORIA

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IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF A FAMILY HISTORY RECORDED IN LETTERS

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"GREEN TICKET"
ROUNDUP: A
PHOTOGRAPHIC
REPORT RETURNS
FROM OBLIVION

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We invite all of you to work closely with us. We would be grateful to receive information about events, projects, publications, exhibitions, conferences or research that we should share with our readers. We also accept proposals for articles.

Paweł Sawicki, Editor-in-Chief

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IMAGES OF THE "GREEN TICKET" ROUNDUP: A PHOTOGRAPHIC REPORT RETURNS FROM OBLIVION

A new exhibition at the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris, Images of the "Green Ticket" Roundup. An Exceptional Discovery for History, presents a remarkable set of photographs documenting one of the earliest mass arrests of Jews in German-occupied France. Open from 10 May to 31 December 2026, the exhibition marks the 85th anniversary of the roundup of 14 May 1941.



IMAGES
DE LA RAFLE
DU « BILLET
VERT »

EXPOSITION
DU 10 MAI
AU 31 DÉC.
2026

UNE DÉCOUVERTE
EXCEPTIONNELLE
POUR L'HISTOIRE



The exhibition is based on the discovery of five photographic contact sheets containing 98 images. Only a small number of them had previously been known to specialists and published. The rest remained unseen for decades. Together, they form a complete photographic report of the so-called "green ticket" roundup, ordered by the German occupiers and carried out by French authorities.

The name of the roundup comes from the green summonses sent by the French police to foreign Jews living in Paris. Between 9 and 13 May

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The name of the roundup comes from the green summonses sent by the French police to foreign Jews living in Paris. Between 9 and 13 May 1941, 6,494 men received orders to report on 14 May, bringing identity documents and accompanied by a relative or friend. Many obeyed, believing that the summons might concern the regularisation of their legal status. Around 3,700 men were arrested. At the Gymnase Japy alone, nearly 800 people were summoned before being transferred via Austerlitz station to the camps at Pithiviers and Beaune-la-Rolande.

The photographs show not only the men who were arrested, but also the women and children who accompanied them that day, bringing suitcases, waiting, saying goodbye, or trying to understand what was happening. Their fate is an essential part of the story. The internment of the men meant the loss of income, fear, isolation and uncertainty for their families. A year later, many of the women and children present during the "green ticket" roundup would themselves become victims of the Vel d'Hiv roundup of 16 and 17 July 1942.

The exhibition also reconstructs the investigation that led to the identification of the photographer: Harry Croner, a Berlin photographer who served in the Propaganda Kompanie of the Wehrmacht between 1940 and 1941. This context is crucial. The images were not taken from a neutral position. They were produced from within the German military and propaganda apparatus, before censorship selected what could be used. Looking at them today therefore requires both historical attention and ethical caution.

Croner's biography adds another difficult layer to the story. Born in Berlin in 1903, he became a portrait photographer before being drafted into the Wehrmacht. He was later declared unfit for military service after the Wehrmacht discovered that his father was Jewish. In 1943, he was arrested as a Jew, and in 1944 interned in a labour camp in France. After the war, he returned to Berlin and became a well-known press photographer. In 1989, he donated his photographic archive to the city of Berlin.

The fact that the raw photographic sequence has survived allows historians and visitors to see more than a censored propaganda product. It reveals moments of separation, anxiety, humiliation and administrative violence. It also restores visibility to individual people who were caught in the first large-scale arrest of Jews in France, an event still less widely known than later roundups.

The exhibition was scientifically curated by Lior Lalieu, head of the

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF A FAMILY HISTORY RECORDED IN LETTERS

After my aunt Esther died in New York City in 2004, her children – my cousins – found a box of letters which she had kept. These letters were written by her parents, my grandparents, between January 1939 and August 1942 to the three of their five children whom they had managed to send to England.

Two of these children were sent by Kindertransport on January 5th 1939, my father Nathan and my aunt Esther, who had kept the letters written to all three. The third sibling, Lottie, reached England in June 1939, once she had secured a position as a trainee nurse in Biggleswade Isolation Hospital for lung cancer.

In May 1939, my grandparents were expelled from their home in Sassanfahrt, Bavaria, Germany to the nearby town of Bamberg and from there by July 1939 had managed to smuggle themselves and their two remaining children, the youngest, into Brussels, Belgium. They had exhausted their flimsy resources in escaping Germany and were impoverished and dependent on the charity of Jewish Benevolent Committees, and on what their teenage children could send them from England. Their many attempts to leave continental Europe failed, as their letters testify. In May 1940, in the face of the advancing German army, they fled Belgium for southern France and there they were soon picked up and separated. Grandmother, Minna Merel, was dispatched with the two little girls to the infamous internment camp at Rivesaltes, Vichy France, where she died in May 1941. She was buried in a marked grave in nearby Perpignan. In 1979, my father (Nathan) travelled to Perpignan to disinter his mother's bones and in a very moving nighttime ceremony she was reburied in the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, in the presence of surviving descendants.

After their mother's death, the two girls, Sophie and Jenny, were smuggled out of Rivesaltes camp by the OSE Underground and were housed in the Chateau du Couret home for refugee children and later with various Christian families and organisations, before being smuggled to safety in Switzerland in 1943. There the Jewish communities looked after them.

Grandfather Samuel was displaced again and again, sent to various work camps and down a mine, until late in August 1942 he was dispatched to Drancy, Paris and on to Auschwitz, as we confirmed much later at Yad Vashem. Samuel continued sending letters and postcards to his children in England until August 24th. We believe that he was gassed in Auschwitz on arrival there on August 28th 1942 as his name appears in the Auschwitz Diaries list for that day.

The original letters and postcards are now archived at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. They total approximately 200 written sides, about two-thirds are dated and the rest not. Most are written in German mixed with Yiddish, with a couple in French and English, plus the occasional word in Hebrew. Yad Vashem provided a one-page synopsis of the salient points. Of these the most striking is the fact that Samuel had at least two opportunities to escape but would not leave his wife and small daughters. In addition, both he and Minna constantly declare their faith and trust in the Almighty and admonish their children to keep to the Jewish tradition in which they were raised, and to take good care



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It is noteworthy that for \$250-300 then (\$4000-5000 in today's money) they could all have reached safety in Cuba or Bolivia, but they were penniless by then and could not raise the funds. The five children survived the War and where re-united in London late in 1945. The older three died in their 80s and 90s, the two youngest are still alive and well and now living in Jerusalem, Israel. I have been working with this material for some years in an ongoing Holocaust Remembrance Art Project.

Book:

I have had all the letters and postcards translated, and in 2010 I produced a book containing the transcriptions and translations, some photos, background material and glossary. Yad Vashem holds two copies of "Letters from my Grandparents".

Installation 1: 200 Masks:

I have created an installation out of copies of the original letters. I have reversed the black and white, and created some 200 life-sized paper masks, based on the faces of my son and my daughter, to represent their great grandfather and great grandmother. The masks can be fixed on the wall, and/or suspended from the ceiling.

Installation 2: Laid Table:

I have completed a second installation piece, a table set with plates bearing photographs from the 1930s, and a tablecloth printed with texts drawn from the letters in Hebrew, English and the original German, and bearing a related hand-made ceramic book.



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43RD SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL AUSCHWITZ COUNCIL

The 43rd session of the International Auschwitz Council was held on 12 May 2026 at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. The session was chaired by Prof. Dariusz Stola.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister of Culture and National Heritage Marek Krawczyk, who awarded the Gold Medal for Merit to Culture "Gloria Artis" to Council member and Holocaust Survivor Ada Willenberg.

Members of the International Auschwitz Council observed a minute of silence in memory of Abraham Foxman who passed on 10 May, the longtime director of the Anti-Defamation League, committed to combating antisemitism and fostering Christian-Jewish dialogue.

Director Dr. Piotr M. A. Cywiński, summarizing developments at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum over the past six months, emphasized that visitor numbers had returned to pre-pandemic levels. The requirement for individual visitors to reserve entry passes exclusively through visit.auschwitz.org has been successfully implemented.

"Until recently, a major problem involved various companies from Kraków bringing visitors in the early morning hours and charging very high fees while making them queue for entry passes. We have now managed to stop these unfair practices, and visitor attendance has not suffered in any way. Eliminating this procedure was very important to us," emphasized Director Cywiński.

Online guided tours continue to expand and are increasingly being used by representatives of large international companies. Last year, participants included, among others, ministers responsible for culture in the German federal states, Members of the European Parliament, and, in an unprecedented one-time event, approximately 200,000 Italian students simultaneously taking part in an online visit to the Memorial.

Among the most important events held at the Museum, the Director mentioned the 81st anniversary of the liberation of the camp, during which the tradition of avoiding political speeches was maintained.

"This decision was very well received throughout the world. For the first time in January, we also invited an actor to participate in the commemoration event, through whose interpretation the words of a witness to history were heard. Michał Żebrowski read excerpts from the camp notes made by Zalmen Gradowski. It was a successful initiative that we would like to continue during future anniversaries," emphasized Piotr Cywiński.

The Director also highlighted the excellent cooperation with the Polish Television, thanks to which a professional television signal is available to audiences worldwide. The significance of the television production is demonstrated by the fact that the live broadcast of the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz reached at least 950





Auschwitz and the Holocaust for carrying out various projects.

"A good, large, and functional education center is indispensable at the Memorial Site. If we wish to encourage deeper reflection, this is absolutely essential. It is difficult for us to imagine our work without this infrastructure, including our new hostel, which greatly supports the activities of the

Center. These are tools that have elevated educational activities to a previously unattainable scale," said Piotr Cywiński.

In his report, the Director also discussed new Museum publications. In 2025, the Museum published 116 titles in 16 languages, including 15 entirely new publications. Total sales exceeded 372,000 copies, the vast majority sold on site. Publications are also available through the online bookstore at books.auschwitz.org.

The Director also spoke about the opening, at the end of last year, of the third section of the Museum's new main exhibition, devoted to the experience of prisoners in the camp. "Many people appreciate the minimalism of this exhibition: the fact that it is not a monographic presentation covering entire walls, but rather an exhibition addressing only the most essential issues connected with prisoners of Auschwitz," emphasized Piotr Cywiński.

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He announced that the traveling exhibition "Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away.", prepared jointly with a Spanish company Musealia, will be presented for more than two years at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC beginning in January 2027.

The Director also spoke about the Museum's acquisition of an exceptional original document created by Auschwitz Survivor Alfred Kantor, who was deported to the camp from the Theresienstadt ghetto at the end of 1943. "The Diary of Alfred Kantor," together with his drawings and notes created both during his imprisonment and after the war, constitutes an extraordinary visual testimony concerning the Holocaust and the experience of a prisoner.

Piotr Cywiński also discussed the involvement of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation in acquiring a large portion of a collection of original documents that had previously been offered for sale at a German auction house. Thanks to cooperation with regional authorities, a substantial part of the collection was secured quickly. The documents will be transferred to the Memorial Sites with which they are connected.

Describing the progress of conservation work, the Director spoke, among other things, about the conservation of brick buildings at the former Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp, including the completion of conservation work on the oldest camp bathhouse, as well as the stabilization of retaining walls surrounding the building of the first crematorium and gas chamber at the former Auschwitz I camp.

During the session of the International Auschwitz Council, members discussed the progress of work related to the construction of a new museum building and main exhibition, as well as commemoration efforts at the site of the former German extermination center in Treblinka.

In one of the adopted resolutions, the International Auschwitz Council expressed its appreciation for the activities of the International Treblinka Council and called for the implementation of its recommendations, including the immediate removal of inscriptions referring to Jedwabne and Radziłów from the stones commemorating the communities

OD MORALNEGO PARALIŻU DO DZIAŁANIA: CZEGO NAUCZYŁO MNIE AUSCHWITZ O UWIKŁANIU MEDYCYNY W ZBRODNI

Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE) promotes ethical leadership for today's professionals through annual fellowships, ethical leadership trainings, and symposia, among other means. Each year, FASPE awards 80 to 90 fellowships to graduate students and early-career professionals in six fields: Business, Clergy & Religious Leaders, Design & Technology, Journalism, Law, and Medicine. Fellowships begin with immersive site-specific study in Germany and Poland, including at Auschwitz and other historically significant sites associated with Nazi-era professionals. While there, fellows study Nazi-era professionals' surprisingly mundane and familiar motivations and decision-making as a reflection-based framework to apply to ethical pitfalls in their own lives. We find that the power of place translates history into the present, creating urgency in ethical reflection.

Each month one of our fellows publishes a piece in Memoria. Their work reflects FASPE's unique approach to professional ethics and highlights the need for thoughtful ethical reflection today.

I therefore prefer to forego this appointment, though it is suited to my inclinations and capabilities, rather than having to betray my convictions; or that by remaining silent I would encourage an opinion about me that does not correspond with the facts. - Otto Krayer (1933)¹

A pit of dread grew inside my stomach as I stared into the haunting eyes of a young girl in a photograph on the walls of Berlin's Charité Hospital, imagining the brutal fate she eventually faced. Ingeborg was a German child who suffered a traumatic brain injury and consequently developed neurological and psychiatric disabilities. She also lived under the Nazi regime, which systematically murdered those with disabilities under the auspices of the infamous T4 program: killing centers designed to eliminate "life unworthy of life."² As I mulled over the black-and-white photograph of this straight-lipped young girl with bangs and a flower-patterned shirt, Ingeborg came to life before my eyes like any other child I might have seen that summer day in Berlin innocently holding her mother's hand. Directly above her loomed a photograph of Hans Heinze, a German psychiatrist who supervised the Brandenburg "euthanasia" program to which Ingeborg was sent and murdered in a gas chamber. She then likely had her brain collected for psychiatric research.

Ingeborg and Hans Heinze's photographs in an exhibit in Charité.

Several months ago, when I received an email that I was to join a cohort of professionals to visit sites from Nazi history and discuss professional ethics, I felt a morbid eagerness to experience firsthand the moral conflict of a medical professional



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atrocities that occurred in the camps. Driven by an instinct honed in medical school to preserve intellectual clarity by warding off emotions, I attempted to maintain a sense of hardened objectivity and academic curiosity. I had always taken pride in my ability to use my words as a weapon and shield against moral chaos, a way to make sense of the world's ethical complexities. But as I stood next to the Auschwitz railroad mere feet away from where a Nazi doctor stood 80 years ago, directing prisoners towards the gas chambers, my words slipped away from me. I stared in silent incredulity at photographs of young children like Ingeborg, who clung to their mothers as they were unknowingly herded to their execution. I was morally dumbstruck by how anyone, least of all a doctor, could be complicit in such evil. As I sobbed silently in the middle of the vast encampment, I felt a paralyzing sense of defeat before this giant killing machine that had devoured millions of lives in the name of an ideology. What could my individual resistance have done to change the outcome of a system designed so effectively to execute its programming?

Auschwitz-Birkenau encampment

For several weeks after I returned from Poland, I remained morally paralyzed, unable to make sense of what I had witnessed—how Auschwitz was made possible while doctors stood by, or worse, eagerly participated. An eerie sense of familiarity crept into my mind as I began to replay scenes from my own medical training with a newfound sense of hopelessness spurred by my own silence: watching in horror as my resident spoke coolly about scheduling a cholecystectomy to a red-faced patient keeling over in pain after brutally maneuvering his abdomen to check for cholecystitis; hearing a fellow medical student join in the residents' clamor to fight a family member who was fiercely advocating for her mother with limited care options; smiling half-heartedly as an attending rolled his eyes at me upon seeing a patient's name who was notorious for "being difficult." My role as a medical student was like that of a fly: insignificant, often annoying, relegated to this lowly position in the kingdom of medicine. Speaking out, even anonymously, often meant risking your reputation, if not among the medical team, then perhaps among your peers who would view it as a weakness, an inability to handle the heat. If you want to succeed, you should know when to accept reality and keep quiet.

"Anyone have any comments?" A FASPE faculty member posed this question at a reunion event some months later to inquire how people were processing current events in relation to their experience at Auschwitz. While everyone took turns explaining their anger, their hopes, and the productive ways they found to channel their passion, I fell silent as I realized I still had no solution to my feelings of powerlessness. As I desperately rummaged through my mind to find an antidote to this suffocating silence, I recalled the actions of Otto Kraye, a German physician who vocally refused to take the professorship of a Jewish colleague who had been ousted from his post. Kraye's action represented one of the rare moments of moral dissent by a German academic in Nazi Germany. It also didn't change the outcome, as the position was filled by another professor, and Kraye was banned from German universities. Nevertheless, through the retrospective lens of history, we remember Kraye for admirably adhering to his personal convictions despite the cost to his career. Kraye didn't define his moral agency based on the outcome of his actions but rather by the principles he stood up and spoke out for.

Otto Kraye

Even if his individual act of resistance did not change, and probably could not have changed, the system that contravened his moral beliefs, Kraye refused to remain morally paralyzed, for inaction and silence would have led to complicity. I mused about how his colleagues might have reacted to his actions. Would they have thought him brave? More likely they

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The image shows a promotional banner for FASPE (Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics). The banner has a blue and green gradient background. On the left, the letters "FASPE" are written in large, white, serif font. To the right of "FASPE", the text "Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below this text, there is a white rectangular button with the text "WATCH A SHORT FILM ABOUT FASPE" in blue, bold, sans-serif font. On the right side of the banner, there is a photograph of a group of people, likely students, sitting at tables and looking at books or papers.

THE WITOLD PILECKI INTERNATIONAL BOOK AWARD

The Pilecki Institute is accepting applications for the Witold Pilecki International Book Award until the end of June. The competition, now in its sixth year, is organized with the participation of the Patron's Family and in partnership with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

It is open to books that were published in 2025 and fall into one of the following three categories: scholarly historical books; historical reportages or biographies; and books documenting the manifestations and relics of 20th-century totalitarian systems in the modern world. Publications in Polish, English, French and German are accepted.

– We are convinced that the history of the 20th century, shaped to a large extent under the influence of two totalitarianism systems, continues to have a very strong impact on our contemporaneity”, observes Karol Madaj, Director (acting) of the Pilecki Institute.

– That is why today, for the sixth consecutive year, we will select and identify the best books dedicated to this history, firmly believing that they will help us understand not only the past, but also the present. Although the patron of the Institute and the Award, Witold Pilecki, was first and foremost a soldier, he was also a witness to the German Nazi genocide and the author of the Auschwitz report, in which he disclosed the truth about the concentration camp – a horrific element of the Nazi machinery of crime – to the world. For this reason, Pilecki himself and his life's work are an inspiration for all three categories of the Prize: the scholarly, the journalistic, and that which is devoted to crimes to which we are witnesses now, but whose origins stem directly from the totalitarianisms of the 20th century – stresses Karol Madaj. Significantly, as its name implies, the Witold Pilecki International Book Award is an “international” prize. Works published in Polish, English, French and German may be submitted. The Chapter of the Award Committee will choose the initial batch of nominated books from which Winners and Honorable Mentions will be selected; their titles will be made public in September. The Winners of the competition will be announced and the prizes and honorable mentions awarded at a Gala that will be held towards the end of the year in the lecture theater of the Pilecki Institute. The authors of the best books will receive commemorative statuettes and cash prizes. Winners in the first two categories will receive prizes of 50,000 Polish zlotys, while the winner in the third category will collect 25,000 Polish zlotys. Honorable mentions carrying cash prizes of 5,000 Polish zlotys each will also be awarded in all three categories.

Categories

Scholarly historical book – the best monograph or synthesis on the experience of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe of confronting the Nazi German and Soviet totalitarianisms in the 20th century, with a particular emphasis on Poland. When evaluating books submitted in this category, good documentation, original interpretations and attractive messaging are particularly appreciated.

Historical reportage – a book that offers readers an engaging story about the experience of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe of confronting the Nazi German and Soviet totalitarianisms in the 20th century, with a particular emphasis on Poland. In addition to classic historical reportages, biographies, memoirs and accounts of witnesses to history may also be submitted in this category. When evaluating submissions, a respect for sources, good composition and narrative credibility are especially appreciated.

Documenting the manifestations and relics of 20th-century totalitarian systems in the modern world – a book that bears witness to the criminal activities of totalitarian, post-



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It is open to books that were published in 2025 and fall into one of the following three categories: scholarly historical books; historical reportages or biographies; and books documenting the manifestations and relics of 20th-century totalitarian systems in the modern world. Publications in Polish, English, French and German are accepted.

– We are convinced that the history of the 20th century, shaped to a large extent under the influence of two totalitarianism systems, continues to have a very strong impact on our contemporaneity”, observes Karol Madaj, Director (acting) of the Pilecki Institute.

– That is why today, for the sixth consecutive year, we will select and identify the best books dedicated to this history, firmly believing that they will help us understand not only the past, but also the present. Although the patron of the Institute and the Award, Witold Pilecki, was first and foremost a soldier, he was also a witness to the German Nazi genocide and the author of the Auschwitz report, in which he disclosed the truth about the concentration camp – a horrific element of the Nazi machinery of crime – to the world. For this reason, Pilecki himself and his life’s work are an inspiration for all three categories of the Prize: the scholarly, the journalistic, and that which is devoted to crimes to which we are witnesses now, but whose origins stem directly from the totalitarianisms of the 20th century – stresses Karol Madaj. Significantly, as its name implies, the Witold Pilecki International Book Award is an “international” prize. Works published in Polish, English, French and German may be submitted. The Chapter of the Award Committee will choose the initial batch of nominated books from which Winners and Honorable Mentions will be selected; their titles will be made public in September. The Winners of the competition will be announced and the prizes and honorable mentions awarded at a Gala that will be held towards the end of the year in the lecture theater of the Pilecki Institute. The authors of the best books will receive commemorative statuettes and cash prizes. Winners in the first two categories will receive prizes of 50,000 Polish zlotys, while the winner in the third category will collect 25,000 Polish zlotys. Honorable mentions

How should a book be submitted to the competition?

Applications for participation in the competition can be submitted by authors, publishers or private/natural persons, and organizational entities devoid of legal personality by sending an electronic version of the book to the Pilecki Institute using the following e-mail address:
nagroda@instytutpileckiego.pl

When submitting an application, it is necessary to indicate the competition category in which the book is being entered. The deadline for submission of applications will elapse on 30 June 2026. The detailed regulations of the competition and the application form are available on the Pilecki Institute website.

CONNY KRISTEL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

EHRI-ERIC fellowship programme facilitates international access to a broad range of archives and collections related to the Holocaust, supporting and stimulating Holocaust research and documentation worldwide. The programme is open to researchers, archivists, librarians, curators and other relevant professionals.

Fellows can design their own research journey of between 1 and 6 weeks, choosing from a network of 25 leading host institutions to visit across Europe, Israel and the United States.

The programme welcomes projects across all aspects of Holocaust history: from its prehistory and the rise of antisemitism, to its aftermath and legacy, as well as challenges in the archival management of Holocaust-related sources.

As a fellow, you will receive a stipend towards housing and living expenses as well as reimbursement of travel costs to and from the host institution. Fellowship stays must take place before December 31, 2027, with start dates decided jointly by the fellow and the host institution. Please note that it is not possible to apply for a Conny Kristel Fellowship at an institution located in your country of residence.

New institutions joining our network in 2026

This year, we welcome four new host institutions to the Conny Kristel Fellowship network. We are happy to announce that The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Washington D.C.) has rejoined the Conny Kristel Fellowship Programme after

a short absence. The museum houses an unparalleled repository of Holocaust documentation, containing millions of documents, artifacts, photographs, films and testimonies. This host institution is open to PhD students and candidates only.

The Ghetto Fighters' House Archive (Israel) is a living, growing institution holding a wide range of materials spanning the interwar years, the Holocaust period and the postwar era, including unique collections on the Łódź Ghetto, the Warsaw underground and Jewish resistance.

The Wiener Library for the Study of the Nazi Era and the Holocaust at Tel Aviv University (Israel) holds extensive archival sources, publications and databases spanning Nazi agencies, Jewish communities and the development of modern antisemitism, available to researchers worldwide.

The Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (Leipzig) offers expertise in research on violence and memory, oral history and testimony, with extensive library collections on the Holocaust and Eastern European history — and can be combined with a visit to their new Prague department.

What our fellows say

Fellow Benet Lehman, PhD candidate, describes their experience as enriching and highly productive with plenty of opportunities for connection, meaningful exchange and intellectual engagement.



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THE “WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING” MEDALS AND THE MAREK EDELMAN AWARD

On 14 May, a ceremony for the presentation of the Marek Edelman Award and the “Warsaw Ghetto Uprising” Medals took place at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. The event aimed to honor individuals working to preserve the memory of Jewish history. Additionally, the Marek Edelman Award specifically recognized those actively engaged in Polish-Jewish dialogue and efforts to combat antisemitism.

Established in 1993, the “Warsaw Ghetto Uprising” Medals are awarded by the Association of Jewish Combatants and Victims of the Second World War to those who have made exceptional contributions to preserving the memory of the uprising and the history of Polish Jews.

In 2021, the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland was invited to co-organize the ceremony and carry on this tradition. The honors are presented to researchers, educators, and social activists dedicated to building historical awareness and countering prejudice.

This year’s honorees include:

Dorota Budzińska – a community leader from Dąbrowa Białostocka engaged in educational initiatives and organizations focused on the history of the Jewish population in the Podlasie region. She was recognized for her “many years of activity devoted to preserving the memory of the local Jewish community, building intercultural dialogue, and educating youth.”

Andrzej Golimont – a Varsovianist and researcher of the history of Warsaw, honored for his “many years of work to protect Jewish heritage and commemorate the multicultural history of Warsaw and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.”

Magdalena Gudzińska-Adamczyk

– a cultural manager and social activist, recognized “for her civic and educational activities, and for her sensitivity in fostering attitudes of openness, respect, and social responsibility.”

Jonathan Ornstein – Executive Director of the Jewish Community Centre (JCC) Krakow, one of the most important institutions working toward the revival of Jewish community life in Poland.

Ewa Prończuk – a community advocate and longtime member of the Social and Cultural Association of Jews in Poland, honored for her “longstanding commitment



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WEBINAR: INTEGRATING HOLOCAUST-RELATED DATA ACROSS INSTITUTIONS

The Czech National Node of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI-CZ) is developing a new research portal that brings together heterogeneous Holocaust-related data from multiple institutions through a unified interface. The portal integrates archival descriptions, victim databases, digital collections, geospatial information, and contextual resources while addressing challenges such as multilinguality, differing metadata standards, and varying levels of data granularity.

At this interactive webinar Aneta Plzáková and Maria Dermentzi will present the current state of the EHRI-CZ Portal, highlighting both conceptual and practical aspects of the project. Participants will learn about the types of data being integrated, their integration workflows, methods for harmonisation and linking, and the technical and methodological challenges involved in large-scale aggregation. The session will also include a demonstration of selected portal features and an opportunity to provide feedback that will inform future development.

The webinar is intended not only for digital humanities specialists and data professionals, but also for archivists, historians, educators, and anyone interested in new ways of exploring Holocaust-related sources and historical data.

Aneta Plzáková: studied information science and library science at the Faculty of Arts

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Aneta Plzáková: studied information science and library science at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. Since 2008, she has worked at the Terezín Initiative Institute, where she has been involved in the administration and development of the Holocaust Victims Database and the coordination of digitisation and documentation projects. Among other things, she participated in the creation of the educational portal holocaust.cz, the Terezín Album project, and the documentation of Roma Holocaust victims.

Since 2021, she has been working at the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences, where she focuses on the management and interconnection of historical data, with an emphasis on Holocaust victim data and geospatial data. Together with her colleagues, she is developing the interactive map application MemoMap and is involved in preparing the Czech Node's EHRI Portal, which links Holocaust data from Czech and foreign institutions.

Maria Dermentzi: is a digital humanities researcher affiliated with EHRI-CZ. She is also the director of Toolbox 21, a company offering custom software solutions and

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“MIŁA – STATE OF AFFAIRS”

On 20 April 2026, the outdoor exhibition “Miła – State of Affairs” was officially opened at the “Miła 18” archaeological site, located at the intersection of Miła and Dubois streets in Warsaw. The display was organized by the Warsaw Ghetto Museum in cooperation with the Cukerman’s Gate Foundation.

The event drew a distinguished audience of cultural and academic figures, public institutions representatives, and numerous officials, including members of the diplomatic corps.

During the official opening, attendees had the opportunity to learn about the exhibition’s concept and historical context. Dr. Katarzyna Person, Director of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, discussed the significance of the research conducted at the Miła and Dubois intersection and also explained the role of material traces of the past in telling the story of the former Muranów district. The curators, Dr. Aleksandra Janus and Dorota Kulawik, then outlined the exhibition’s creative vision. Further addresses were delivered by Karolina Jakoweńko, President of the Board of the Cukerman’s Gate Foundation, and Dr. Piotr Rypson on behalf of the Department of Cultural Heritage.

Magdalena Kruszevska-Polak, archaeologist and head of the “Miła 18” project, talked about the history of the tenement houses that once stood at this location. She also presented the current state of the research and shared numerous fascinating details on the uncovered artifacts, which offer a deeper understanding of the everyday lives of those who hid in the basements of the destroyed buildings. The exhibition tells the story of the material traces of life in the Warsaw Ghetto, taking as its point of departure the findings of archaeological research at the “Miła 18” site in Warsaw’s Muranów district. There, the basements of 19th-century tenement houses were uncovered, along with thousands of everyday items linked to domestic life and the religious practices of ghetto inhabitants. The display juxtaposes these discoveries with the remains of the Jewish Fighting Organization bunkers unearthed in 2025 in Będzin, connected to the events of 1943 and the figure of Frumka Płotnicka, a close associate of Mordechaj Anielewicz. Though geographically distant, both sites are presented as material evidence of civilian and armed resistance, as well as the sheer will to survive.

The installation takes the form of an open-air presentation integrated into the archaeological site—an accessible space that invites visitors to enter, pause, and experience the history embedded in this location.

The exhibition “Miła – State of Affairs” will remain open to visitors at the intersection of Miła and Dubois Streets in Warsaw until September 2026.

**Miła:
stan rzeczy**

מגו
Muzeum Getta
Warszawskiego

**Miła Street:
The State of Things**



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