THE AUSCHWITZ MUSEUM ACQUIRES THE SECOND PART OF THE ARCHIVE CONCERNING THE ŁADOŚ GROUP
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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.

Please do share information about this magazine with others, particularly via social media.

Paweł Sawicki, Editor-in-Chief

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All editions: memoria.auschwitz.org
In March 2020, The Wiener Holocaust Library will be relaunching The Holocaust Explained, an educational resource that has been created to help learners understand the essential facts of the Holocaust, its causes and its consequences. The website aims to answer questions that students most often want to ask, in an accessible, reliable and engaging way.

The Nuremberg Laws, enacted in September 1935, marked the escalation of Nazi persecution towards Jews. This drawing, created by a young girl in her school textbook, depicts the laws and the antisemitic definitions that were used. Wiener Holocaust Library Collections.
This pamphlet, entitled 'Stop Them Now – German Mass Murder of Jews in Poland', was published by Szmul Zygielbojm, a Polish Jewish politician and refugee, in September 1942. The pamphlet contains reports of the Nazi atrocities collected by the Polish underground movement and eyewitness reports from Polish citizens. Wiener Holocaust Library Collections.
Es wird bestätigt, dass die Photographie den Legitimationsinhaber
Potvrzuje se, ze teto podobizna zobrazuje legitimace

Alize

Barcova
Alice Stern’s Jewish identification card from the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. These cards were issued to all Jews following the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. During the occupation, Alice was transported to the Łódź Ghetto on 31 October 1941 (as marked on the lower right-hand page). Alice survived the war and immigrated to Britain. Wiener Holocaust Library Collections.
The Wiener Holocaust Library's founder, Dr Alfred Wiener, had three daughters: Mirjam (right), Eva (left) and Ruth (middle). In 1943, the three girls were imprisoned with their mother in Westerbork and were later deported to Bergen-Belsen in 1944. They were released on a rare prisoner exchange scheme in 1945. Wiener Holocaust Library Collections.
The Wiener Holocaust Library’s founder, Dr Alfred Wiener, had three daughters: Mirjam (right), Eva (left) and Ruth (middle). In 1943, the three girls were imprisoned with their mother in Westerbork and were later deported to Bergen-Belsen in 1944. They were released on a rare prisoner exchange scheme in 1945. Wiener Holocaust Library Collections.

Designed with the British school curriculum in mind, the content is clearly organised across nine easy-to-navigate topic areas. It is an extremely popular online resource with both teachers and students alike, with over a million-page views every year from users across 140 countries.

The Holocaust Explained key features include:

• Video recordings of Holocaust survivor testimony

• Multimedia content with a variety of new and original maps, photographs, documents and diagrams to help explain key concepts and events

• A glossary of over a thousand words helping to explain difficult vocabulary and specialist terms

• Content written by teachers, historians and Holocaust specialists

• Advanced content for those who have already achieved a good basic understanding of the topic and wish to explore more in greater depth

• Engaging tools for browsing and searching content

• Free, open-platform access. No password, login or subscription required

Over the past two years, The Wiener Holocaust Library has been reviewing and revitalising the content on the website, with unique documents from the Library’s archive integrated along with the introduction of new interactive features. Irreplaceable documents from the Library’s collections are showcased throughout the site to help visualise the content.

Roxzann Baker, Project Coordinator, who has been in charge of researching and rewriting The Holocaust Explained said: “We are thrilled to be relaunching The Holocaust Explained. The Holocaust is one of the darkest chapters of human history and having an engaging resource that delicately explores this topic in a reliable and accessible way for children is essential. The outreach potential of this website is endless, and I hope that the site continues to grow and showcase the compelling and rare documents in The Wiener Holocaust Library’s archives to vast new audiences.”
THE AUSCHWITZ MUSEUM ACQUIRES THE SECOND PART OF THE ARCHIVE CONCERNING THE ŁADOŚ GROUP

After nearly two years of negotiations, the Auschwitz Museum acquired original documents of the second part of the so-called Eiss Archive. Among them, one can find several dozen photos of Jews, including famous figures that the group led by Polish Ambassador in Bern Aleksander Ładoś attempted to provide with Latin American documents. Analyses confirmed the authenticity of the collection.

“We have new photographs of 83 individuals. Some of them are sensational. They show, among others, Rutka Laskier aged 14, diary author from Będzin, called Polish Anne Frank. We can also see Wolf Begin, father of future Prime Minister of Israel as well as the leaders of Jewish Military Union and right-wing Zionists”, said Dr. Piotr M.A. Cywiński, Director of the Auschwitz Museum.

The unique collection was acquired from a private owner in Israel thanks to the efforts of the Polish Embassy in Bern and Markus Blechner, an honorary consul in Zurich. Blechner, aged 79, a descendant of Shoah survivors, who also played a crucial role in regaining the first part of the Eiss Archive in 2018, including among others 15 Paraguayan passports forged by Polish diplomats rescuing the Jews.

“First of all I wish to thank consul Blechner for his commitment. I would also like to thank Prime Minister Piotr Gliński for his consent to immediately acquire the collection and Polish diplomats for immediately organizing the operation of bringing these priceless records to the country”, Director Cywiński emphasized. He also added that the analyses confirmed the authenticity of the collection.

The Eiss Archive constitutes one of the most important collections of archival records documenting the activity of Ładoś Group. Led by the then Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Switzerland, the team consisting of several Polish and Jewish members, supervised mass manufacturing of thousands of illegal passports from Paraguay, Honduras, Haiti, and Peru.

The Eiss Archive documents the work of one of the members of the group, Chaim Eiss, the leader of the ultra-Orthodox Agudath Yisrael group. Eiss would provide personal data, basing on which the Poles forged Paraguayan passports. He died suddenly in mid-November 1943, and his archive was discovered in the attic of his house in Zurich many years later.
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PANER, Dist. Galisein Milit.
KRAISS / 3

FREUNDHEIT, 57 J.

DONSKY,

LASKIER, 35 j.
WARSAW, Pamska 99

DIAMANT, 50 J.
BENDSBURG, Judenrat

LASKIER, Jakob 47 J.
LASKIER, 49 J.
LASKIER, 14 J.
LASKIER, 6 J.
LASKIER, Joachim 4.
BENDSBURG 0/8, Jana 4.
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“The new part of the Archive importantly broadens the knowledge on the scope of Ładoś Group’s activities,” said Dr. Jakub Kumoch, former Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Switzerland, who cooperated with Blechner during the talks on obtaining both parts of the collection. “I expected that one of the photos could represent Rutka Laskier as an important part of her more distant family was provided with passports. The names of Wolf Begin and Dawid Wdowiński, as well as of right-wing Zionist leaders, constituted a surprise for me. This marks a new trace in the research”, added Kumoch, current Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Turkey.

According to Jakub Kumoch, there is no evidence that the people whose photographs have just reached the Museum actually obtained the passports. According to him, it is equally legitimate to claim that there was not enough time to forge them. The photographs arrived probably already after the Swiss police had discovered the passport operation and honorable consuls who used to sell them to Ładoś Group had been fired, or maybe just before Eiss’s death.

Kumoch and other authors of the Ładoś List, published in December in Polish and in February in English, claim that Polish diplomats and their Jewish partners attempted to rescue between 8 to 10 thousand Jews from over 15 countries of occupied Europe. They came mainly from Poland, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, and pre-war Czechoslovakia. The names and surnames of 3254 of them have so far been successfully restored.

Among the documented owners of Ładoś’s passports, one can find for example writers Yehiel De-Nur alias Ka-Tsetnik 135633, Georg Hermann, Marietta Moskin and Stanisław Wygodzki, rabbis Aron Schuster and Israel Spira, as well as future Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland Adam Rotfeld with his parents. The list also includes the names of Hannela Goslar, Anne Frank’s friend, Dutch mathematician Bob Herschberg or the leaders of Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, among others Icchak Cukierman and Cywia Lubetkin.

According to the authors, at least 2 to 3 thousand individuals covered by the activity of the Ładoś Group could have survived the Shoah. The majority of them are Jews from Germany, the Netherlands, and Poland.

The list was published by the Pilecki Institute under the patronage of the World Jewish Congress. It has so far been presented in Warsaw, London, New York, Hartford, and Berlin.
ANNIVERSARY EVENTS IN DACHAU AND RAVENSBRÜCK CANCELLED

In agreement with the Comité International de Dachau (CID), the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site and the Foundation of Bavarian Memorial Sites have decided to cancel the event to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Dachau Concentration Camp planned for Sunday, May 3, 2020.

Serious safety concerns in view of the worldwide spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) were the reason for this decision, which is in line with the recommendations and guidelines of the relevant authorities. Nevertheless, the decision to cancel the event was extremely difficult for all parties involved due to its significance and the importance the event holds for so many people.

The cancellation incorporates not only the commemoration ceremony on May 3rd, a major event which was scheduled to host over 2,000 guests from all over the world, but also the several-day supporting programme for survivors and liberators of the Dachau concentration camp. This accompanying programme of events included various opportunities for encounters, especially between young people, survivors and liberators. All participants were particularly looking forward to this, but it is precisely the elderly contemporary witnesses who are most at risk in terms of health.

The director of the Dachau Memorial Site, Dr. Gabriele Hammermann, and her team, are currently exploring alternatives for recognising this important anniversary in a way which would not involve any commemorative event on the grounds of the former concentration camp.

Similar decision was made by the management of Ravensbrück Memorial.

"In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of the Oberhavel district and the President of the Ravensbrück Committee, it is with great regret that we are forced to cancel most of the events planned for mid-April to mark the 75th anniversary of the camp's liberation. We must take into account the decision of the chief physician, because we must not endanger the health of our guests.

We hope that the planned activities will be carried out next year as part of the commemoration of the 76th anniversary of the camp's liberation and that we will again invite living former prisoners and their families.

The Memorial nevertheless intends to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the camp's liberation by organising the main ceremony and the opening of the "Faces of Europe" exhibition on April 19th in a very small group. We are currently considering whether it will be possible to create an opportunity for those interested to participate in the planned ceremony via the Internet. - we read in the statement.
ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

IN DACHAU AND RAVENSBÜCK

CANCELLED
Though we are in a challenging moment across the world, we can look to history to discover how people lived in difficult times. Young people often find learning about how their predecessors overcame adversity to be helpful in soothing their own anxieties and in gathering the courage to confront challenges of their own.
The Museum of Jewish Heritage Holocaust Curriculum (holocaustcurriculum.nyc) is a free online resource offering ten lesson plans about the Holocaust, from the rise of Nazism to liberation and life post-war. An eleventh lesson plan on antisemitism defines antisemitism and examines anti-Jewish discrimination in Nazi Germany, emphasizing how Jews responded to this discrimination. This historical background leads into how antisemitism affects Jewish communities today.

Every lesson plan contains a step-by-step plan in PDF format, as well as supporting media (images and videos). These primary source materials illustrate the personal experiences of Jewish people during the Holocaust.

Curriculum guides for books about the Holocaust frequently read by tweens and teens – The Children of Willesden Lane by Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen; Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank; Maus by Art Spiegelman; Night by Elie Wiesel; and Number the Stars by Lois Lowry – are also available.
Explore the Museum of Jewish Holocaust Curriculum: free lesson plans for students in New York.
Jewish Heritage Holocaust
Lesson plans and resources for
New York City and beyond

Meilman Virtual Classroom Featured
Lesson Plan
Lesson Plan on Antisemitism

Timeline
Key Dates in the History of the Holocaust

View
Explore
The Museum also has created lesson plans for grades 3-5 and grades 6-8 centered around the child-friendly HBO short documentary The Number on Great-Grandpa’s Arm (the documentary is available online to everyone, not just HBO subscribers). The film and these free PDF lesson plans help teachers and parents introduce the Holocaust in an age-appropriate manner.

Coming of Age During the Holocaust explores Holocaust history through powerful stories of young people who survived. It’s an interactive curriculum based around twelve stories of young people who survived the Holocaust and one woman who grew up in the Mandate of Palestine during the same period. The stories are for middle-school students and their educators but can also be used by families who are homeschooling their children.

A timeline of Holocaust history and a curriculum glossary of people, places, and terms related to the Holocaust are also found on holocaustcurriculum.nyc.

All educational tools on our Museum of Jewish Heritage Holocaust Curriculum website are free of charge, but you will need to register to download the lesson plans and related media.
The comprehensive study of the history of World War II is a task requiring efficient logistics. We make our digital resources available to facilitate the work of researchers of this period: a few clicks are enough to discover the fate of Poland and its citizens in the 20th century.

Collections

Defying Christianity - repressions against the Church

To annihilate the nation: intelligentsia, institutions, culture
One of the tasks of the Pilecki Institute is to collect and share documents depicting the realities of the last century. Until now, many of them had been scattered, undiscovered or forgotten. Some of them were stored in archives on other continents. Such was the case with materials, which constitute one of the largest collections of testimonies of the civilian population of occupied Europe.

Documents published on the portal Chronicles of Terror contain personal experiences of thousands of Poles - victims of totalitarian crimes, their families and loved ones. The materials include among others, the testimonies of Poles who left the USSR with the Anders Army, accounts of the victims of the Katyn massacre, testimonies of Poles who provided aid to Jews and the files of the Main Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, donated by the Institute of National Remembrance (IPN). The documents, scattered and locked up in archives over the years allow us to today, to unveil family and local stories and inspire scholars, journalists and people of culture. Thanks to the translations into English, they are circulated internationally, thus disseminating knowledge about the double occupation in Poland, and the memory of the victims of totalitarianism around the world.

A unique collection of documents are essays by Polish children related to their wartime experiences. The works were created as part of a competition that was announced in 1946 with the consent of the then Ministry of Education.

The materials made available on the website were obtained from the collections of the American Hoover Institute, the Committee for the Commemoration of Poles Rescuing Jews, the Institute of National Remembrance, the Katyn Museum - the Martyrological Branch of the Polish Army Museum, the Archive of New Files, the State Archive in Kielce and the State Archive in Radom.
A map of testimonies

Find out what happened to the residents of your town, street or house during World War II.

Places of arrests and round-ups, addresses of hiding places, harsh prisons, concentration camps, places of torture, deportations and executions – the map enables you to trace the fate of victims of totalitarian terror.

Search locations

Select location where the events described by witnesses took place

Zoom in to see locations from particular testimonies

Recently added
THE WARSAW Ghetto UPRISING CAMPAIGN

This educational and commemorative event, an initiative of POLIN Museum, takes place every year on April 19, the anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. For almost a decade, hundreds of volunteers in Warsaw and other cities have been handing out paper daffodils to raise awareness of the Uprising and its significance.

In 2019, POLIN Museum took the campaign to New York and New Jersey and is extending the campaign to Los Angeles and Israel in 2020. Due to the pandemic, POLIN Museum has moved the campaign online. We invite everyone to join this commemoration.

Why the daffodil?

Marek Edelman, the last surviving leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, used to receive a bouquet of yellow daffodils from an anonymous person every year on April 19. He would lay them at the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes in memory of those who fought and died. The paper daffodils, which people wear on this day, are inspired by this custom. Edelman, who remained in Poland after the war, passed away in 2009.

How can you get involved in the commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

• Make a daffodil; all you need is paper, glue, and scissors
• Download daffodil pattern >>
• Download daffodil instructions >>
• Video how to put your daffodil together >>
• Post a photo of yourself wearing the paper daffodil on social media and say why this anniversary is important to you. Invite your friends and family to do the same. #WarsawGhettoUprising #POLINMuseum

• Follow POLIN Museum’s English-language Facebook page, Friends of POLIN, on the day of the anniversary to see how others are joining the campaign. If you participate, your picture could be featured on the page!

• Watch There Was No Hope, a film about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising produced by POLIN Museum

• Read a short graphic novel about Marek Edelman.

• Explore the Warsaw Ghetto gallery of POLIN Museum’s Core Exhibition.
MONUMENT: A NEW DOCUMENTARY ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO REMEMBER

My grandma Alice "Lici" Lichtenstein/Craig would tell my brother and I stories about growing up in Sárvár, Hungary—stories about her father’s kosher bakery, where the town's Jewish community would buy challah on Fridays and leave their cholent in the still-warm oven to pick up after synagogue for the Sabbath meal. My grandma grew up in that bakery, starting in a bassinet on the counter, where as a baby and then as a little girl helping after school, she would watch her father work.

She had just turned 16 when the Nazis entered Hungary and rounded up 400,000 Jews from the countryside into ghettos and then deported them to death camps like Auschwitz. 885 of them came from Sárvár, including my grandma, her two sisters, and her parents.

What happened next was not discussed in our family. Even my mom, my grandma's only child, knew next to nothing about what happened to my grandma in the Holocaust. Once, when I was maybe 7 or 8, I asked her if we could go to Sárvár together one day. Her face turned serious. "I'll never set foot there again as long as I live." She didn't say anything more, and I didn't ask any more questions.

As I approached bar mitzvah age, something changed inside my grandma. She surprised our family by suddenly returning to Hungary for the first time since she left 50 years earlier. She told an interviewer that she didn't know what to expect—she just needed to see Sárvár again. And what she found there disturbed her to the core: it was like Jewish people had never lived there at all. The synagogues had been demolished or became office buildings, strangers had moved into their homes, and the town’s 885 Jewish residents had disappeared without a trace.

I was too young to know the right questions to ask, the right approach to her trauma. What I knew was that she had started traveling back and forth to Hungary, working on a project that would consume what remained of her life: a monument to the Jewish community of Sárvár.
In 2016, I became a father. That was an incredible experience, but a difficult year. White nationalism and hatred of immigrants were given the biggest platform available in America. While I gave my daughter a bottle in the middle of the night, I listened to the news of children separated from their parents at the border. Swastikas were spray painted on synagogues and university offices, people were stabbed defending a woman in a hijab in Portland, and a gunman opened fire in the Tree of Life synagogue. The world that I hoped I would be raising my daughter in seemed to have turned upside down.

In the midst of it all, I found a card my grandma had written to me twenty years ago, thanking me for a donation from my allowance to her memorial project. "I hope some day that you can visit my hometown Sárvár," she'd written, "to see the monument and remember all we talked about." I stared at the card, at the photograph of the monument, wreaths laid beneath it, a path leading toward these giant stone shapes. I felt guilty and embarrassed that I had never been there; that my grandma died knowing I had not seen it, and maybe never would.

My grandmother never sat down and told me the story of her life— but before she died, she put everything she had into making sure that when I was ready, the monument would be there to speak to me. The heavy stones that she had laid in the town square of Sárvár; do they still talk?

Monument is a personal documentary about my visit to my grandmother's memorial, and how we pass down the stories that are hard to tell. Monuments and memorials are communal efforts, and this film is my way of keeping her monument alive—and possibly, creating a new one in its shadow. Watch the trailer and learn more about the Monument project at our Kickstarter campaign site here: kickstarter.com/projects/1516460982/monument

Michael Turner is the creator of The Way We Talk (2016), an award-winning autobiographical documentary that has screened around the world and contributed toward a paradigm shift in how stuttering is perceived. His second feature, Monument, about Holocaust memory and inherited trauma, is currently in production. He lives with his wife and daughter in rural Oregon.
The crisis we are currently experiencing prevents us from fulfilling our primary missions because all our spaces are closed to the public. Nevertheless, we want to remain in touch with you in these difficult times.
Using our social networking sites, we recommend a virtual tour of our permanent and temporary collections and invite you to explore or rediscover some of our resources, including archival documents, historical events, audio recordings of some of our conferences and survivors’ accounts.

PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

The Shoah Memorial Museum presents a permanent exhibition: a chronological and thematic journey consisting of twelve sections that tell the story of Jews from France during the Shoah. The exhibition, based on the archives of the Documentation Centre, proposes a transition from individual to collective history.

In addition to this permanent exhibition, the museum presents temporary exhibitions every year, which draw on history, art and literature. They are an open window to the fate of Jews in other European countries, and also to other XX century genocides.

We offer you a virtual visit through our permanent and temporary exhibitions, past and present, through mini-exhibitions and archival documents:

Voices of Witnesses
The Shoah and comic books
Béate and Serge Klarsfeld
Art market during the occupation