LAST DEPORTATIONS OF THE HOLOCAUST
YAD VASHEM ONLINE EXHIBITION

STUTTHOF MEMORIAL PROJECT
"DIESE STADT IST JUDEN FREI"

'FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM FROM DREYFUS TO TODAY' AT WIENER HOLOCAUST LIBRARY

LOCAL HISTORIES THROUGH GRAPHIC NOVEL

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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

Our e-mail: memoria@auschwitz.org

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

All editions: memoria.auschwitz.org
GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION FOR HOLOCAUST RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND REMEMBRANCE

Access to Holocaust-related material helps societies deal openly and accurately with the past. The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure overcomes the fragmentation of archival material by connecting sources, institutions and people.

To help archives and researchers, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) has published Guidelines for Identifying Relevant Documentation for Holocaust Research, Education and Remembrance.

Erasing all traces
Open access means providing researchers and the public with the ability to find and use Holocaust-related documentation for commemoration, education and research purposes. It helps foster a world that remembers the Holocaust. The Nazis and their collaborators not only murdered Jews, Roma, political enemies and others; they did so with the intention of erasing all traces of their existence. Each and every document pertaining to life before, during and after the Holocaust is therefore extremely valuable.

Identify Holocaust-related materials
The IHRA’s Guidelines address a critical obstacle to access: the lack of a unified, openended and always evolving way to identify Holocaust-related materials. Currently, each archive and each state can adopt its own approach to determining access to this documentation. Often, a narrow, technical approach is taken when identifying these materials, like only considering documents from 1933 – 1945 held in European archives as Holocaust-related. Such narrow definitions can lead to researchers being wrongfully denied access to material that might contribute to Holocaust research. Moreover, the questions researchers ask about the Holocaust and the methodologies they use to find answers are constantly changing. There is therefore a need for a flexible and open-ended tool to help define and identify Holocaust-related materials.

Privacy regulations
This practical tool was developed by IHRA experts, together with heads of individual archives – those who know their collections better than anyone else – and leaders of national and international archival system networks, including people involved in EHRI. The Guidelines offer a unified approach to identifying relevant documentation for Holocaust research, remembrance and education, thereby assisting archives and other entities in assessing their collections and allowing access to relevant documentation. Such an approach also better equips archivists to make sure that privacy regulations, like the GDPR in the EU, are applied prudently where Holocaust documentation is concerned.
Ensuring full and open access to Holocaust-related materials is not a niche issue – it is essential to safeguarding the record of the Holocaust.

Share this tool with your network and use it as a guide to help identify which archival materials can be considered Holocaust related.

The Guidelines and further information on encouraging open access to Holocaust related materials are available on the IHRA’s website.
LAST DEPORTATIONS OF THE HOLOCAUST.
YAD VASHEM ONLINE EXHIBITION

Transports of extinction: the deportations of Jews during the Holocaust became the central theme for Holocaust Remembrance Day 2022. Stories of the last deportees is the topic of the new online exhibition created by Yad Vashem.

In keeping with the policy of the "Final Solution," during World War II the Germans and their collaborators uprooted millions of Jews from their homes and deported them to their deaths. This meticulously organized operation was an event of historic significance, obliterating Jewish communities throughout German-occupied territory that had existed for centuries. Vast numbers of Jews were sent straight to the extermination sites, while many others were first taken to ghettos and transit camps. Thus, the cattle – or railway – car, the principal mode of Nazi deportation, became one of the most iconic symbols of the Holocaust. Originally a symbol of progress, globalization and human technological prowess during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the railway car warped into the emblem of the backsliding of human values into the abyss of wholesale mass murder on an unprecedented scale.

By the summer of 1944, the demise of Nazi Germany seemed inevitable. The German Army suffered defeat after defeat, but despite this, the machinery of extermination relentlessly continued to operate at full strength. While parts of Europe had already been liberated, the last Jews were being deported from areas still under the control of the Germans. This exhibition tells the story of those Jews who were deported in the last months of the war - from June 1944 until April 1945. The Jews were loaded onto freight cars and deported to Auschwitz and to camps in Germany, sometimes just days before the liberators arrived.

The stories told are based on material from Yad Vashem's Archives and various collections: personal documentation, testimonies, photographs, artworks, Pages of Testimony, diaries, documents, etc. The details of the deportations and their routes can be found in the Yad Vashem online research project, "Transports to Extinction".

One of the stories told is of the Benkel family from Łódź.

On 30 August 1944, a deportation train left the Litzmannstadt ghetto bound for Auschwitz-Birkenau. Among the passengers were head of the Judenrat, Haim Rumkowski, his family and some of the ghetto's senior personnel. Avraham Benkel and his 14-year-old son were also on the train.

In 1928, Hinda Hillman and Avraham Benkel got married in Turek, Poland. After the wedding, they moved to Łódź. Avraham made a good living in textiles, and supported his widowed mother and brothers and sisters who had remained in Turek. Hinda and Avraham's son, Shmuel, was born in 1930, followed by another baby boy, Israel-Meir, two years later. The Germans invaded Poland on 1 September 1939, and occupied Łódź approximately one week later. A ghetto was established in the city in 1940. The Benkels left their home and moved to a room in the ghetto, where Avraham managed a fur workshop for the German Army. Hinda fell ill and died in the ghetto in 1942. Two months later, 10-year-old Israel-Meir was abducted during the "Sperre" Aktion, while Avraham...
and Shmuel were on the last deportation to Auschwitz, on the same train as Rumkowski.

Avraham described the arrival at Auschwitz:

I was on the same train as Rumkowski, and my son was with me. The Germans addressed us, and said that in Germany too, they would establish a fur workshop and that we would work there in the same way we worked here. Later on, it became clear that this was false, and that they were sending us to Auschwitz, not to Germany... As soon as we arrived at Auschwitz, we heard from the Jews unloading us from the cars that here, people were sent to the crematoria. Those who could still work had a chance of staying alive; those who couldn't work, or children, were doomed... they separated me from my son... I saw him standing on the other side, waving to me. I waved back. I never saw him again.

Rumkowski was on the same side as me. He approached a German and showed him a piece of paper that he held in his hand. The letter he got from Biebow. The German instructed him to sit on the side... Behind Rumkowski stood his wife, her parents, brothers and sisters-in-law, they told them to sit on the side... They took us to a place where Moshe Hassid, one of Łódź's shady characters, was manager... He told us that our Rumkowski had already been taken to the crematoria.

After a few weeks in quarantine in Auschwitz-Birkenau, Avraham was transferred to the Kaltwasser labor camp in Lower Silesia. From there he was sent to various other camps, until he was finally liberated at Theresienstadt by the Red Army on 7 May 1945.
The project has resulted in the creation of a large-scale exhibition, an album, a documentary film and a folder, all aimed at presenting the history of the Holocaust of Pomeranian Jews. Study visits complemented the implementation of the key undertakings. In January, the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo was visited by project partners, representatives of the Yad Mordechai Museum and the Polish Institute in Tel Aviv. It was a unique opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss cooperation in the area of education and exhibitions.

Meanwhile, on 1 March 2022, the exhibition 'Diese Stadt ist Judenfrei' - The extermination of Polish Jews in Pomerania - opened at the Yad Mordechai Museum. Its authors are Polish and Israeli historians. They include the staff of the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo: Prof. Bogdan Chrzanowski and Danuta Drywa, PhD. The official opening of the exhibition was attended by a delegation from our Museum, headed by Director Piotr Tarnowski.

The visit to Israel was also complemented by numerous meetings and talks held at the Polish Institute in Tel Aviv and the Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem, among others. They provided an excellent opportunity to recount the history of KL Stutthof and the fate of its prisoners to the Israeli audience.

Additionally, the time was also used to present the museum's activities, with a particular focus on education.

In mid-March, a trilingual, richly illustrated publication in Polish, English and Hebrew entitled 'Diese Stadt ist Judenfrei' - the extermination of Polish Jews in Pomerania. It complements the exhibition and is an attempt to present this issue comprehensively.

The project’s final phase consisted of a visit to the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo by representatives of the Ministry of Education of Israel and the most important museum institutions dealing with subjects related to World War II and the Holocaust. The delegation comprised, among others, the staff of Yad Vashem Institute, Menachem Begin Center, Ghetto Fighters Museum, Moreshet - Mordechai Anielewicz Memorial and Association of Holocaust Guides in Israel. During the nearly week-long stay, the delegation visited the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo, the Katyn Museum, the Jewish Historical Institute, the Museum of the Second World War and the Żuławy Historical Park. The highlight of the visit was a meeting with members of the Jewish Religious Community in Gdańsk.

During the project, intensive efforts were undertaken to develop and deepen contacts between Polish and Israeli
institutions. The Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo, as the project's host institution, gained new experience and a better understanding of the direction of the changes being introduced. Most importantly, however, the staff of the Museum met friends who share a similar view of history and the significance of educating future generations following the passing of the generation of witnesses to history.
FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM FROM DREYFUS TO TODAY – A NEW EXHIBITION AT THE WIENER HOLOCAUST LIBRARY

The Wiener Holocaust Library’s new exhibition, Fighting Antisemitism from Dreyfus to Today, has been curated partly in response to worrying trends in contemporary antisemitism, including the rise in harassment of Jews in recent years, and the spread of conspiracy theories online during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Community Security Trust (CST) Antisemitic Incidents Report 2021, published in February 2022, shows 2,255 anti-Jewish hate incidents reported across Britain in 2021. This is the highest annual total that CST has ever recorded and is a 34% increase from 2020.

Antisemitism continues to pose a very real threat to Jews in Britain, Europe and around the world.

The Library’s important exhibition reveals the history of the fight against antisemitism over the last century in France, Britain and Germany. Through unique and never seen before documents from the Library’s collections, and striking photographs from CST’s archives, we spotlight the stories of the individuals, organisations and campaigns that have fought against antisemitism since the time of the Dreyfus Affair in 1890s France.

The exhibition shines a light on the various strategies that those fighting against antisemitism have taken over the last one hundred years and more, from publishing pamphlets refuting antisemitic ideas, to gathering evidence about the activities of antisemites, to street fighting and the infiltration of fascist groups.

The Library seeks to help educate visitors on the complex history of antisemitism, and be inspired by the rich history of anti-antisemites. By learning from the past, we can better recognise instances of antisemitism and challenge it where it is found.
STOP THEM NOW
GERMAN MASS-MURDER OF JEWS IN POLAND

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With a Foreword by Lord Wedgwood
“STORIES FROM THE HOLOCAUST”: LOCAL HISTORIES THROUGH GRAPHIC NOVELS

EHRI partner, the "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania, organizes an innovative educational and remembrance project, encouraging young generations and general audiences to discover the histories of the communities they are living in.

Six different outdoor graphic novel exhibitions, created by the research team of the "Elie Wiesel” Institute, in partnership with high-school students from the cities that host the exhibitions, present the (hi)stories of Jews and Roma who lived in those regions more than eight decades ago.

By Roxana Popa, The "Elie Wiesel" National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust In Romania

"Stories from the Holocaust. Local histories" is a project that frames Holocaust memory in Romania by emphasizing local specificities and boosting local awareness. The programme encourages awareness that the Holocaust is not a story of a distant place but has regional specificity as both the victims and the perpetrators walked the streets of the cities that host the exhibition. Consequently, their story pertains to local history and needs to be acknowledged as such. Taken to a local level, remembrance becomes an active process, and it creates a sense of common belonging with the victims, which nurtures empathy and solidarity.

Another aspect of the project is that it offers tools that highlight the diversity of Holocaust victims and the multiple ways discrimination and extermination were perpetrated under Romanian authority. Therefore, the illustration’s topics cover the Holocaust period in a local frame, and present categories of victims (Jews and Roma), and categories of events (forced labor, deportation to Transnistria, pogroms, curfew rules, confiscation of property, local camps).

The role and link between education and Holocaust remembrance in Romania Securing a democratic society, where solidarity, diversity, and multicultural dialogue are primary values, lies in being aware of the past and knowing the history of the community we are living in. Keeping the memory alive plays a significant role here, and enhancing remembrance can be made through the provision of accurate information and formal and informal education on various levels.

In Romania of today, the Holocaust under Romanian authority is still underrated. National surveys conducted by the "Elie Wiesel" Institute show that a significant part of the respondents (65%) still externalize the Holocaust perpetrated under Romanian authority toward Germany as the main responsible of the Holocaust in Romania. This could be explained by several causes: the silence that surrounded the topic during the communist period or the multiple facets of the Holocaust in Romania. This proves the need for constant information, and Holocaust education, focusing on local specificities.

Being an active promoter of Holocaust remembrance and constantly investing in Holocaust education, the "Elie Wiesel " Institute responds to these needs by developing projects such as the graphic
vel exhibition. The project brings together the local story of the Holocaust with the racist and xenophobic stance exhibited by the Romanian authorities of the time. By doing so the exhibitions emphasize the dangers that prejudice, dehumanization, and intolerance have for fueling crimes against humanity. This way, the targeted groups are encouraged to become more sensitive to the risks posed by social stereotyping and exclusion; the project linking the past with problems that are still present within contemporary Romanian society.

How does it work?
The process starts with interactive workshops with the students and educators where the history of the Holocaust in Romania and local specificities are presented. It follows the documentation of the microhistories of the individuals and communities in the six regions (Bacau, Suceava, Galati, Vrancea, Dolj, Argeș) using primary sources and creating the storylines of the exhibitions that are ultimately illustrated by professional artists.

Therefore, the students and educators are not simply spectators, but become content creators, and their work is publicly acknowledged. This user-generated content strategy stimulates engagement, curiosity and a better understanding of the subject.

The format chosen (graphic novel) also responds to the needs, and interests of the targeted audiences, and the open outdoor
character of the exhibitions facilitates the general public's access.

More about the project
"Stories from the Holocaust. Local histories" is a project developed within the "Local History" programme, financed by the EVZ Foundation, organized with the support of the local authorities, and in collaboration with educators and students from various cities in Romania. The project started in the autumn of 2021 with two exhibitions in
Bacău and Suceava presenting the stories of local Jewish communities and the deportation to Transnistria.

Recently, on April 8 and April 9, two more exhibitions were inaugurated, and by the end of the year, the last will follow.

The exhibitions are also accessible online.
The International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust will organize two editions of the International Summer Academy in 2022 – the 1st and 2nd level seminars.

The goal of the ISA is to familiarize participants with the history of the German Nazi camp Auschwitz in the broad context. The seminar also provides a space for reflection on the significance of the symbol of Auschwitz in today’s world and the contemporary remembrance.

The 1st level of ISA is addressed to teachers, educators, historians, employees of memorial sites, students and all those interested in the history of WWII and the Holocaust. The seminar will take place on 16-22 July 2022 in Oświęcim and Krakow.

The estimated cost of participation is 670 €. It includes program, accommodation and board.

Both seminars will be conducted in English. All participants will receive certificates. Participants must additionally cover the cost of insurance and transportation to and from Oświęcim.

The application deadline for both seminars is May 15, 2022. Please use the forms to apply:

ISA 1st level:
ON-LINE FORM

ISA 2nd level:
ON-LINE FORM

If you have any additional questions about the seminars, please contact the coordinators:

ISA 1st level: katarzyna.kotula[at]auschwitz.org

ISA 2nd level: katarzyna.odrzywolek[at]auschwitz.org

The 2nd level of ISA titled “Shaping the Memory about Auschwitz and the Holocaust 77 Years After the Liberation” is addressed to graduates of all seminars for teachers and educators organized by the ICEAH. It will take place on 21-28 August 2022 in Oświęcim and Warsaw.

The estimated cost of participation is 800 €. It includes program, accommodation and board.