



Testaments to the Holocaust from the Wiener Library, London

The Wiener Library is the oldest institution in the world established for the task of documenting the Nazi regime and its crimes against the Jewish people. For decades, the library's holdings of rare manuscripts and images were limited to patrons who could visit the institution. Now these remarkable primary-source documents are available in an online format.

Testaments to the Holocaust, a digitized, searchable full-text resource on *Archives Unbound* is invaluable for academic use. It provides the basis for studying Nazi Germany and its crimes from many perspectives, offering the raw materials that allow researchers to draw their own conclusions. It builds a history of the period through people's testimonies, family narratives and the documents of the activities of the Nazi regime. Complemented by appropriate secondary literature, this collection delivers outstanding opportunities to gain insights into a dark, but significant event of human history. *Testaments to the Holocaust* is an essential tool for research into Nazi Germany and 20th century Jewish and Holocaust studies.

Photographs

Included for its information, its immediacy and impact. Photographs communicate the essential horror of what occurred in Europe with an impact which complements and reinforces the written descriptions and records. Includes: pre-Nazi era photos and family albums of the domestic life of Central European Jews; general photographs of life in Weimar Germany; Nazi election campaigns; Hitler as public speaker; the Nazi era; photographs and postcards of Europe's synagogues; photos of memorials to Jewish dead of World War I; Nazi persecution, including death squads, ghettos and concentration camps; welfare work with Displaced Persons (DPs); two collections of biographical index cards of major figures of the Nazi Party; and military and SS hierarchies.

Wiener Library Publications

These publications, spanning the 1930s through to the mid-1960s, report on events in Europe as they were unfolding. The library's early material testifies to Jewish efforts to resist the Nazi onslaught. Post-war publications document the emergence of Holocaust-related issues as topics of academic discourse. The Wiener Library Bulletin, in particular, remains an invaluable source of information on virtually all aspects of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. >>

ARCHIVES UNBOUND

Archives Unbound answers the call within libraries and university departments to digitise smaller cross-searchable collections of primary source material. *Archives Unbound* is a programme that addresses the needs of researchers and libraries by offering subject-specific primary source collections that support multi-disciplinary research in British Studies, Middle East Studies, World War II, Holocaust Studies, Women's Studies and more. Between 5,000 to 200,000 pages per title, these specialist collections act as small adjuncts to the large Gale Digital Collections making them an affordable option for libraries and departments.



The destruction of shops during Kristallnacht, 09-10 November, 1938 ©The Wiener Library, London; 072-PH-1808_002



Eyewitness accounts

From the late 1930s through the 1950s, many Holocaust survivors preferred not to discuss the terrors they had so recently endured. The group whose experiences are documented in *Testaments to the Holocaust* were the exception. Their words hold special credence given the freshness of their memories. These interviews are not influenced by modern-day attitudes. Indeed, the words “Holocaust” and “Shoah” are not found in the collection, as the terms were not in use at that time.

Propaganda material

The documents gathered here demonstrate the range of Nazi propaganda. Illustrated books and pamphlets offer examples of viewpoints favourable to Nazis and hostile to their political and “racial” enemies. Calendars produced by Nazi organisations show the regime’s overriding concern with propaganda. Also included is *Sigilla Veri*, a rare encyclopedia of anti-Semitism. Propaganda pertaining to the Hitler Youth is also included in this collection, as are songbooks with lyrics extolling the glories of the Third Reich.

Unique content

- 1,200 eyewitness accounts
- 4,000 rare photographs
- Approximately 450 books
- Document languages (German 75%, English 20%, French 3%)
- Original Nazi propaganda materials, including illustrated volumes, Nazi calendars, anti-Semitic encyclopedia (*Sigilla Veri*), Hitler Youth materials, songbooks, educational books
- Eyewitness Accounts gathered in the weeks and months after the November pogrom of 1938
- Eyewitness accounts assembled after 1955 (interviews, letters, documents and especially-written accounts)
- Wiener Library publications covering a time span from the early 1930s to the mid 1960s. *The Wiener Library Bulletin*, in particular, remains an invaluable source of information on virtually all aspects of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust
- Early material testifying to Jewish resistance efforts
- Post-war publications documenting the emergence of Holocaust-related issues as topics of academic discourse

THEMATIC ESSAYS

Essays by leading scholars:

‘Introduction’

Ben Barkow, General Editor &
Director of the Wiener Library,
London

‘Prisons, ghettos, camps: Jews in captivity under the Third Reich’

Dr Nikolaus Wachsmann, Birkbeck
College, University of London

‘The Origins of the Holocaust’

Professor Dan Stone, Royal
Holloway College, University of
London



Photographs of the Boycott Day organised by the Nazis in response to alleged boycott activities of Jews in other countries, April 1933
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