

XVIII: Holocaust Autobiographies

Eliezer “Elie” Wiesel (1928-)

Tadeusz Borowski (1922-1951)

Primo Levi (1919-1987)

Timeline of Holocaust memoirs:

- 1935 Wolfgang Langhoff published *Die Moorsoldaten: 13 Monate Konzentrationslager (The Peat Bog Soldiers: 13 Months of Concentration Camp)*.
- 1944 *The Secret State* published by Jan Karski.
- 1946 Guido Kopp publishes *Ich Aber Habe Leben Mussen (I, However, had to Live)*.
*This text was produced in a small print run, never translated, and did not really make any mark at the time.
- 1947 First very small print run of Primo Levi’s *Se questo è un Uomo (If this is a Man)* in Italian.

Het Achterhuis: Dagboekbrieven van 12 Juni 1942 – 1 Augustus 1944 (The Annex: diary notes from 12 June 1942 – 1 August 1944) published in Dutch by Otto Frank.

L’espèce Humaine (The Human Race) published by Robert Antelme.

Dr. Mengele boncolóorvosa voltam az Auschwitz krematóriumban (Dr. Mengele: doctor of death in the crematories of Auschwitz) published in Hungarian by Dr. Miklos Nyiszli.

Five Chimneys published by Olga Lengyel.
- 1948 *Pożegnanie z Marią (Farewell to Maria)* published by Tadeusz Borowski in Poland.
- 1952 *Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl* translated and published in English.
- 1954 *Un di velt hot Geshvign (And the World Remained Silent)* published by Eliezer “Elie” Wiesel in Yiddish in Buenos Aires (862 p.).
- 1956 Larger print run of *Se questo è un Uomo* published in Europe.
- 1958 *Se questo è un Uomo* translated into English and published as *Survival in Auschwitz*.

- Un di velt hot Geshvign* translated and published in French as *La Nuit* (178 p.)
- 1959 *Pożegnanie z Marią* published throughout Europe.
- 1960 *La Nuit* translated and published in English as *Night*.
- Le Sang du Ciel (Blood from the Sky)* published by Piotr Rawicz.
- Auschwitz: a Doctor's Eyewitness Account* (translation of *Dr. Mengele boncolóorvosa voltam az Auschwitz krematóriumban*) published in English.
- 1961 *Survival in Auschwitz* published in America.
- 1964 *Blood from the Sky* translated and published in English.
- Jenseits von Schuld und Sühne (Beyond Guilt and Atonement)* published in French by Jean Améry.
- I Cannot Forgive* published by Ruldof Vrba.
- 1965 *Auschwitz et après (Auschwitz and After)* published by Charlotte Delbo.
- 1967 *Pożegnanie z Marią* translated and renamed *This way to the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen* is published in America.
- 1980 *At the Mind's Limits: Contemplations by a Survivor on Auschwitz and its Realities* (translation of *Jenseits von Schuld und Sühne*) published in English.

Notable/Famous Forgeries:

Misha Defonseca. *Misha: a Memoir of the Holocaust Years*.

Helen Demidenko. *The Hand that Signed the Paper*.

Jerzy Kosniski. *The Painted Bird*.

Herman Rosenblat. *Angel at the Fence: the True Story of a Love that Survived*.

Binjamin Wilkomirski. *Fragments: Memories of a Wartime Childhood*.

Questions of the genre of holocaust narratives:

1. Creative Nonfiction (CNF)

CNF is a genre that uses literary techniques to create and re-create factual narratives. According to Lee Gutkind, founder and editor of the journal, *Creative Nonfiction*, the ultimate goal of CNF writers is “to communicate information, just like a reporter, but to shape it in a way that reads like fiction.” Types of CNF writing include personal essays, memoirs, biography, travel writing, and literary journalism.

