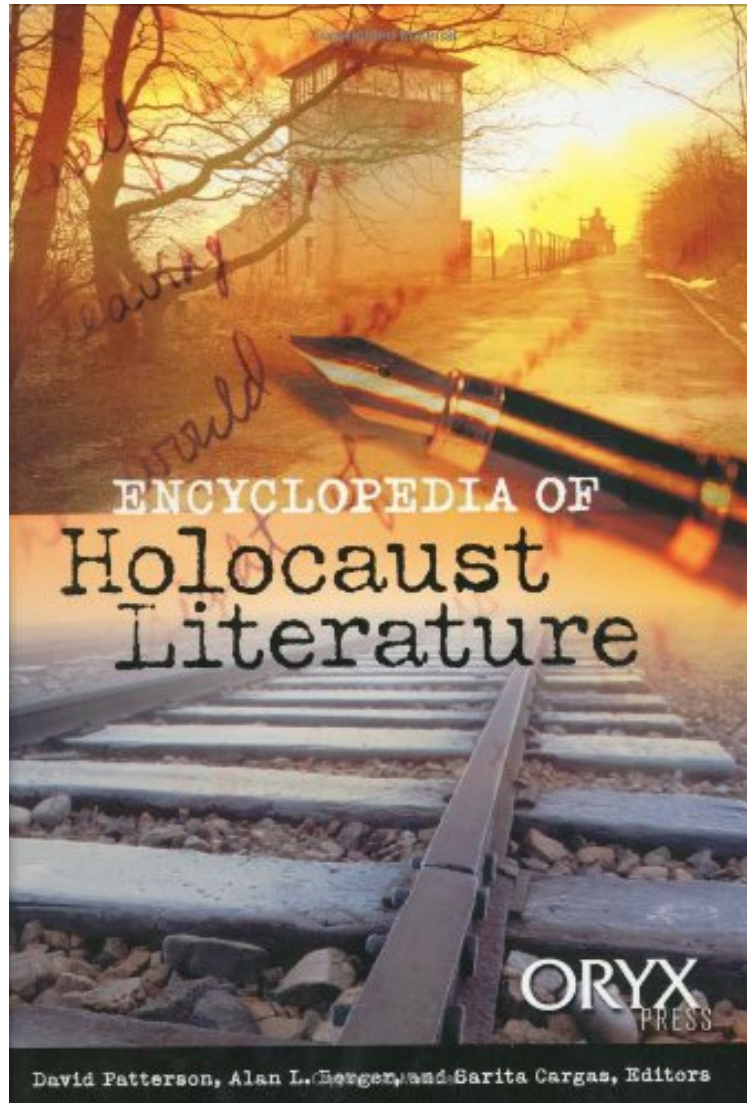


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Encyclopedia of Holocaust Literature

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From Brand: Greenwood : Encyclopedia of Holocaust Literature before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Holocaust Literature:

Whether it's a novel, memoir, diary, poem, or drama, a common thread runs through the literature of the Nazi Holocaust: a motif of personal testimony to the dearness of humanity. With that perspective the expert authors of Encyclopedia of Holocaust Literature undertake profiling 128 of the most influential first generation authors who

either survived, perished, or were closely connected to the Holocaust. Arranged alphabetically by author, all of the entries answer the same basic questions about the author and his or her work: What is the nature of the author's literary response to the Holocaust? What is his or her place in Holocaust literature? What does the author's work contribute to an understanding of the Holocaust? What is distinctive about the author's work? What are some key moments in the author's life? What issues does the author's work pose for the reader? To address these questions, the entries are generally organized into three primary divisions: (1) an opening section on why the author's work has a significant or distinctive place in Holocaust literature, (2) a second section containing information on the author's biography, and (3) a critical examination of the highlights of the author's work. In most cases, the third section is the longest, since the focus of the encyclopedia is the literature, not the author. The Encyclopedia is intended for all students and teachers of the Holocaust, regardless of their levels of learning. Avenues for further research are incorporated at the conclusion of each entry and in a comprehensive bibliography of primary works of Holocaust literature and a second bibliography of critical studies of Holocaust literature.

From Library Journal This useful new reference profiles the lives and works of influential authors associated with the Holocaust, whether as victim, as survivor, or in some other close capacity. Edited by Patterson (Judaic studies, Univ. of Memphis), Alan L. Berger (director of Holocaust and Judaic studies, Florida Atlantic Univ.), and Sarita Cargas (who has masters degrees in both theology and psychology), this work includes all the major writers among its 128 authors. Each signed entry contains three informal parts: an introductory section that considers the author's particular significance within Holocaust literature, a brief biographical section, and a longer critical examination of the author's most influential work. The entries are adequate in length and are followed by thumbnail bibliographies of works both by and about the author. The appendixes list the profiled authors chronologically, geographically, and by birth names if pseudonymous. The two wonderful bibliographies include the "Bibliography of Critical Studies of Holocaust Literature," which will help students at many levels, and the comprehensive "Bibliography of Primary Works of Holocaust Literature," which points to a legion of authors not covered in the encyclopedia. This suggests the work's one drawback: it is hard to glean the rationale for inclusion and exclusion. The editors state that the literature of second-generation writers is significantly different and therefore excluded, but the selection of those who did not survive the Holocaust seems somewhat random. Nevertheless, this is the first significant encyclopedia in the field and is suitable for academic, public, and school libraries. Academic libraries may want to wait to take a look at S. Lillian Kremer's *Holocaust Literature: An Encyclopedia of Writers and Their Work*, a two-volume reference that promises over 300 author entries, due out from Routledge in December. Paul D'Alessandro, Portland P.L., ME Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist This important and sensitive work presents a detailed look at the writings and lives of authors who survived, perished in, or were closely connected to the Holocaust (1933-1945). It gives fresh voice to the Holocaust Studies subject area, which has seen many new publications in the last few years and thus needs a strong survey text that helps put these writings into historical and literary context. About 130 authors are covered in this work. All are first generation and wrote personal testimonies in the form of novels, memoirs, diaries, or plays in response to the Holocaust. Most, but not all, of the writers are Jewish. The writers did not all live in Europe during the Holocaust, but all were deeply influenced by its legacy. Readers familiar with this genre will recognize important names that have subject entries: Aharon Appelfeld, Anne Frank, Viktor Frankl, Primo Levi, Elie Wiesel. Many others are given prominent treatment, including Adam Czerniakow, Anatoli Kuznetsov, and Isaiah Spiegel. People from all the European countries are included, although there is an understandable emphasis on those who wrote in English. Each entry answers several basic questions: the writer's literary response to the Holocaust, how that response is unique or distinctive, and how the author's work contributes to an overall understanding of the Holocaust. Each entry also contains detailed biographical data that helps put the writings into context, such as when and where the writer was in a death camp or at what age he or she became a refugee. The contributors provide powerful documentation and original research in presenting their subjects' literary messages and biographies. In addition to the bibliographies of primary and secondary works attached to the entries, the volume's "Bibliography of Primary Works of Holocaust Literature" is very comprehensive and will be a great aid to those doing primary research. Helpful appendixes include authors by date of birth, authors by country of birth, and birth names for authors writing under pen names. The volume's arrangement and detailed, analytic treatment make it unique. *Holocaust Literature: A Handbook of Critical, Historical, and Literary Writings*, edited by Saul Friedman (Greenwood, 1993), has a subject approach, and some may want to consult that volume for a different access point to the topic. The authoritative *Bibliography of Holocaust Literature* (Westview, 1986) and its supplement classify more than 10,000 works of all types. The Oryx volume will be a strong addition to public and academic libraries, especially the many with Holocaust classes at the graduate or undergraduate level. Many librarians will be able to use the extensive bibliography as a collection development tool. *Bearing Witness: A Resource Guide to Literature, Poetry, Art, Music, and Videos by Holocaust Victims and Survivors* [RBB Ap 15 02] covers some of the same writers and is a good choice for public and school libraries. RBB Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "An excellent source for those interested in literature about the holocaust; essential for academic libraries." - Choice "This useful new reference

profiles the lives and works of influential authors associated with the Holocaust, whether as victim, as survivor, or in some other close capacity. This is the first significant encyclopedia in the field and is suitable for academic, public, and school libraries." - Library Journal "[t]his is a very useful reference work for anyone interested in the scope and breadth of Holocaust literature. The editors have made an important contribution to the field." - Jewish Book World "a solid choice for circulating collections, or branch library collections." - Against the Grain "Highly recommended for all academic and public libraries, this encyclopedia brings together representative primary and critical works of Holocaust literature." - American Libraries "an important reference tool." - Multicultural "This volume would make an excellent addition to both literary criticism and Holocaust collections. Recommended." - Library Media Connection "The value of this volume lies in the gathering together of so many authors and the literary criticism connected with understanding the Holocaust for those libraries with an in-depth Holocaust collection and where there is an extensive Holocaust curriculum." - VOYA "This guide profiles the lives and works of 128 of the first generation of Holocaust writers. The 20 editors and contributing scholars have carefully selected the most influential writers who bore personal witness to the Holocaust. Their alphabetically arranged entries summarize the significance of each writer's work, relate the details of their lives, critically examine individual titles and themes of the author, and provide selected bibliographies of their works and critical sources. The tales related are of human perseverance, searches for meaning and identity and, as the editors say, of personal testimony to the dearness of humanity. This excellent survey is highly recommended to public and academic libraries." - Gale Reference-Lawrence Looks at Books "This important and sensitive work presents a detailed look at the writings and lives of authors who survived, perished in, or were closely connected to the Holocaust (1933-1945). It gives fresh voice to the Holocaust Studies subject area, which has seen many new publications in the last few years and thus needs a strong survey text. The contributors provide powerful documentation and original research in presenting their subjects' literary messages and biographies. The volume's Bibliography of Primary Works of Holocaust Literature is very comprehensive and will be a great aid to those doing primary research. The volume's arrangement and detailed analytic treatment make it unique. The Oryx volume will be a strong addition to public and academic libraries, especially the many with Holocaust classes at the graduate or undergraduate level. Many librarians will be able to use the extensive bibliography as a collection development tool." - Booklist, Starred "Recommended for high schools who will study both literature and history of this horrific period of time." - Gale Reference for Students