Auschwitz Album
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Hungarian Jews on the Judenrampe (Jewish ramp) after disembarking from the Holocaust trains. Photo from the Auschwitz Album (May 1944)

The Auschwitz Album is a unique photographic record of the Holocaust of the Second World War. A collection of photographs taken inside a Nazi German death camp, it is the only surviving pictorial evidence (with the exception of four surreptitious photographs taken by Sonderkommandos) of the extermination process from inside the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi concentration camp.

The identity of the photographer has never been determined. They may have been taken by either Ernst Hoffmann or Bernhard Walter, two SS men responsible for fingerprinting and taking photo IDs of those prisoners who were not selected for extermination.

The album has 56 pages and 193 photographs. Originally, it had more photos, but before being donated to Yad Vashem (the Holocaust museum in Israel), some of them were given to survivors who recognized relatives and friends.

The images follow the processing of newly arrived Hungarian Jews from Carpatho-Ruthenia in
the early summer of 1944. They document the disembarkation of the Jewish prisoners from the train boxcars, followed by the selection process, performed by doctors of the SS and wardens of the camp, which separated those who were considered fit for work from those who were to be sent to the gas chambers. The photographer followed groups of those selected for work, and those selected for death to a birch grove just outside the crematoria where they were made to wait before being killed. The photographer also documented the workings of an area called Canada, where the looted belongings of the prisoners were sorted before transport to Germany. The album's survival is remarkable, given the strenuous efforts made by the Nazis to keep the "Final Solution" a secret. Also remarkable is the story of its discovery. Lili Jacob (later Lili Jacob-Zelmanovic Meier) was selected for work at Auschwitz-Birkenau while the other members of her family were sent to the gas chambers. The Auschwitz camp was evacuated by the Nazis as the Soviet army approached. Jacob passed through various camps, finally arriving at the Dora concentration camp, where she was eventually liberated. Recovering from illness in a vacated barracks of the SS, Jacob found the album in a cupboard beside her bed. Inside, she found pictures of herself, her relatives, and others from her community. The coincidence was astounding, given that the Nordhausen-Dora camp was over 640 km (400 mi) away, and that over 1,100,000 people were killed at Auschwitz.
The album's existence had been known publicly since at least the 1960s, when it was used as evidence at the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trials. Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld visited Lili in 1980 and convinced her to donate the album to Yad Vashem. The album's contents were first published that year in the book The Auschwitz Album, edited by Klarsfeld.

Legacies – the catalogue of the Collections of the Auschwitz Memorial
24-01-2015
The Auschwitz Memorial has published the catalogue of its Collections for the first time in its history. This album presents a comprehensive collection of authentic items related to the history of the German Nazi concentration and extermination camp, including thousands of personal objects belonging to the victims of Auschwitz as well as documents and possessions left behind by the SS men from the camp garrison.

The Auschwitz Legacies, authored by the Museum’s director Dr. Piotr M.A. Cywiński and Magdalena Emilewicz-Pióro,精选了从更大范围中选出的物品和文件。其目的主要是反映保存至今的全部资源的截面，以及展示这一最大德国集中营的历史复杂性。在介绍中，作者写道：“他们中的每一个，即使是那些大量存在的物品，都是个人化、个人化历史的文件。其中一些物品有签名；几乎所有的物品都有使用痕迹。每个物品都如此重要和必不可少，以至于在允许的行李中都有它的位置。在收集的物品中，最多的是一些普通物品，这些物品随着犹太人运输的行李到达营地——瓷器、餐具、梳子或梳子，鞋子，服装，Tallit，以及眼镜和人造假肢。除成千上万类似的物品外，还有独特的物品，如仅存的Tefillin，营队交响乐团的乐器，以及给孩子在伯克纳制造的玩偶。同样，档案中包含大量的文件，但也包括个别秘密信息，或1944年囚犯非法拍摄的几张照片。

“今天，Auschwitz-Birkenau的移动遗迹扮演着几个相互补充的角色。它们有助于了解Auschwitz的历史，是专家研究的对象，有助于维护记忆，有时是特定受害者的记忆，而且还起着重要的，无法估量的教育作用。它们填充了战后的空间和建筑。它们是我们今天了解德国纳粹集中营和灭绝营Auschwitz历史的重要载体。作为无生命的物体，它们保持沉默，但作为无声的见证者，它们尖叫着历史的谜团。”——介绍中写道。

除了与营地受害者相关的物品外，目录中还展示了由迫害者留下的物品，如头盔或警卫靴。其中还包括用于迫害囚犯和施加惩罚的SS部队的工具。许多物品证明了营地官僚机构的精妙策划和组织。许多营房和营房中居住的囚犯的居住用品已经幸存下来，如床铺，衣柜，桌子，凳子，以及条纹制服，木制鞋子和碗。

“因此产生了现在的想法。它的意图是结合两个层面。首先，它是一种特殊的补遗，补充了纪念馆的空间，也就是说，它的任务是加入创建记忆本身。其次，它构成了一种‘目录’，回顾了可以找到在Auschwitz-Birkenau国家博物馆的收藏和档案中的内容。”——介绍中说。

“我们献给所有无辜的人在Auschwitz-Birkenau集中营的死亡——犹太人，波兰人，罗姆人，红色军队的战俘和其他受害者。我们献给所有战胜自己痛苦和创伤的幸存者，他们为我们这一代人提供了巨大的警告，关于人性的本质。我们献给所有使世界成为好人的，参与立即为Auschwitz-Birkenau国家博物馆的受害者建立记忆的人。