

George A. Smathers Libraries showcase testimonies to the Holocaust

Testimony documents the impact of the Holocaust on the victims and survivors, and it gives voice to the immense aftershock felt by subsequent generations.

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - The George A. Smathers Libraries will present an exhibition inspired by recent donations to the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica. On view from April 1 through June 14, 2013, *Testimony* showcases primary sources that bear undeniable witness to the Holocaust. The exhibition will highlight previously unseen letters from members of the Stirt family sent from the Kovno Ghetto before they were murdered by the Nazis at Ninth Fort, as well as the papers and unpublished autobiography of the late Emanuel Merdinger, a concentration camp survivor and former Professor at the University of Florida.

Testimony also features photographic evidence of the concentration camps taken by Colonel Mitchell of the U.S. Signal Corps in 1945, together with photographs distributed to soldiers as part of General Eisenhower's news campaign. Newspapers, pamphlets and monographs published right at the end of the Second World War, testifying to the atrocities, are shown along with memoirs and memorials produced by survivors and dispersed communities in the decades following.

Artistic responses to the Holocaust by Florida based artists, Kenneth Treister and David Crown, serve as testimony to the ways in which this unspeakable crime affected those who lived through the era.

Testimony is curated by Rebecca Jefferson, Head of the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica.

The Smathers Library Gallery is located on the second floor of the Smathers Library on the University of Florida campus. Hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise specified and with occasional exceptions for maintenance. All exhibitions are open to the public and free of charge.

Programs

Gallery Talk:

Thursday April 4, 6:00 pm – 7:00pm

Smathers Library Gallery, 2nd Floor

Join Curator Rebecca Jefferson as she discusses *Testimony*.

Prelude Exhibition:

The Gathering Storm: Jewish Life in Germany and Eastern Europe in the 1930s

<http://exhibits.uflib.ufl.edu/gatheringstorm>

Only available online, *The Gathering Storm* features items produced by or pertaining to European Jewry before the advent of WWII. Curated by Rebecca Jefferson and designed by Lourdes Santamaría-Wheeler