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ETTY HILLESUM

The Letters and Diaries of Etty Hillesum (1914-1943), edited by Prof. Dr. Klaas A. D. Smelik, have a special place in the Jewish-Dutch testimony of the Shoah. They contain not only a description of the transit Camp Westerbork for the Dutch Jews during Nazi occupation, but also reflect her important, though unfortunately interrupted existential search of an ethical, philosophical and literature nature. Thirty years

after her death the diaries have received worldwide attention and inspired thousands of readers.

NEW WEBSITE : WWW.EHOC.UGENT.BE

It is a great joy to announce that the Etty Hillesum Research Centre (EHOC) has now an official website.

The EHOC website wants to provide information concerning research activities, publications and symposia on Etty Hillesum.

The site offers a clear insight into the life and writings of the Dutch Jewish writer. An extensive biography, visualised by a photo gallery and a PowerPoint presentation, portrays her life until her deportation to Auschwitz.

Under *The Letters and Diaries* you find an overview of all the editions and translations of Hillesums work that was ever published: from the very first edition *Drie brieven van den kunstschilder Johannes Baptiste van der Pluym (1843-1912)* in 1943 until the complete and unabridged edition SMELIK, Klaas A. D. *Etty: De Nage-laten Geschriften van Etty Hillesum 1941-1943* in 2002. In the Anthology you get a foretaste of the content of these gripping and inspiring diaries and letters.

We also recommend a visit to our newly designed Etty Hillesum-bibliography. This global database aims for completeness in the variety of primary and secondary literature on Etty Hillesum.

An English version of the website is in preparation.

QUOTATION

'Ich will dich immer spiegeln in ganzer Gestalt und will niemals blind sein oder zu alt, um dein schweres schwankendes Bild zu halten. Rilke said it to God, but those lines were with me on the train and during the few days in Deventer whenever I thought of our friendship.

Diary, 29th December 1941.

EHOC AFFILIATED MEMBERS

Edward van Voolen

Chairman of the de Etty Hillesum Foundation, conservator of the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam and teacher at the *Abraham Geiger Kolleg* in Berlin.

Geert Lekkerkerker

Director of finance of the Etty Hillesum Foundation, director of the *Koninklijke Notariële beroepsorganisatie (KNB)* in The Hague.

Jan-Geurt Gaarlandt

Director of Publishing House *Balans* in Amsterdam, where the various editions of Etty Hillesum's letters and diaries have been published in the original Dutch.

Didier Pollefeyt

Professor at the Faculty of Theology, Louvain University. Chairman Institutum Iudaicum. Member of the National Catholic Commission for Relations with Judaism. Chairman Jewish Christian dialogue.

Ria van den Brandt

Coordinator and senior researcher at the Heyendaal Institute of the Radboud University Nijmegen. She recently published *Denken met Etty Hillesum* (2006).

Wout van Bekkum

Professor Semitic Languages at the Faculty of Arts, Groningen University. Organiser of the Etty Hillesum exhibition in the *Folkingestraat Synagoge*, Groningen.

Dirk Mulder

Director of Memorial Camp Westerbork, Hooghalen.

Judith Roosenschoon

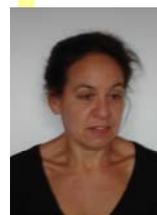
Coordinator of the Etty Hillesum Centre, Deventer.

Denise De Costa

Writer and lecturer. Finished her doctorate in 1996 on *Anne Frank en Etty Hillesum: spiritualiteit, schrijverschap, seksualiteit*. She published several books and articles on Hillesum's life and work.

Alexandra Pleshoyano

Coordinator of the project Ethics and religious culture at the Faculty of Theology, Ethics and Philosophy, Sherbrooke University (Québec, Canada). In autumn 2007, she will finish her doctorate on a study of the theology of Etty Hillesum at Nijmegen University.



Rachel F. Brenner

Professor at Winconsin University, Department of Hebrew and Semitic Studies. In 1997, she wrote *Writing as Resistance*, where she analyses Hillesum's work next to three other female writers.



Gerrit van Oord

Coordinator of the EHOC in Italy, director of Publisher Apeiron, San Oreste, Rome.



Fulvio Manara

Professor at the Faculty of Pedagogical Studies at Bergamo University. Leader of the research project dedicated to Etty Hillesum: 'Philosophy as an art of living in the Letters and Diaries of Etty Hillesum'.



Nadia Neri

Jungian psychoanalyst in Rome, wrote various articles on Etty Hillesum and published the book *Un'estrema compassione: Etty Hillesum testimone e vittima del Lager* (1999). Member of the *Association of Analytical Psychology*.



Wanda Tommasi

Professor at Verona University, Department Philosophy, where she teaches History of Modern Philosophy. Member of the Female Philosophical Community *Diotoma*. In 2002, she wrote *Etty Hillesum: L'intelligenza del cuore*.



VISIT ETTY HILLESUM CENTRE, DEVENTER & MEMORIAL CAMP WESTERBORK



EHOC researchers visited the Etty Hillesum Centre in Deventer, the Netherlands. The centre is inspired by the work and personal history of Etty Hillesum as a meeting place for all people, without prejudice to any faith, nationality, cultural and ethnical background. After the welcome speech by the chairman Maarten van Haagen, positive agreements have been made concerning further collaboration in the nearer future. The meeting was closed with a visit to the exhibition. The following day EHOC researchers visited Memorial Camp Westerbork. Also here, in consultation with director Dirk Mulder, agreements have been made for shared activities.

**ETTY HILLESUM
ONDERZOEKSCENTRUM**

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NEWS

On 20th December 2006, at Gent University a colloquium was held for doctorate students, a two year event organised by the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy. The EHOC was present this year to promote and stimulate the visibility and charisma of the Etty Hillesum research activities at the UGent. As a growing centre, the EHOC wants to lay contacts with researchers worldwide of various disciplines and to promote collaboration in the field of Etty Hillesum studies.

On the day itself the two EHOC researchers Meins Coetsier en Ellen Vandewalle presented their work by a poster session. The poster contained a little summary of their research on Etty Hillesum. As doctorate students they were available to provide further information on the topic and to meet other visitors and scholars of around the globe. It was a great success!

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Onderzoekers
Ellen Vandewalle
Meins Coetsier
Maarten Bogaert

*Etty
Hillesum*

De nagelaten dagboeken en brieven van Etty Hillesum (1914-1943) hebben een bijzondere plaats in de getuigenis van de Sjoa. Ze bevatten niet alleen een beschrijving van het kamp Westerbork, maar zijn ook een neerslag van een existentiële zoektocht op ethisch, filosofisch en literair vlak tijdens WO II, die helaas vroegtijdig in Auschwitz werd afgebroken.



Ellen Vandewalle concentreert zich op de rol van Rilke binnen de formele en levensbeschouwelijke ontwikkeling in de geschriften van Etty Hillesum. Kritische tekstanalyse zal uitwijzen hoe Hillesums autobiografische geschriften werden gevormd door de lectuur en incorporatie van Rilke en hoe hierdoor een nieuwe vorm en betekenis ontstond: Hillesums eigen literaire en existentiële ontwikkeling.

Meins Coetsier richt zich op Hillesums spirituele zoektocht in het licht van Voegelins filosofisch begrip 'the flow of presence': 'the intersection of time with the Timeless'. Deze wisselwerking, 'the flow', tussen de Tijdloze dimensie en haar aanwezigheid in de tijd, 'the presence', wordt in zijn analyse van de nagelaten geschriften in relatie tot de werken van Buber, Levinas en Bonhoeffer uitgewerkt.

Maarten Bogaert verricht onderzoek naar de Russische kant van Etty Hillesum met vooral aandacht voor de invloed van de Russische literatuur en cultuur op haar leven en werk. Deze studie wordt gekaderd binnen de context van de receptie van Russische auteurs in Nederland in de jaren dertig van de vorige eeuw.