

Anne Frank's Tales From The Secret Annexe,
edited by Gerrold van der Stroom and Susan Massotty,
translated from the Dutch by Susan Massotty.
Halban Publishers 2010.

It is nearly seventy years since Anne Frank and her sister Margot died of typhus in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, less than a month before it was liberated by the British army; yet after all this time she remains one of the most iconic figures in 20th century history, her immortality guaranteed not just by her diary but also by her other pieces of writing, fiction and non-fiction.

In the 21st century the air-brushed Anne that her father Otto wished to present to the world after her death has been replaced by the true Anne, revealed in some excellent biographies and in the definitive, complete text of her diary, revealing much more about her and her character than had been known before.

Anne Frank's Tales from the Secret Annexe reproduces 41 pieces of her writing, wholly separate from her diary, which expose the depth and breadth not only of her literary interests and ambitions but also her creativity; some, like *The Dentist* and *The Battle of the Potatoes* give insights into the enormous challenges faced by all those immured in the Secret Annexe, others like *The Flea* and *Sundays* reveal Anne's mischievous sense of humour, yet others like *Do You Remember* and *My First Day at the Lyceum* evoke a time before the Nazi invasion when the Franks were allowed to live normal lives.

This is a lovely collection of Anne Frank's writing, with an Afterword from the co-founder of the Anne Frank Trust UK, and a timely reminder in microcosm of the destruction visited not just on the Jews but on humanity by the crazed and vindictive ideologues of Nazi Germany.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh