

Holocaust Literature: A History and Guide  
edited by David G. Roskies and Naomi Diamant,  
Brandeis University Press 2012.

Holocaust Literature: A History and Guide is a book that fulfils several valuable purposes: it's very publication is a powerful statement about the passage of time that has elapsed since the end of the Second World War and with it the Shoah. Its contents provide an excellent resource for those wishing to discover books both general and specific relating to the Shoah as the editors review and précis outstanding volumes previously published.

First and foremost, however, the value of this book is to be found in its six opening chapters: What is Holocaust Literature? Wartime Writing in the Free-Zone, 1938-1945; Wartime Writing in the Jew-Zone, 1939-1945; Communal Memory, 1945-60; Provisional memory, 1960-1985; Authorised Memory, 1985-Present. In these chapters Roskies and Diamant trace the development of Holocaust literature through the different stages of memorialisation, adducing the key texts at the right time and commenting not only on how they arose at this specific phase but how they influenced it and the phase which followed.

David Roskies, the pre-eminent scholar of east European Jewish cultural history, together with his colleague Naomi Diamant, an academic at New York Business School, have produced a superb guide to trends in holocaust literature and to key texts themselves, as well as a vibrant testimony to the variety, complexity and quality of a uniquely important genre of Jewish writing.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh