

# Crimes Uncovered.

## The First Generation of Holocaust Researchers

An exhibition of the Wannsee Conference Memorial and Educational Site and Touro College Berlin in cooperation with Wiener Library London.

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Auswärtiges Amt, Lichthof, Werderscher Markt 1, 10117 Berlin



De Jong organizing and cataloguing documents at the Institute for War Documentation in Amsterdam, 1950. Nationaal Archief/Collection Spaarnestad Photo

Between 1939 and 1945, the Germans murdered six million Jews. The Holocaust was aimed at the destruction of Jewish life and Jewish culture. The perpetrators sought to erase all traces of the crime. Jewish citizens joined in their efforts to counteract this “final solution”. From the onset of the atrocities, they explicated the events in order to bring to light the dimensions of mass murder.

In exile, but also under hostile conditions in the ghettos and camps, they documented the deeds, collected facts and secured traces. They founded archives and research groups and formed commissions. These continued their work after the end of the war. They wanted to remember the murdered, explore the Shoah, bring the perpetrators to justice, and at the same time make another genocide impossible.

Driven by different motives, these women and men devoted themselves to researching and commemorating the Holocaust. They denied the criminals an ultimate triumph: The million-fold murder defied oblivion. Instead, it bore consequences: books, memorials, research institutes, court cases and last but not least the UN Genocide Convention of 1948. These were the formidable result of their passionate commitment. Their efforts shaped the foundation of our current knowledge of the Holocaust.

The exhibition commemorates the life and work of twenty of these pioneers of Holocaust research. Names such as Rachel Auerbach, Raphael Lemkin, Simon Wiesenthal or Joseph Wulf exemplify a small group of tireless activists. Under the most adverse conditions and often against indifference and denunciation, they laid the foundations for the universal recognition of the Holocaust as a crime against humanity.