LAUNCH CEREMONY OF THE DIGITISED RAVENSBRÜCK ARCHIVE

Witnessing genocide – experiences of Nazi concentration camps

PROGRAMME | 20 OCTOBER 2017
Introduction

Welcome to the launch ceremony of the digitised Ravensbrück archive and the conclusion of the Witnessing Genocide project.

BACKGROUND
In the spring of 1945 more than 21 000 former concentration camp prisoners came to southern Sweden through the Red Cross and Folke Bernadotte’s so-called ‘White Buses’. Zygmunt Łakociński (1905–1987), professor of Polish language at Lund University, and historian Sture Bolin took the initiative of establishing a working group which interviewed the liberated camp prisoners, documenting their experiences during the war.

Financial support was given by the Swedish government. The project, titled the Swedish Institute of Foreign Affairs’ Polish Working Group in Lund, started in October 1945. The interviews were carried out within one year. The financial support stopped in November 1946 and the working group was disbanded.

Due to the political situation during the Cold War, the archive was kept at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University from 1949 to 1972, when Łakociński brought back the material and deposited it at Lund University Library.

After Łakociński’s death in 1987, the archive remained sealed until 1995, when work began to make it available to researchers and to the public. The archive, including Łakociński’s personal papers, was finally donated to Lund University Library by the heirs to the Łakociński estate in 2004.
Programme

20 OCTOBER 2017, 15:00 – 16:30 PM

Moderator: Willy Silberstein

Music: Jean Sibelius, Andante Festivo
String Quartet from the Malmö Academy of Music, Lund University

Welcome
Torbjörn von Schantz, Vice-Chancellor, Lund University

Introductory Remarks
Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Member of the European Parliament

Speech
Martin Łakociński, son of Zygmunt Łakociński

The Witnessing Genocide Project
Håkan Håkansson, Project Manager, Lund University Library

Music: Samuel Barber, Adagio for Strings, Op 11
String Quartet from the Malmö Academy of Music, Lund University

Panel Discussion
Sarah Helm, Journalist and writer
Klas-Göran Karlsson, Professor of History, Lund University
Willy Silberstein, Moderator

Concluding Remarks
Anneli Hulthén, Governor of Skåne

Musicians: Saana Kähkönen, violin 1; Lilja Rasimus violin 2; Henrik Rapp viola; Henning Fredriksson, cello
Speakers

ANNA MARIA CORAZZA BILDT

Anna Maria Corazza Bildt is a Swedish politician and Member of the European Parliament. She is a member of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality.

Between 1992 and 1998 she was working with the United Nations during the Yugoslav wars, and also served for two years after the war with the European Commission of Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Since 1987, Corazza Bildt has worked primarily with international political and humanitarian issues with emphasis on democracy, human rights and conflict management. Between 2003 and 2008 she was a member of the Central Board of the Swedish Red Cross.

MARTIN ŁAKOCIŃSKI

Martin Łakociński was born and raised in Lund. He is an alumnus of Lund University (-68) as well as the American Graduate School of International Management (-71). He has been a US resident since 1969. Between 1972 and 1981, Łakociński worked for the Swedish Foreign Office (UD) in Houston, Texas. For the past 35 years he has owned and managed a number of US-based businesses, primarily in the marine and real estate fields.
HÅKAN HÅKANSSON
Håkan Håkansson is Associate Professor of the History of Ideas and Sciences, Lund University and since 2014, he has been the head of the Witnessing Genocide-project. Håkansson is a former fellow of The Warburg Institute, London University, and since 2006 has worked at Lund University Library with project managing, fundraising and digitisation. In 2014–2016 he was head of the Manuscripts and Special Collections department, and heads the digitisation unit since 2016.

WILLY SILBERSTEIN
Willy Silberstein has worked as a Swedish journalist for over 30 years: from 1977 to 1987 at the daily newspaper Svenska Dagbladet, and between 1987 and 2009 at Sweden’s public broadcaster Sveriges Radio.

Silberstein was President of the Swedish Committee against Antisemitism from 2009 to 2016.

From 2010 he has been a much appreciated moderator and consultant in media training.

SARAH HELM
Sarah Helm is a British journalist and non-fiction writer. She worked for British newspapers The Sunday Times and The Independent in the 1980s and 1990s.

KLAS-GÖRNA KARLSSON

Klas-Göran Karlsson is Professor of History at Lund University. He is an author of books on conflictology and Holocaust studies.

He obtained his PhD in Lund in 1987, where he also became Associate Professor in 1989 and Professor in 2000. He has a broad interest in European contemporary history and researches on Eastern Europe, on terror and genocide and on European history. In 2001–2008 he led the grand research project Holocaust in European Historical Culture.

ANNELI HULTHÉN

Anneli Hulthén is a politician who has been the Governor of Skåne since October 2016. A member of the Social Democrats, she previously served as Member of the European Parliament from 1995 to 2004, and as chair (mayor) of the Gothenburg Municipality executive board from 2009 to 2016.
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