This evocative piece, a 1925 German edition of Grimm’s Fairy Tales (Aus Grimms Märchen), signed on the title page by Anne Frank, was acquired by the Museum at an auction in New York City in May. Anne signs her name and her sister’s name, “Anne Frank en Margo Frank,” in the upper right portion.

The book is accompanied by a 1977 letter written by her father, Otto Frank, explaining that the book had been left behind in the family’s apartment in Amsterdam, before they went into hiding in the secret annex.

Kenneth W. Rendell, the Museum’s Founder and Executive Director, said that genuine signatures of Anne Frank are extremely rare. This is only the third time that something signed by Anne Frank has been sold.

“Anne Frank is a human symbol of the Holocaust,” says Rendell. “Her diary is read by students everywhere in the world. Seeing this book, which belonged to her, with her handwriting on the title page, is as direct a personal connection as we can have with her. It is a dramatic reminder that Anne Frank was only 16 years old when she died in a concentration camp.”

Although the Museum has one of the most comprehensive and important collections of Holocaust artifacts, including letters by Anne Frank’s father about getting her diary published, her grandmother about how she died, and...
FALL PREVIEW AT THE MUSEUM OF WORLD WAR II

75th Anniversary of PEARL HARBOR

This December 7th marks the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor – the day the United States entered World War II and Japan would be defeated. The attack on Pearl Harbor also set in motion the biggest mistake of World War II – Adolf Hitler declared war on the United States on December 11th.

After Labor Day, we will open our special, major exhibition reflecting on Pearl Harbor, 75 years later. It begins with Japan’s imperial expansion into China and Asia which led to America’s oil embargo. Roosevelt offered to end the embargo if Japan changed its policies; their answer came on December 7th.

The day before was another day in paradise for sailors stationed at Pearl Harbor. The Honolulu newspaper’s front page on December 7th, 1941 carried news of the war in Europe and tensions in Asia. In the exhibition this is seen next to a special edition, hours later, proclaiming WAR. Between these two editions, 350 Japanese planes, thought by American radar to be a flight of B-17 American bombers earlier than expected, bombed American war ships at anchorage. The same radar set as used on Oahu will be on display, along with the first message from Pearl Harbor: “AIR RAID PEARL HARBOR – THIS IS NO DRILL,” original news photos, eye witness accounts, the huge binoculars from the bridge of the Arizona, first news flashes and desperate messages.

The first printed declaration of war by Japan is followed in the exhibition by a Tokyo newspaper devoted to the surprising news, along with Japanese photos taken during the attack. There are celebratory Japanese posters and propaganda.

California newspapers reflect in their headlines the fear that overwhelmed the United States. It was assumed that Hawaii would be invaded and photographs show California cities being bombed (actually shelled by Japanese submarines).

Posters from 1942 order Americans of German, Italian and Japanese ancestry to report to the authorities. Later only Japanese-Americans were sent to internment camps in large numbers. Artifacts from these camps are on display.

“Remember Pearl Harbor” became the instant rallying cry in the country.

The Secret War

National Geographic Society’s The Secret War, a large format, richly illustrated account of the covert operations of World War II, written by Neil Kagan and Stephen Hyslop, with a Foreword by Kenneth Rendell, will be released on October 25th and is already available for pre-order on Amazon.com. Virtually all of the photographs are of artifacts in the Museum’s collection.

The Secret War goes behind the battle lines and deep into the undercover war effort that changed the course of history. It takes the reader inside the secret lives of spies and spy masters; secret agents and secret armies; Enigma machines and code breakers; psychological warfare and black propaganda; secret weapons and secret battle strategies.

Anne Frank, continued from page 1

others surrounding her, until now, there was nothing of Anne Frank herself.

Founding Education Director Marshall Carter says, “This poignant reminder of Anne Frank will profoundly move students. So many young people who visit the Museum read her diary, and now they can come so near to a book that was Anne’s very own. That closeness with history reminds us today, that Anne was real, she had a childhood, and she knew the stories, the fairy tales, we ourselves know.”

Anne Frank’s diary is on permanent display at the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam. Only three other museums have examples of her handwriting.
On April 12th, “The Power of Anti-Semitism; The March to the Holocaust, 1919-1939” opened at the New-York Historical Society. Kenneth W. Rendell, Founder and Executive Director of the Museum of World War II, Boston spoke to members of the Chairman’s Council during the New-York Historical Society’s Weekend with History, and again to donors who supported the pre-arrangement and installation of the exhibition.

The exhibition will run until July 31st. A catalogue of the exhibition is available through Amazon.com. There has been extensive media coverage of the exhibition; Ed Rothstein’s thought-provoking review for the Wall Street Journal is on the overleaf of this newsletter.

This is an important exhibition. It explores the question: How did Hitler and the Nazi Party persuade the majority of Germans that Jewish people must be excluded from society, eventually to the point of mass murder? In the wake of recent events targeting Jewish communities in Europe and elsewhere, the exhibition is relevant to today. The many New York City public school students who study history with the New-York Historical Society will learn of the dangers of ignoring or discounting anti-Semitic hatred, as well as of underestimating the role of propaganda in denying racial and religious groups their right to live without fear or threat of violence.

Many New York and Boston friends of the Museum of World War II attended the opening reception.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT TO RIGHT: Renata Propper and Henry Arnhold; Ken Rendell thanking supporters of the exhibition; Sally and Jim Joslin and Lawrence Smith Huntington; Ellen Michelson; Bill Carey, Scott Litner and Dana Carey.
Though no attempt is made to generalize or analogize, Mr. Rendell noted in a conversation how many times, in his recent public presentations, visitors immediately drew analogies between early Nazi rallies and recent rallies of a particular presidential candidate. The exhibition might then be seen as a map of how varieties of contemporary racism or injustice move from a society’s margins to its heart.

But I have the opposite reaction. Nazi analogies are too regularly invoked to simplify argument; and anti-Semitism is too often generalized, treated as another variety of racism. Instead, I am struck by how singular anti-Semitism is, how cunning the Nazi use of it was, and how different it is from racism, with which it is often confused.

As a result of taxes, violence, threats, and legislation, the families were financially ruined and forced to flee. The buildings were taken over. Not only did this break Jewish control; the government also obliterated any sign of it. The textile building was used to manufacture almost a million yellow Star of David patches; the Hermann Gershon store property was used to house the SS’s criminal police and as a laboratory to perfect mass killing methods. (Incidentally, very few heirs to the 225 properties have received recompense according to a postwar policy that was, ironically enough, called Wiedergutmachung.)

These beliefs might seem beyond contemporary imagining. Yet today similar assertions have attached themselves to Israel—a Jew among nations. Arab media regularly invoke Nazi caricatures and references. Recently, the former Mayor of London Ken Livingstone also suggested that Zionism and Nazism shared support from Hitler—adding to a string of comments by Labour leaders caricaturing Israel as uniquely satanic.

But there is no need to look so far afield. At Oberlin College, a Facebook post by an assistant professor of rhetoric and composition showed a member of the Rothschild banking family with an invention quoted about his people: “We own nearly every central bank in the world. We finance both sides of every war since Napoleon. We own your news, the media, your oil and your government.” The professor also accused “Rothschild-led bankers” of “implementing the World War III option” by shooting down a Malaysian airliner over Ukraine; and she attacked Jews and the Mossad for funding ISIS. Such accusations are taken from Der Stürmer’s play book (the Nazis’s used Kristallnacht as an occasion to apply an “Atonement Tax,” as one document at the historical society shows, forcing Jews to pay for damage caused by inspiring anti-Semitic attacks). The Oberlin professor, unrepentant, has treated accusations of anti-Semitism as attempts to silence her by the very conspiracy she was drawing attention to.

Clearly, the virus thrives. No exaggerated Nazi analogies are needed to reveal the similarities. The very language repeats itself. The examples also demonstrate the pride typically taken in anti-Semitic views. Unmasking the conspiracy requires intelligence and cunning equal to that of the perpetrators. Anti-Semites typically see their beliefs as virtuous—not offensive, but defensive. And if the Jew suffers as a result, well such is Wiedergutmachung.
The spirit of resistance to tyranny is ingrained in many people, but active resistance to occupying forces, whether German, Soviet or Japanese, was dangerous. Their reactions were swift and merciless.

This exhibition explores the many forms resistance took, from owning a radio, printing newsletters and carrying messages, to sabotage and assassination. It features the Museum’s extensive collection of resistance and intelligence artifacts, which is one of the largest in the world. The human stories are woven throughout the exhibition which is organized thematically and geographically. More than 200 pieces are on display.

The popularity of Anthony Doerr’s Pulitzer Prize-winning *All the Light We Cannot See* attests to the fascination we have with the lives of those who resisted their occupiers. This exhibition focuses on resistance in France as well as in many other countries which were occupied by enemy forces.

At a dinner to mark the opening of the exhibition, the Consul General of France in Boston, Valéry Freland, presented Emanuel “Manny” Abrams with a Legion of Honor Medal. Manny Abrams, who has been a volunteer at the Museum for several years, was the navigator of a B-24 Liberator Bomber. Only 19 years old, he was promoted to the lead plane, completing 30 missions during a 6 month period in 1944.

The Museum of World War II from Today’s Perspective

Paul Holzer, a Navy SEAL officer for 10 years, witnessed the horrific effects of severe burns and other combat injuries which fostered his interest in improving the availability of effective, life-saving medical devices, which he has pursued through his master’s training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as a research fellow at the Massachusetts General Hospital, as the founder and CEO/President of Xeno Therapeutics, a medical device company based in Massachusetts that provides skin tissue for severe burn victims, and most recently as a medical student at Dartmouth Medical School.

A friend of the Museum, he spoke to a group of medical professionals about the development of mobile surgical units such as the ones first created at the end of World War II (later made famous as M.A.S.H. units during the Korean War). This one, newly acquired by the Museum, is the most comprehensive and complete World War II era unit known to exist. It is presently set up in the building next to the Museum and will be on display to the public after the Museum’s expansion.
The breadth and depth of the collection informs our educational programs. The presence of such an array of artifacts and documents encourages students to think critically about World War II and the human dimension of war. Such immersion is not something they can get in the classroom. As this school year comes to an end, we are tallying up our accomplishments.

School visits – Since last fall nearly 2,000 middle and high school students have visited the Museum. This includes more than 500 students from urban districts, including the Boston Public Schools, Somerville High School, Brookline schools, and Cambridge Rindge and Latin. Hundreds more students have visited from their suburban and semi-rural districts, including Ashland, Braintree, Concord-Carlisle, Hull, Leominster, Lincoln-Sudbury, Marlborough, Natick, Shrewsbury, Stoughton, Wayland, Weston and Wilmington.

Teacher previews and training – This academic year, more than 250 educators have visited the Museum to preview the exhibitions, educational programs, and partnership opportunities. These include classroom teachers, department chairs, principals and superintendents. Districts include Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Concord-Carlisle, Dudley-Charlton, Framingham, Lincoln, Sudbury, Marlborough, Natick, Newton, Somerville, Stoughton and Wayland.

Urban Schools Initiative – A tenet of the Museum, inspired by Founder Kenneth W. Rendell, who grew up in Somerville, is to reach out to underserved students in urban schools. Thanks to the generosity of a donor, we have been able to underwrite their bus trips and to offset their admissions. Among the Boston schools were the Josiah Quincy Upper School, the Lyndon Pilot, the Henderson Inclusion, and Boston Latin Academy. We are looking forward to developing more in-depth partnerships with these schools.

Summer program – Thanks to a grant from the MetroWest Foundation, and in partnership with EDCO Collaborative, the Museum will offer its first professional development program for teachers this summer, with graduate credit available. Guest lecturers will be Dr. Nina Tumarkin from Wellesley College, a specialist in Russia’s role in the war, and Holocaust expert Gila Safrai Naveh of the University of Cincinnati. The focus of the program is using original materials in the teaching of history, and supporting teachers as they develop curricula tied to future Museum experiences for their students.

Developing curriculum – Thanks to a “$100K for 100” grant from Cummings Foundation, we have tailored the curriculum for school visits to the individualized needs of students and teachers. Ultimately we will be able to offer an array of choices, which can be further customized. On our new website, in the Educators section, we will offer more on-line details.

Facing History and Ourselves – Our Director of Education, Marshall Carter, who has taught Facing History’s Holocaust and Human Behavior curriculum, welcomes opportunities to work with classes who are using it and tailors their visits accordingly. This Spring, in conjunction with the Museum’s exhibition, “The Power of Anti-Semitism; The March to the Holocaust, 1919-1939,” Marshall joined in the Facing History seminar for teachers at the New-York Historical Society. We are exploring more formal connections with this prestigious organization.

The future -- We have only just begun!