

MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER
Diaries of Anne Frank

Ref N° 2008-42

PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

1 SUMMARY

The diary of Anne Frank brings her life story to the attention of people all over the world. It describes her life as an adolescent girl during the 2 years she, her family and 4 other people lived in hiding during WWII. Her diary is in the top 10 of the best read books worldwide. When googled the name 'Anne Frank' gives more than 5 million hits and 'diary of Anne Frank' (in the English language) gives 600.000 hits.

Anne Frank is listed in the Dutch Canon which was presented on July 3rd 2007. She can be found under caption no.11: 'The Netherlands in a time of world wars: 1914-1945'

Anne Frank is one of the three icons of Amsterdam World Book Capital 2008.

2 DETAILS OF THE NOMINATOR

2.1 Anne Frank Stichting

2.2 Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated

The diary is on display in our museum (the secret annexe where the Frank family went into hiding and the place where Anne wrote her diary).

2.3 Contact person (s)
drs. K.P.D. Broekhuizen, managing director

2.4 Contact details (include address, phone, fax, email)
PO Box 730
1000 AS Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 20 556 71 00
Fax +31 20 556 71 92
e-mail: k.broekhuizen@annefrank.nl

3 IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

Diaries of Anne Frank:

- On display in the Anne Frank House, Prinsengracht 267, Amsterdam, the Netherlands since 1986.
- On a permanent loan agreement between Anne Frank Stichting (the trustee of the Anne Frank House) and Nederlands Instituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie (the custodian of the diary)
- The Dutch state is the official owner of the diary

3.2 Description

The Diary consists of:

- a red and white chequered diary (where she kept her first diary entries from June 1942 to December of that same year)
- two thick hardcover school exercise books (in which she continued her diary entries until August 1, 1944)
- 360 loose sheets of thin copy paper she used to edit and rewrite all of her diary entries.

Other written accounts by Anne Frank during the hiding period:

- an account book (from her father's office) filled with quotes she liked
- another account book in which she wrote her own short stories

When (parts of) the diaries are on display in the museum, they are exposed in climate controlled glass enclosures. In addition temperature and humidity are controlled throughout the whole museum.

4 JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION/ ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA

4.1 Is authenticity established?

Authenticity was established by the Nederlands Instituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie (NIOD) in their publication 'De dagboeken van Anne Frank', first published in 1986 (ISBN 90-351-2199-6) which included a summary of the report by the forensic laboratory, drawn up by H.J.J. Hardy.

4.2 Is world significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability established?

The Diary of Anne Frank has been translated into 65 languages and published worldwide. Her story has touched people all over the world and especially young people have found her story one they can relate to, as the writer was an adolescent also. Through the diary young people, still today, can learn what the consequence of discrimination can be. At the Anne Frank Stichting we regularly receive letters from young people who are inspired by Anne's story. A large number of the people who have read the book visit the museum to see the place where it all took place and to see the actual diary. The museum welcomes over one million visitors per year. The diary is a highlight of their museum visit.

4.3 Is one *or more* of the criteria of (a) time (b) place (c) people (d) subject and theme (e) form and style satisfied?

- (a)** The diary describes Anne's life from 14 June 1942 - 1 August 1944. It gives an account of daily life during WWII seen through the eyes of an adolescent girl and shows the impact of German occupation on the lives of Jewish people.
- (b)** In July 1942 the Frank family, consisting of father, mother and two daughters, goes into hiding, together with four others, in the secret annexe, a total space of approx. 100 m². The original secret annexe still exists today and has been a museum since May 3rd, 1960, also known as the Anne Frank House.
- (c)** The diary was written during WWII and describes the daily life of 8 Jewish people living in a confined space during an extraordinary time. The entries deal with problems that all adolescents experience at some point, but it also tells the story of the millions of Jewish people who suffered and died in WWII. Through her diary she has become a voice for all those people who did not keep a diary during the war of whose diary got lost.
- (d)**

- (e) Anne Frank had aspirations to become a writer and wanted her diary published after the war. She started the process of rewriting her diary for this purpose, but was not able to finish it. As a young teenage girl she speaks to youngsters today in their language, young people can relate to her story and recognize their own problems in her entries made so many decades ago. The inspirational value of the diary to young people of today can not be overestimated. The diary is used in schools all over the world to teach about the Holocaust and discrimination.

4.4 Are there issues of rarity, integrity, threat and management that relate to this nomination?

Integrity:

From the Condition Report for the Diary of Anne Frank in 2000:

A diary is designed for everyday use and is usually sewn with a heavier thread, because it will be leafed through more often than a book that is strictly intended for reading. While the adhesive binding on the spine is sturdy, it is not thick, so that the book opens easily and can lie completely flat in order to write in it. This also applies to Anne Frank's chequered diary.

Anne Frank's diary is in good condition, with the exception of a few pages and some discolourations due to tape residue. The construction is fully intact, the adhesive binding has relaxed as a result of the book being used and the pressure on the binding thread is not excessive. The chequered fabric is in good condition and the little lock is firmly attached.

Threat / management plan:

The diaries of Anne Frank are kept in our museum in a climate controlled environment as high priority is given to preserving the diaries for future generations. Other aspects in the preservation are protection from vandalism and theft.

All necessary measures are taken to protect the diaries from all possible external influences:

- technical measures (climate control / alarm systems)
- special display cases
- procedures for both calamities as well as the necessary, regular handling of objects. These procedures are continually updated.
- Clear agreements and communication with other parties involved

To make the writings of Anne Frank more accessible for serious study the Anne Frank Stichting, with the support of o.a. Anne Frank Fonds and NIOD, has realized facsimiles of Anne Frank's manuscripts.

5 LEGAL INFORMATION

5.1. Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

the Dutch state

c/o Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap
Postbus 16375
2500 BJ 'S-GRAVENHAGE
The Netherlands

5.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different to owner)

Nederlands Instituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie (NIOD)
Herengracht 380
1016 CJ AMSTERDAM
The Netherlands

5.3 Legal status:

(a) Category of ownership

owned by the Dutch state

(b) Accessibility

through the Anne Frank Stichting

(c) Copyright status

by the Anne Frank Fonds in Basel, Switzerland

(d) Responsible administration

(e) Other factors

6 MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage?

The quality of the paper, cotton and linen is at risk from the natural process of deterioration. Utmost care is taken to ensure an optimal climate controlled environment.

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7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Provide details of consultation about this nomination with (a) the owner of the heritage (b) the custodian (c) your national or regional *Memory of the World* committee

(a) advice has been sought from the Dutch state through the Director of Research and Science Policy with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

PART B – SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

8 ASSESSMENT OF RISK

8.1 Detail the nature and scope of threats to this documentary heritage (see 5.5)

n.a.

9 ASSESSMENT OF PRESERVATION

9.1 Detail the preservation context of the documentary heritage (see 3.3)

The quality of the materials from which the diary was originally constructed is not exceptionally high, so it is very important that the diary is handled as little as possible and is kept under favourable and stable climatological conditions: a constant relative atmospheric humidity of 55% and an ambient temperature of 18 °C. A minor deviation is not an issue, as long as this deviation is stable and does not fluctuate.

PART C - LODGEMENT

This nomination is lodged by:

(Please print name)...K.P.D. Broekhuizen.....

(Signature)..... (Date)....