

Reminiscences 71

This volume contains the memoirs of 45 survivors who found refuge in Jewish orphanages and children's centres during and / or after World War II.

So far, most of them have talked about their experiences and life at that time (or as the place is better known, rather: there) only to their close family members and friends or to their fellow sufferers at the orphanage gatherings held at a few occasions. Some memories have been already published before; their source is indicated below the name of the author.

We would like to thank for the selfless help of Centropa (centropa.org) and the Zachor Foundation (zachor.hu) that they granted the second publication of the details of the three memoirs found in their collections.

Some of the memoirs that are now coming to light were written by the survivors themselves. These were collected by Zoltán Nádudvari, and in many cases he also prepared the final version of the texts. The volume also includes the edited versions of 18 recent interviews. These are the memoirs recited, modified and supplemented by the survivors. The original voice recordings, the unedited versions, the series of questions used by the interviewers and the photos that emerged during the research can be found in the archives of the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Budapest.

The interviews were conducted after the gathering held in September 2019 at the Bálint House in Budapest. Many of the memoirs also refer back to this extraordinary event, to the shared memories revived there, which must have lived more vividly in the survivors and therefore mentioned the same episodes more often and perhaps more emphatically.

The memoirs were divided into three chronological units and grouped within them by institution. Many of the survivors were residents of several institutions over the years, many of them living in residential institutions during and after the Holocaust, therefore the classification reflected in the table of contents was based on the perception of their memories.

This is not always proportional to the time spent there, as more emotionally perceived memories are likely to remain deeper, while others may have faded. In the unit presenting the sites, for each institution, we listed the names of all the survivors who mentioned that institution in their memoir.

In the text of the memoirs, we also separated typographically our summaries from the direct quotations. In the square brackets inserted in the text, the reader always finds editorial inserts and interpretations. Explanations of historical names and concepts appearing in the memoirs are placed in the glossary, and in the text, the —> refers to them.

The reader can also find a short presentation and more detailed data on the residential institutions presented in the volume, which is indicated by the ► in front of the name of the institution in the memoirs.

A map also helps to identify the institutions with the locations and streets of Budapest.