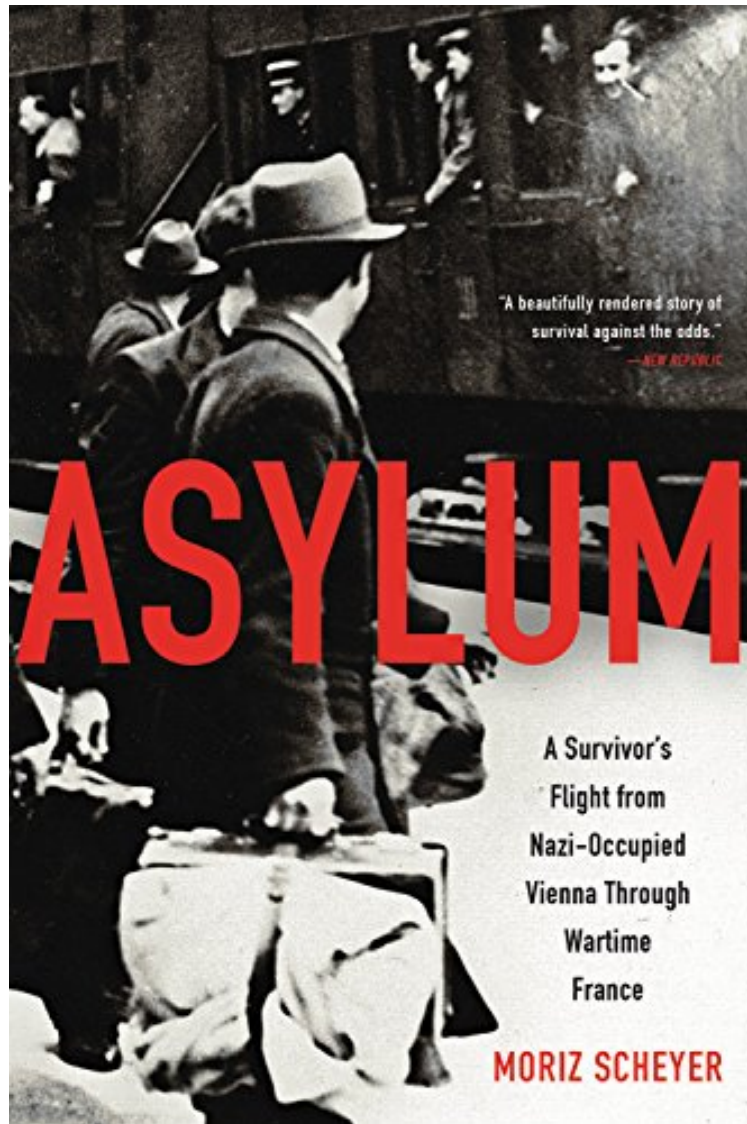


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# Asylum: A Survivor's Flight from Nazi-Occupied Vienna Through Wartime France

*Moriz Scheyer*

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#1178487 in Books Scheyer Moriz 2016-09-27 2016-09-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.20 x 1.00 x 8.60l, .0 #File Name: 0316272884320 pagesAsylum A Survivor s Flight from Nazi Occupied Vienna Through Wartime France | File size: 48.Mb

**Moriz Scheyer : Asylum: A Survivor's Flight from Nazi-Occupied Vienna Through Wartime France** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Asylum: A Survivor's Flight from Nazi-Occupied Vienna Through Wartime France:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Don HydeA very thought provoking book from one

who lived through the hell of Hitler's Germany. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ASYLUM is an especially useful memoir because the author did not alter a single sentence from the time it was written. By BookreporterMoriz Scheyer was a clear-thinking, discerning and well-intentioned man. He was also successful and kind. In his own words, to him, the most agonizing part of being a refugee was requiring assistance viewed as a subsidy and not being able to return the favor. This is the nature of the person he was. Leaving behind an admired career as an arts editor and literary journalist in Vienna, he was forced to flee the Nazis by traveling to France, where, while seeking refuge, he recorded his experiences --- never knowing if they would ever be read or if he would even survive. His memoir is ASYLUM. When finally fleeing his native country, there was a young man in a storm trooper uniform demanding to see his passport before the departure via train. When he conceded under threat, the man threw it back at his feet, designating him a Jewish pig before walking off --- and that was Scheyer's last memory of being home in Austria, a place he could never call home again. At first he thought he had found safety. *Chez nous en France, tout cela serait impossible.* Here in France none of that could ever happen, was the saying he always heard. But soon the Nazi occupation arrived, and Paris closed its shutters amid a disparately flowery summer. The enchanted peace was actually just fear taking a breath, Scheyer observed. When the French people saw the Nazi troops goose-stepping down the streets, at first they laughed at its ridiculousness. If they only knew what was to come. Surviving bombings that killed thousands of civilians, the desperation of an ordinarily six-hour train ride that lasted 36, and time in a concentration camp, Scheyer eventually found refuge in a convent where he sheltered among nuns who cared for women with intellectual disabilities. More than the horrors of persecution, what you will take away from ASYLUM is the compassion of strangers and the help of people who had the wherewithal to affect lives during the startling dysfunction of Europe under siege. And if you care to know what it was like for a good man to survive under the swastika, then this book is for you. ASYLUM is an especially useful memoir because the author did not alter a single sentence from the time it was written during the war. As a matter of fact, there are no frills or injected opinion. Although this bright man had the capability of writing an ornate account, he chose to speak directly and acutely. Above all, he wants the reader to plainly understand the circumstances and his story. The memoir was left unpublished for years because of alleged anti-German sentiment, but after completing the book, I sincerely cannot place it. I hear words spoken during wartime from a persecuted man who was cut off from the outside world against his will, and at most hear tense moments of frustration thrust upon him --- not the slightest hatred. Moriz Scheyer was an honest man leading a fruitful life who could not have imagined what was in store for him and his family due to the rise of Hitler, but now others can conceive what it was like to walk in his footsteps and into his character. As Scheyer wanted the world to question like he did, it has been stated, *How could it all have happened?* Reviewed by John Bentlyewski0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Scheyer's account of surviving as a Jew in WWII France By algo41 Asylum is Scheyer's memoir of his survival as a Jewish refugee in France during WWII, written during that time period with very little editing afterward a few deletions. It was recently found and translated. The survival of himself and his wife was a matter of great luck on several occasions, resourcefulness, friendships, some monetary resources, and the great heroism and humanity of strangers. Not stated in the book was that long-time French Jewish citizens were offered some protection by the Vichy government, but not other Jews such as Scheyer. I am aware of the suicide of many Holocaust survivors, often attributed to survivor guilt, but that is not important in this account. There is privation, especially during time spent in an internment camp, but when Scheyer reflects on this it may be helping to lessen any sense of guilt. There is much hatred, which often does not distinguish between Nazis and Germans, these ape-like creatures. Primary is the strain of the constant fear and anxiety. But in order to stay alive in order to have at least a chance of surviving you allow yourself to die bit by bit. Even when Scheyer has access to a radio and therefore music, it is not the case that beautiful memories are necessarily a solace, .. this may be so, (only) when there still exists some point of connection between them and the present. Scheyer was an arts editor and essayist in Vienna. While much of the writing is prosaic, some of it is wonderful. The few pages on the exodus from Paris before the conquering Germans are notable. A grotesque mish-mash of vehicles . The intensity of their (the drivers) facial expressions contrasted absurdly with the snails pace at which the endless caravan actually proceeded, metre by metre, constantly stopping and then stumbling on again. Toward the end of the account there is liberation and some psychological relief. A little love and the little piece of daily bread: those are the true necessities of life. Nourishment for the soul and sustenance for the body modest as it seems, that is all that one needs for existence. Whether for privacy or other reasons, there is great respect and loyalty but no love depicted between husband and wife.

A recently discovered account of an Austrian Jewish writer's flight, persecution, and clandestine life in wartime France. As arts editor for one of Vienna's principal newspapers, Moriz Scheyer knew many of the city's foremost artists, and was an important literary journalist. With the advent of the Nazis he was forced from both job and home. In 1943, in hiding in France, Scheyer began drafting what was to become this book. Tracing events from the Anschluss in Vienna, through life in Paris and unoccupied France, including a period in a French concentration camp, contact with the Resistance, and clandestine life in a convent caring for mentally disabled women, he gives an extraordinarily vivid account of the events and experience of persecution. After Scheyer's death in 1949, his stepson, disliking the book's

anti-German rhetoric, destroyed the manuscript. Or thought he did. Recently, a carbon copy was found in the family's attic by P.N. Singer, Scheyer's step-grandson, who has translated and provided an epilogue.

"'Try to understand me,' Moriz Scheyer begs the future readers of his memoir in 1944. And we do, leaving it drained, but exhilarated by the description of how he roamed an unfriendly Europe, stateless. With the publication of this mesmerizing book, his search for asylum might just be over." Ronald C. Rosbottom, Amherst College, author of *When Paris Went Dark* "Moriz Scheyer's gripping account of survival under Nazi rule is both a chilling reminder of the fragility of life in a world gone mad, and a record of the generosity of spirit and courage of people who hardly knew him but risked everything to save him. Shocking, heartbreaking, but hugely inspiring." Susan Ottaway, author of *A Cool and Lonely Courage* "Scheyer's account of his struggle for survival as a foreign Jew under Vichy, largely written while still in hiding, is propelled by the raw passion of righteous anger. His nuanced picture of wartime France, with its collaborators and resisters, vividly underscores the power of ordinary human kindness in the face of supreme evil." Thomas Ertman, New York University, author of *Birth of the Leviathan* "A well-written book full of desperate hope, intense fear, and a demand for vigilance against the mentality of hate." Kirkus s "His prose is unembellished - direct and simple, like that of Ernest Hemingway". Winnipeg Free Press About the Author Moriz Scheyer (1886-1949) was arts editor of one of Vienna's main newspapers from 1924 until his expulsion in 1938. A personal friend of Stefan Zweig, in his own lifetime he published three books of travel writing, and three volumes of literary-historical essays. He died in France in 1949. P. N. Singer is Scheyer's step-grandson, a writer, and translator.