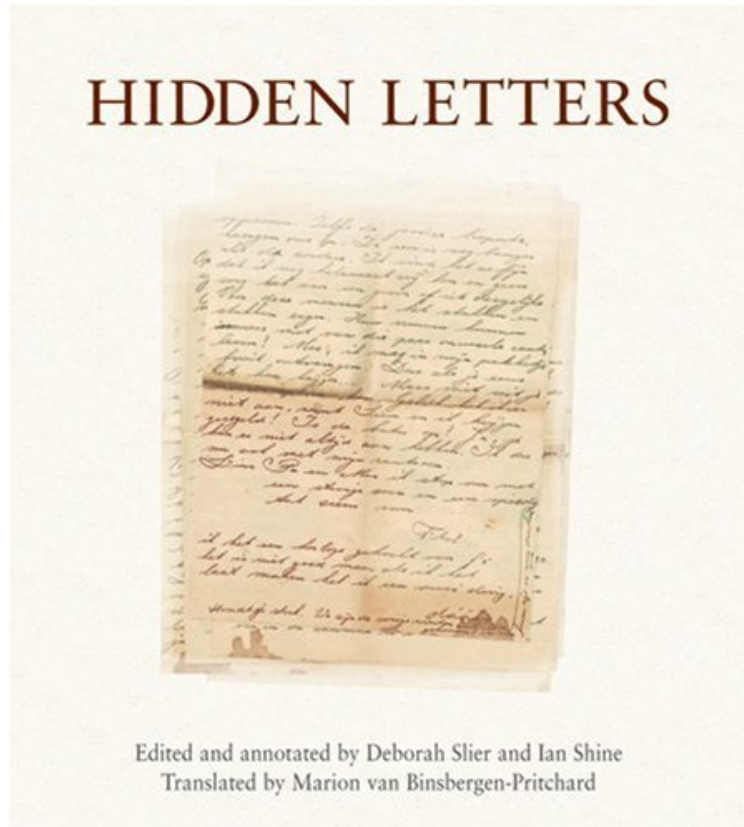


Hidden Letters

Philip Slier

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Philip Slier : Hidden Letters before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hidden Letters:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A compelling, disturbing, and heartbreakingly great readBy Kathleen A. BaxterHidden Letters is impossible to put down. Philip "Flip" Slier was interned in a Nazi labor camp in the Netherlands, but wrote loving, optimistic letters home--and took many photographs. Then he, and virtually all of his extended family, disappeared into the Holocaust.When the letters were discovered in Amsterdam in 1997, a search was made for Flip's closest relative, who turned out to be his first cousin Deborah, whose father had moved his family to South Africa and thus enabled them all to live through the war.Deborah and her husband, Ian Shine, spent ten years having the letters translated and researching the places and the people they described. They interviewed many survivors of the Holocaust and the war, and include information about almost all--including their photographs and ultimate fates. Over 300 photographs are included.Flip could write and you fall in love with him as you read. When the letters stop, it is devastating.This is a compelling, disturbing, and heartbreaking great read.Kathleen Baxter, columnist, School Library Journal10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Love my scrubShould be required reading in America. What these people went through.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I would give this book 5 heart wrenching stars for reminding us to never forget.By Young Mensan

BookParadeIt was a routine day in 1997 for a Dutch demolition expert in west Amsterdam when he discovered a packet of 86 letters hidden in the ceiling from someone named Phillip Slier. Upon realizing that the letters were from WWII, he sent them to the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation. Deborah Slier and Ian Shine used these letters to paste together the story of Flip Slier, a Dutch Jew from Amsterdam. The letters chronicle Flips day-to-day life in the labor camps during Germanys occupation of Holland. Every letter in this book is translated directly from Phillip (Flip) Sliers own letters down to the spelling errors. This book is unique because it allows us to read first-hand accounts of the horrific life in the labor camps. I was surprised that in the beginning people were paid wages and allowed to communicate with their families. They had their own bed, blankets, restroom, and even a few luxury items that could be purchased. Unlike Anne Franks experience as a Jewish girl in hiding, Flip allows the reader to experience the progressive decline of human conditions in the labor camps. However, as time progresses through the letters, you can see the situation become increasingly dire as more people arrive, conditions worsen and wages are lowered. The letters really allow you to understand Flips personality and it almost feels as if these letters are directed towards you. In addition to Flips letters, there are many stories from eyewitness accounts of the killings, stories of other families both Jewish and non-Jewish, and stories of Germans who sympathized with the Jews and helped them escape from camps and torture. Have you ever want a complete documentation of the restrictions put on Jews during WWII? Hidden Letters goes over these conditions, wearing stars to identify themselves as a Jew, being forced to get rid of their possessions, and being banned from streets and markets. The reader is exposed to topics that are not common knowledge. For example, do you know about Sobibor? What about the Russian POWs in labor camps? Do you know the difference between concentration camps and labor camps? All of this is explained in Hidden Letters. This book has a large collection of pictures, documents, newspapers, as well as an array of facts to explain and support the letters. After reading this book my perspective of the Holocaust has changed a lot. I felt a roller coaster of emotions. Each page, story, letter and side note information gave me a unique experience. It is important to note that this book contains graphic explanations and images. I think every young adult needs to read it to understand some of the events not often talked about today. I would give this book 5 heart wrenching stars for reminding us to never forget.Zander H., age 14, Gulf Coast-America Mensa

Hidden Letters , written by Flip Slier to his parents from a forced labor camp in German-occupied Holland, were found 60 years after World War II. The letters are fastidiously annotated and illustrated with over 300 photographs, newspaper clippings, and original documents issued by the Nazi authorities, many never before published. This book is more than the story of one young man and his extended family; it is an important addition to the history of the Holocaust in Holland and the history of World War II. It is considered to be one of the most valuable contemporary sources on Jewish Dutch life during World War II. Adult. IN STOCK. PLEASE CALL 718-784-9112.

From Publishers WeeklyDiscovered hidden in a bathroom ceiling in Amsterdam in 1997, this collection of letters from Philip Flip Slier, a Dutch Jew killed in the Holocaust, displays a spirit as indomitable as that of Anne Frank's. Slier was 18 when he was sent to a Dutch labor camp in April 1942. Described by friends as good-natured and gregarious, he maintained an optimistic air in the letters to his parents, asserting that he and his fellow laborers were better off in the labor camp than at a concentration camp. One also gets the sense that his constant references to food and fun are part of his expressed message to his parents: Be strong, you hear! Don't despair. I don't either. Deborah Slier, Flip's cousin, and her co-editors add documents, other recollections and a general history of the war, making this book more than the story of one young man, but an addition to the history of the Holocaust in Holland that could be particularly effective as educational material. Slier escaped from the camp but was rearrested, and as with all Holocaust tales, this one is devastating. Photos. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Much has been written about the Holocaust, but rarely has the destruction of life in a civilized country been documented with such intimacy as in these letters. They are almost unbearable to read, and yet it is essential that we do so. Ian Buruma Author: Murder in Amsterdam; The Wages of Guilt --E-mailA cloud is hanging above the letters of Flip Slier. He is aware of it, but we, readers sixty years after the Holocaust, are certainly aware of the clouds of destruction. We experience it with reading the diary of Anne Frank; we experience it with the letters of Flip Slier, letters from the heart, letters to cheer up his parents still living in Amsterdam, letters with hope, and letters with fear for the future. Hidden Letters is a salute to a destroyed youth, full of life and spirit. David Barnouw Author: The Definitive Critical Edition of Anne Frank ; Who Betrayed Anne Frank? --emailPersonal narratives and testimony help us to piece together the stories and events of the Holocaust, whose lethal fingers reached into almost every corner of Europe. However, diaries and letters have an immediacy that is shocking in their honesty, suspense, and irony. Hidden Letters, originally published in Dutch in 1999, is a treasure trove of 86 letters ad postcards that a young Jewish man, Flip (Philip) Slier, wrote from April 25 to Sept. 14, 1942, in the labor camp of Molengoot in northeastern Netherlands. In a letter dated June 3, 1942, Flip wrote: Pa, you can safely keep the letters. Put them in a corner somewhere, nobody will notice. He was very much mistaken. Because Flip was still a teenager while in Molengoot, his early letters read rather like letters from summer camp. He writes about pranks, like playing ghost or throwing water on someone s bed.

Underneath the light tone, however, one can sense a young man who worked terrible hard, who was provided with inadequate food and clothing, who was trying to stay cheerful for his parents sakes. Little did he know that these camps were holding pens for Westerbork transit camp, and ultimately to concentration camps like Auschwitz and Sobibor. Hidden Letters is not only a collection of letters written by Flip Slier, as heartrending as they are. The editors accompany their extensive annotations with over 200 photographs, maps, documents, realia (like stamps, ration cards, coins, stickers), posters, a family tree, lists of people mentioned, as well as thorough bibliographical references and an illustrated index. All this detailed information reflects the anguish and courage of the people of occupied Holland. Flip's ordeal is placed in a broader historical context through relevant articles, for example, the Jewish Council in Amsterdam, Mauthausen concentration camp, and Sobibor. The design of this book is stunning. The layout of letters, photos, and other documents is logical and attractive; the margins, generous; the fonts, clear and readable. This one is a fascinating documentary...heartbreaking and inspiring. --Jewish Book World

About the Author Deborah Slier is a publisher and book editor who lives in New York City. She is a first cousin to Flip Slier. Ian Shine is the author of Serendipity in Santa Helena and Thomas Hunt Morgan, Pioneer of Genetics. Marion Pritchard was born in Holland and now lives in Washington, D.C. She taught Holocaust studies at Clark University. She was involved in the Dutch underground during World War II and was profiled by U.S. News World Report as one of the 50 heroes of the 20th century. In 1981, Yad Vashem recognized Marion as Righteous Among the Nations for her efforts.