Although the emergence of research on women in the Holocaust dates from the 1980s, the task of integrating the role of women—a role that of children—into Holocaust Studies is far from complete, not least because of the publication of so many women’s life writing texts during the last decades, most of which remain virtually unknown. Holocaust scholarship still tends to privilege the Holocaust experience of men as universal and is reluctant to acknowledge testimony that does not follow preconceived gender stereotypes of suitable female behavior or pre-existing narratives of survival (see, e.g., Vasvári, “Women’s Holocaust”; Waxman, “Unheard Testimony”; authors of texts of life writing in English are listed in the bibliography; other references are listed in the works cited). How many people are aware, for example, that the first civilian transport to Auschwitz was not of men, but of women “volunteers”? For example, in Rena Komreich Gelissen’s (a book written with Heather Dunn MacAdam) Rena’s Promise: A Story of Sisters in Auschwitz, Gelissen writes how at age seventeen, imagining mistakenly she would be protecting her family, she volunteered for a work brigade in Auschwitz.

As part of my larger project for the retrieval and incorporation into Holocaust scholarship of women’s voices like that of Gelissen, the bibliography contains about 400 entries of women’s life writing about the Holocaust written in English or available in English translation (see also Vasvári, “Emigrée”; see also Biró). The majority of the texts listed in the bibliography are by authors originally from Central and East Europe proper. However, based on the proposition that Holocaust scholarship altogether ought to be conducted in the context of the region and its cultures, texts by authors from Western Europe are also included for the obvious reason that in the camps from East and West all suffered and perished together and even many of those who survived in hiding in places in Western Europe, such as Holland or France, were often first- or second-generation Central European Jewish women, in many cases without citizenship in the country of their residence even if they had already been born in a Western European country (note the examples of two French-language memoirs by women born in France, Claudine Burinovic-Herbomel whose parents were Romanian Jews and Ida Grinspan Bertrand born to Polish parents). It is in English that most Holocaust life writing has been written and published because so many survivors ended up in emigration in English-speaking countries; in addition, most scholarly work on the Holocaust has also been done in English (with scholarship in German, French, and Italian as well). Chapter two: I list only select items of such in the bibliography whether primary texts or scholarship), so that English has turned out to be the lingua franca of Holocaust Studies. For this reason in the bibliography a translator or translated edition may be indicated but without data about the original text. This lack of data in the bibliography is explained by a problem in bibliography writing in Holocaust Studies as discussed by Bella Prager, for example, in (after reading Claude Morhange’s memoir in English, Brodzki tried to locate the French original without success and when she tracked down the translator, she learned that an original had never been published. And this is more frequently the case when originals were written in languages of Central Europe, including Yiddish. The problem of the source text is complicated further when a text is published first in English and is later translated and published in the “original” language, as in the case, for example, of Ita Dimant’s A Diary of the Holocaust, first published in English in 1993, followed by its translated version published in Polish in 2001. Most striking is the case of Mary Berg’s Warsaw ghetto diary, written in Polish, and first published in Yiddish and then English in 1945, and not until the mid-eighties in Polish. The relative lack of Holocaust texts published in Central and Eastern Europe proper, including scholarship, is because in postwar communist countries, anti-Semitism continues today (see Marsovszky; Pető; Tőtsyö de Zepetnek, “Imre Kertész”) and because under communism the Holocaust was a taboo subject except in the context of the fight against fascism (see Kisantal). And the problematics of women’s Holocaust life writing is also fraught with matters such as the situation in Israel where survivors' texts and scholarship about them were perceived for a time as a threat to the masculinized nation-building discourse of Zionism (see Bos; Vasvári, “Women’s Holocaust”; Zertal) or the situation in Latin America where large numbers of survivors emigrated, yet there is no published corpus of such life writing, with only an occasional second-generation son or daughter writing in the US of their parents’ experiences (see, e.g., Agulin; Spitzer). Some few memoirs of note have appeared recently, such as Éva Eisenstadt's story of how she survived Auschwitz, only to end up becoming one of the the “Plaza de Mayo” mothers in Argentina (see also Isacovici, Hazan, Wapner-Levin). There are many other memoirs, however, which mention brief interludes spent in Latin American countries before further emigration to more hospitable places (to cite only two examples, see Prager on how she reached Australia via Uruguay and Chile, or Jacoby on her and her mother’s life in Havana before emigrating to the U.S.)

While the authors in this bibliography are overwhelmingly Jewish, there are works listed by others whose experiences also offer important testimony not only on the camps but other aspects of the Holocaust. Texts by gentiles in the bibliography include: Nanda Herberman, a Protestant in the women's camp of Ravensbrück, who wrote one of the very first camp memoirs, and Charlotte Debo, with her unusual collective [auto]biography in the first person of about 230 women in her convoy, as well as...
others in the French Resistance such as by Lucie Aubrac, Claire Chevrier, Christine Zamoyksa-Panek, and Simone Arnold Liebster. Rescuers include Alicia Appelman-Jurman, Irene Gut Opoloyke, and Corrie Ten Boon, whose some gentiles might better be described as onlookers (e.g., Anonymous; Arnothy; Polcz; White; Zassennhaus). As the example of Krystyna Zywulska (Zosia Landau) illustrates, categories can be tenuous. In her I Survived Auschwitz, she wrote about being in Auschwitz as a political prisoner, which was true, but only twenty years later did she realize that her family and she were among the few Jews who had walked in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1941 and worked as a gentile who was arrested and imprisoned as a resistance fighter. Zywulska's belated revelation at one point caused her memoir to be withdrawn from some Jewish institutions, a situation Elizabeth Baer argues against by pointing out that the question is not who is or is not a victim, or what is and what is not a Holocaust, but "whether or not the testimony contributes to that project of understanding" (22).

While I do not list in the bibliography collections of survivors' oral testimony such as those by Cynthia Crane, Jehoshua Eibeshtiz and Anna Eibeshtiz, Breda Gurwitsch, Vera Laska, Ilana Rosen, and Lore Shelley, such texts are, nevertheless, important with regard to the relevance of "ordinary" women who have not written themselves. Furthermore, I list items without regard for whether or not the memoirs were written because of the larger corpus of writing by survivors. It is, therefore, important to remember that in spite of this, by far the two best-known female Holocaust voices — Anne Frank and the Hungarian-born Hannah Senes — obviously do not fall into this category. While Anne Frank is known world-wide, Senes is known only in Israel, where she has been promoted to heroic status as the Israel Joan of Arc, precisely for her "nonfeminine" heroic traits (see Vasvári, "Women's Holocaust"; neither wrote about the camps and neither survived: it appears that for women survivors death is a necessary qualification for canonization, and the voices of these two women were only until a decade ago available only in censored editions).

The posthumous works of other women Holocaust writers whom I list and who did not survive also merit consideration, including Ety Hillessum, Charlotte Salomon, and Irène Nemirovsky. It is interesting to compare Anne Frank with other teenage diarists who also did not survive, such as Hungarian Eva Heyman, who like Anne, began her diary on her thirteenth birthday and likely perished in Auschwitz at exactly the same time, or Ruthka Lieblich, who died at Birkenau in January 1944 and whose diary was published in 1993. There are also young children who did survive, like Mary Berg, who published her diary of the Warsaw Ghetto in 1945 (earlier than Ann Frank's) and Janina Bauman, who wrote her memoir only forty years later, partially based on the diary she had written in the Warsaw ghetto and hid under floorboards, as well as the Yiddish diaries of Vlada Meed and Lena Jedwab.

Rozzie Sachs, respectively, the latter including both men and women, with a predominance of German-language texts. While S. Lillian Kramer's, Esther Goldberg and Gilbert's, and Alan Riggs' reference guides are useful for detailed entries on already well-known Holocaust writers, other bibliographies demote certain works by women into a separate category appropriate for "young adult" readers (e.g., Auerbach; Bitton-Jackson; Boraks-Nemetz; Ornstein; Richman; Roth-Hano; Soumerai). Some texts were written for such an audience — as all those under the Puffin imprint — but, as in the case of Isabelle Leitner's memoir rewritten for a younger readership, the boundaries are often nebulous. Interestingly, it is precisely those that are marketed to young readers that have stayed in print, such as prize winners for juvenile nonfiction, including Aranka Siegal's and Isabella Leitner's texts.

Most of the publications right after liberation were camp testimonies and some bibliographies have privileged these, sometimes replacing those that did not devote "enough" space to that experience. However, more and more survivors who were not in camps but survived in hiding, in particular child survivors, including those who left on the Kindertransport, began to add their voices to the growing number of texts in life writing. Thus the steadily wider scope of writing by survivors has broadened the sense of the enormous dimensions of the Holocaust. In addition, with the largest number of survivors writing as late as half a century or more after their ordeal, equally relevant is how their Holocaust experience has marked their subsequent lives as survivors, and conversely, how their later considerations in the camps or were privileged in some other way, including others in the French Resistance such as by Lucie Aubrac, Claire Chevrier, Christine Zamoyksa-Panek, and Simone Arnold Liebster. The testimonies of Sima Vaisman illustrate particularly texts are particularly important because they were still written under the influence of the initial trauma and not yet influenced by other memoirs, testimonies, or scholarship. The testimony of Sima Vaisman illustrates particularly well many of these problems, and how, as I have pointed out, the lives and testimonies of Central and Eastern European survivors are intertwined. Vaisman was born in Bessarabia (now Moldova) and received her medical degree in Bucharest, but in fleeing the intervention of Jews in Romania, she moved to Paris, where she could only work as a dental surgeon. She was deported in January 1944 to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where she was relatively protected as she was assigned to the "hospital." Immediately upon her return, she wrote for fear of losing precise memory. Her testimony, one of the earliest and the first written by a female doctor, was published in French as Le Monde juif in 1945. It was subsequently ignored, including by her, until a niece found it in a drawer in the French Riviera, and then published in the United States as The Woman Doctor in Auschwitz in 1979.
1983; it was re-published in the same journal in 1990, as appeared in a small book in French in 1992, and in English translation in 2005.

As mentioned above, many other survivors had diaries or wrote recollections right after liberation but only published full works much later, for example, Isabelle Leitner, Rivka Leah Klein, and Judit Magyar Isaacson. Often details of precise dates, translators, and the like are impossible to trace for these earlier works. One illustration seen in the photo by Ana Novak and Jenny, journalists who wrote based on their firsthand experience in the Holocaust. Although she became a successful writer, her diary was unpublished in communist Romania after the war, a standard situation in communist countries, as I have noted. After she fled to Germany, it was published, surprisingly, in Hungarian (under her original name, Zsófia Harsányi) in 1966, and the following year in German, but it remained unclear if by her own testimony was psychologically even more devastating than her wartime experience. The work appeared in her own translation. When, almost twenty-years later, there was interest in translating her work to English, she was dissatisfied with the quality of her earlier version and retranslated the text, with the aid of a magnifying glass, to French from her original Hungarian notes. It was this new and expanded 1996 self-translation that provided the basis for the English version to be published in 2005, but steady stream, but it was not until around 1990, in what has been called by Leigh Gilmore “the age of trauma memoir,” which includes survivor discourse and narratives of recovery (128-29), that a boom in such works started. That boom has reached such proportions that a New York Times commentary on a recent Jewish book fair could report that “Holocaust memoirs vied for time with cookbooks and diet books” (Donadio 31). The overwhelming majority of Holocaust texts are written today by women survivors or by their daughters, reflecting what was always true but not adequately theorized, that women tend to be able to talk about traumatic events more easily (on trauma and women's writing, see Henke; see also Vásárvári, "Women's Holocaust").

Although most of the texts in the bibliography would be called, conventionally, "memoirs" or at times "testimonies," more useful is the more inclusive "life writing," a genre designation that avoids what Sidonie Smith and Julia Watson call the "ideologically fraught category of autobiography ... [in which] masculinist ideology has often dictated formal and epistemological terms of the genre" (18). I postulate that life writing is a useful designation for the texts at hand because it raises issues much debated in Holocaust scholarship, including authorship versus narrator, witness, history, memory, interpretation, fact versus fiction, culture, identity, the processes of publishing, canon versus social perspectives of literature, and so on, and hence the contextual analysis of texts called "life writing," following the tenets of comparative cultural studies, results in new insight and a determination or exclusion of comparability (on the framework of comparative studies consult Tóth de Zepetnek, "From Comparative Literature"; for the framework's application in the study of Central and Eastern European cultures and literatures relevant here, see his "Comparative Cultural"). Life writing — although a genre designation applied mostly in feminist and gender studies — is useful for many other types of texts, including elides and blends of generic boundaries between history, fiction, documentary, and literature in general, including the novel, to encompass autobiography, oral testimony, diaries, letters, the autobiographical novel, and other textual forms and genres. Smith and Watson propose fifty-two sub-genres of life writing, of which apology, autofiction, memoir, prison narrative, serial autobiography, survivor narrative, trauma narrative, and witness are the most frequent forms utilized by women survivors. Of these the most problematic is the category of autofiction, to which, for example, Imre Kertész's work also belongs (see Vásárvári, "Emigrée"; Vásárvári and Tóth de Zepetnek) as do a number of other works from the 1960s and 1970s such as Zdena Berg's Tell Me Another Morning: A Novel or the work of Ildikó Karmel and Ida Fink (see Milner). Marlene Heinemann has studied six survivors in this category who published such texts between 1957 and 1980: Gerda Klein, Charlotte Delbo, Judith Strick Dribben, Fania Fénelon, and Livia Bitton-Jackson (on factual and fictional elements in testimonial, see Richardson). Although Holocaust autofiction is less prevalent today, an occasional work still foregrounds its problematic nature, as Edith Hoffman's Unfinished Tears: A Novel .... But not a Fiction suggests.

A further category of women's Holocaust texts is transgeneric life writing, such as Edith Bruck's oeuvre (see Vásárvári, "Emigrée"), all of it circling back on her Holocaust experience, for which the term memoir would be too confining, located as it is on the boundaries of literary memoir, oral testimony, epistolary works, prayer, all "recapturing the Holocaust from a woman's perspective and highlighting the power of gender to shape the construction of memory. Among other examples are Susan Suleiman's memoir, built around a diary written during her postcommunist visit to Hungary and Poland and called a "postmodern memoir" on the book's dust jacket by Kate Milner. Lilian Boraks-Klein's (see Milner). For her memoir, she used the titles of her book to describe her life four different cultures and thus not considering writing until she recognizes herself as a survivor at the first Hidden Children Conference in 1982. Similarly, Paula Marcus, a fifteen-year-old Hungarian survivor, started her first diary entry hours after liberation; three years later, by this time in the US, like Gabor, she felt isolated and bitter. When reading her diary thirty years later, translating it herself to English, she recognized she had found liberation life confirming, providing warmth, solidarity, and people who listened (see Greenspan 52-55).

A special case of life writing is two-voiced life writing, what Bella Brodzki referred to as the intergenerational and intercultural transmission of imperiled narratives, conceived as acts of translation, in and through a space of which their memoir by Morhange and intercultural transmission of imperiled narratives, conceived as acts of translation, in and through a space of which their memoir by Morhange and intercultural transmission of imperiled narratives, conceived as acts of translation, in and through a space of which their memoir by Morhange and intercultural transmission of imperiled narratives, conceived as acts of translation, in and through a space of which their memoir by Morhange and intercultural transmission of imperiled narratives, conceived as acts of translation, in and through a space of which their memoir by Morhange and intercultural transmission of imperiled narratives, conceived as acts of translation, in and through a space of which their memoir by Morhange and
mother, since she herself was an infant. Miriam Katin achieves something similar with the new form of "comix," akin to Art Spiegelman's work (see Vásárvári, "Emigrée"). These authors all belong to the youngest members of the "1.5 generation" of child survivors with few or no independent memories of their own, thus, although in a physical sense they are survivors, their early stories have to be textualizations of their parental oral narratives.

In the bibliography I do not include the large corpus of so-called postmemory life writing by children of survivors, who started writing in the early 1990s as their mothers and fathers were overwhelmingly women. I include, however, examples written by those second-generation daughters who are attempting to ventriloquize their parents' stories rather than, or in addition to, telling their own second-generation ones. Perhaps most notable are the sister pair, Elaine Kalman Naves and Judith Kalman, who each wrote the stories of their parents (on the Kalman's and other Central European women's texts in English, see Tótösy de Zepetnek, "English-language"; Vásárvári, "Emigrée"). Ann Kirschner put together Sala's Gift about her mother's life from a cardboard box that contained letters her mother handed her when at age sixty-seven she was to undergo triple bypass surgery. The contents cleared up the life that the mother had until then been silent about, her large family who had perished in the Holocaust, her own wartime ordeal in 1940 when as teenager she volunteered (on behalf of her weaker older sister) to work in a Nazi labor camp, and the years up to 1946 when she arrived in New York as a war bride. The exceptional man in textualizing the maternal voice is Martin Lemelman (in French compare Jérôme Clément on his Russian-born mother's life), who in Mendel's Daughter taped the story of his mother, born in 1922 in a small Jewish village in Poland. In 1989, much like Spiegelman's father, she told her story to her son in fractured English combined with Yiddish (Lemelman claims for himself no more than the role of transcriptionist and editor of his mother's story; some of her story can be listened to at <http://www.mendelsdaughters.com/broadband.html>.

Finally, life writing also elides the often value-laden and normative judgment of the literary merit of texts. Note the example of Ruth Klüger's work, initially rejected by the major German publishing house Suhrkamp on the grounds that it was not "literary" enough; in 1992, it appeared and met with enormous success, made its small publishing house Walstein famous, garnered numerous literary awards, and was translated to several languages: Nobody Asked Any More Questions. (2007): 15-23.

Finally, when Eichmann was put on trial in Israel in 1961, people suddenly started asking questions, but then "after the trial, nobody asked any more questions" (57). As Esther Goldberg writes in her Memoir Digest of Survivors, "each memoir writer has a different story to tell and tells his or her story in a different way ... every memoir is informative ... [and] poignant" (x-xi) and as Alvin Rosenfeld writes in his A Double Dying, if we deny the centrality of Holocaust literature we would be falsifying not only the literary history of our time but also the moral history, a statement that becomes all the more true if we do not include the voices of women as well as other hitherto underrepresented victims, Jewish, gentile, Roma, gay and lesbian, communist, Catholic, and so on.

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Note: Funding for the completion of the above publication by the National Sun Yat-sen University Center for the Humanities and Social Sciences is gratefully acknowledged.

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