

New book: *Ikke noget at tale om.* *Danske jøders krigsoplevelser 1943-1945.*

By Sofie Lene Bak, The Danish Jewish Museum.

In a new book The Danish Jewish Museum uncovers the human consequences of the Nazi persecution of Jews in Denmark and describes for the first time the long term effects of the war. New insights rewrite the history of the Danish Jews and add new chapters to Denmark's history.

Based on new empirical material and more than one hundred interviews, the book now tells the story about what happened after the famous rescue of the Danish Jews in October 1943: For the first time it is possible to tell the story of all the children, who were hidden in Denmark, when their parents fled to Sweden. The book describes the effects of life in exile, and uncovers that the Danish State granted vast economic compensation to the Jews concerning their expenses during escape and the restoration of their possessions after the homecoming. For the first time the long term consequences of escape, exile and deportation are portrayed. The war time experiences of the Danish Jews did not end in May 1945. The war has left a trail to the present.

The title of the book *Ikke noget at tale om* – nothing to talk about – refers to an often repeated answer in testimonies from Danish Jews. By the end of the war, 6 million European Jews had been killed during the Holocaust. Most Danish Jews had survived. What they had experienced during escape, exile and in concentration camps was - by comparison - 'nothing to talk about'. For many of the witnesses this is the first time they share their experiences and speak openly about the consequences of the war. There certainly *is* something to talk about.

Ikke noget at tale om. Danske jøders krigsoplevelser 1943-1945 is a book about loss, separation and the price of survival. About what happens to human beings when they are torn out of every day life and are forced to make dramatic choices.

Bjarke Følner, curator of the museum, has written an epilogue about memorials and the post-war memory culture.

Facts:

The book is the first result of the museums ongoing research and documentation project "Danish Jewish War Time Experiences 1943-1945" with Sofie Lene Bak, Historian, PhD., as project manager. The museum plans a special exhibition based on the many collected materials.

275 pages, richly illustrated. DKK 290. Sold at The Danish Jewish Museum and in Danish book stores.

The official release date is October 14. The book can be mentioned but not reviewed prior to this date.

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