

ANNE FRANK

A Memorial Tour in Current Images

FRANKFURT AM MAIN

AACHEN

AMSTERDAM

CAMP WESTERBORK

AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

BERGEN-BELSEN

ANNIE FRANK

Introduction

Anne Frank is world famous. Millions of people from all over the world have read her diary. The Anne Frank Foundation promotes Anne Frank and her mental legacy. The travelling exhibition 'Anne Frank — A History for Today' is by far the most visited Dutch exhibition in the world.

My interest in the persecution of the Jews in general — and that of Anne Frank in particular — has gradually developed. In 1994-1996, I took part in volunteer projects in the former concentration camps — Sachsenhausen and Dachau — in Germany. My desire was to enter into communication with young people from all kinds of countries; I was about 30 years old at the time. Those people surrounding me were in their early twenties but, then again, you're never too old to learn.

We had discussions about Nazism and the dangers of neo-Nazis, and listened with utter dismay to the stories of former concentration camp prisoners and resistance fighters. There were also discussions led by historicists in the presence of local residents. Fortunately, some had the courage to open this black page from their German history; however, many Germans did not want to face their pasts. In addition, we also did excavation work and many other interesting activities. Ultimately, each of these activities served to cultivate mutual understanding but also enabled us to enjoy each other's company.

During these activities, I was deeply afflicted by the contrast between the present silence in the former concentration camps and the past suffering of the prisoners who had been held captive here during the war. What afflicted me more than anything, however, was the cruelty of the Nazi regime — and the extent of that cruelty. In particular, I found one of the most shocking things as the sight of lampshades made from human skin; understandably, a number of the younger participants did not handle this sight too well.

In 2001, I visited the Annex for the first time. The Annex leaves a deep impression on many people, and I was no exception. I could feel the tensions of the persons in hiding, and I realised that Anne had become caught in the Nazis' web: she had been torn away from her everyday world; her life was broken before it could blossom.

Anne was interested in culture, religion and science, and she had a keen interest in society at large, being very concerned about everybody's ups and downs, and trials of life; that was why I thought it was so dismal that she had been killed — and only owing to the fact that she was a Jew.

The need in me arose to portray the life of Anne Frank — not by means of a biography or a book with old pictures — many of which have been published many times before — but in a different light. Ultimately, I wanted to discover whether there are still remnants of her past life and surroundings lingering in the present.

As a historic and photographer, I enjoy combining history and photography. As such, I firstly immersed myself in literature about, and by, Anne Frank. I considered this to be absolutely fundamental so that I could purposefully take current pictures of her surroundings.

In 2008-2009, I made a photo-report about the residences of Anne Frank (1929-1945). I visited her home addresses in Frankfurt am Main, Aachen, the Merwedeplein in Amsterdam, her place of hiding in the Annex in Amsterdam, and the concentration camps of Westerbork, Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen, where she was imprisoned.

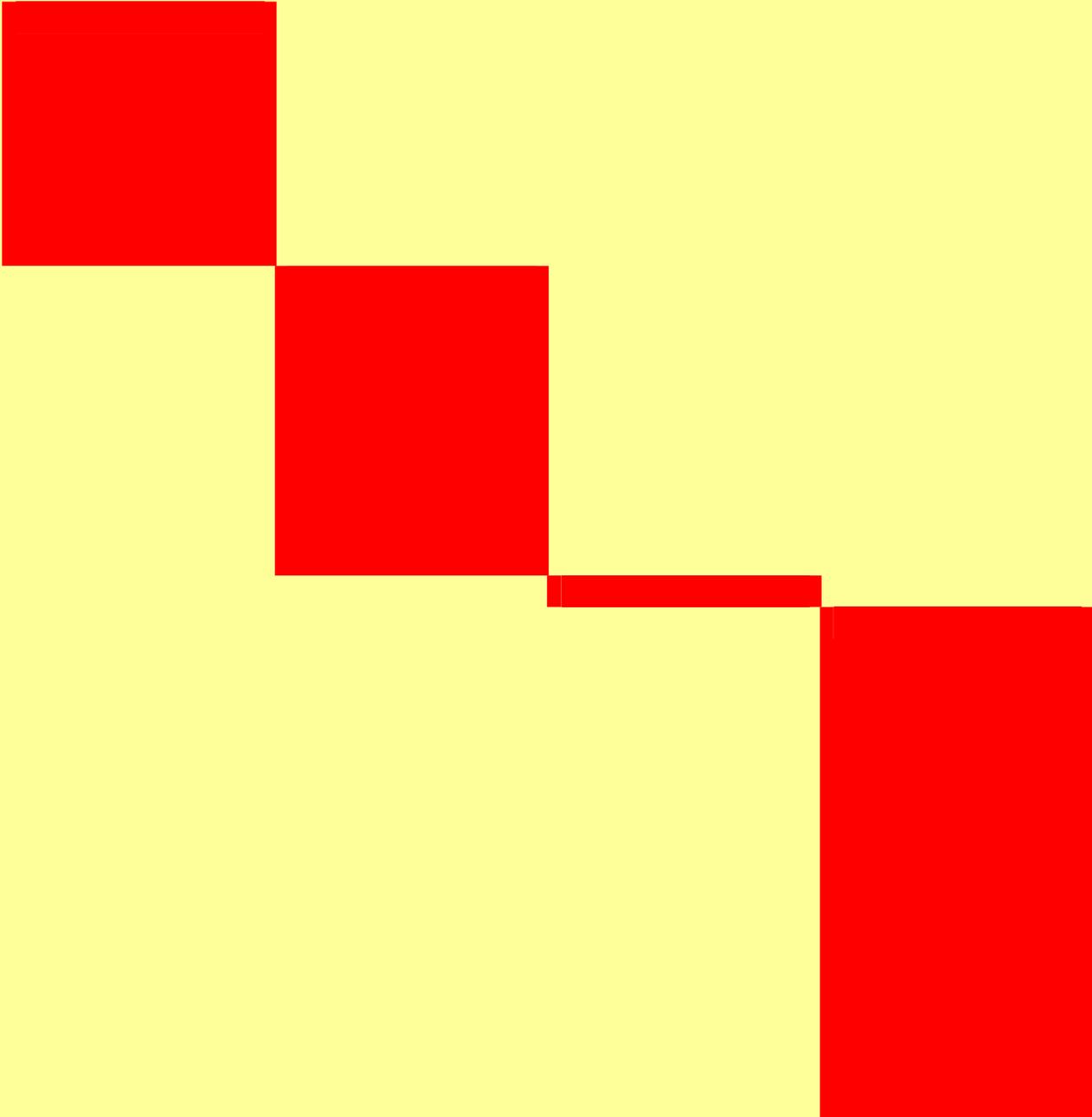
I have provided the pictures of short notes explaining the connection with Anne Frank; my recent pictures are an important addition to the many old pictures of Anne Frank.

The emptiness left behind by Anne Frank becomes evident when I place a recent picture next to an old picture which depicts her, taken from the same angle. When making the pictures, I took special notice of interesting details and the historical character of the subject; after all, the pictures are the result of personal experiences, which were often quite intense.

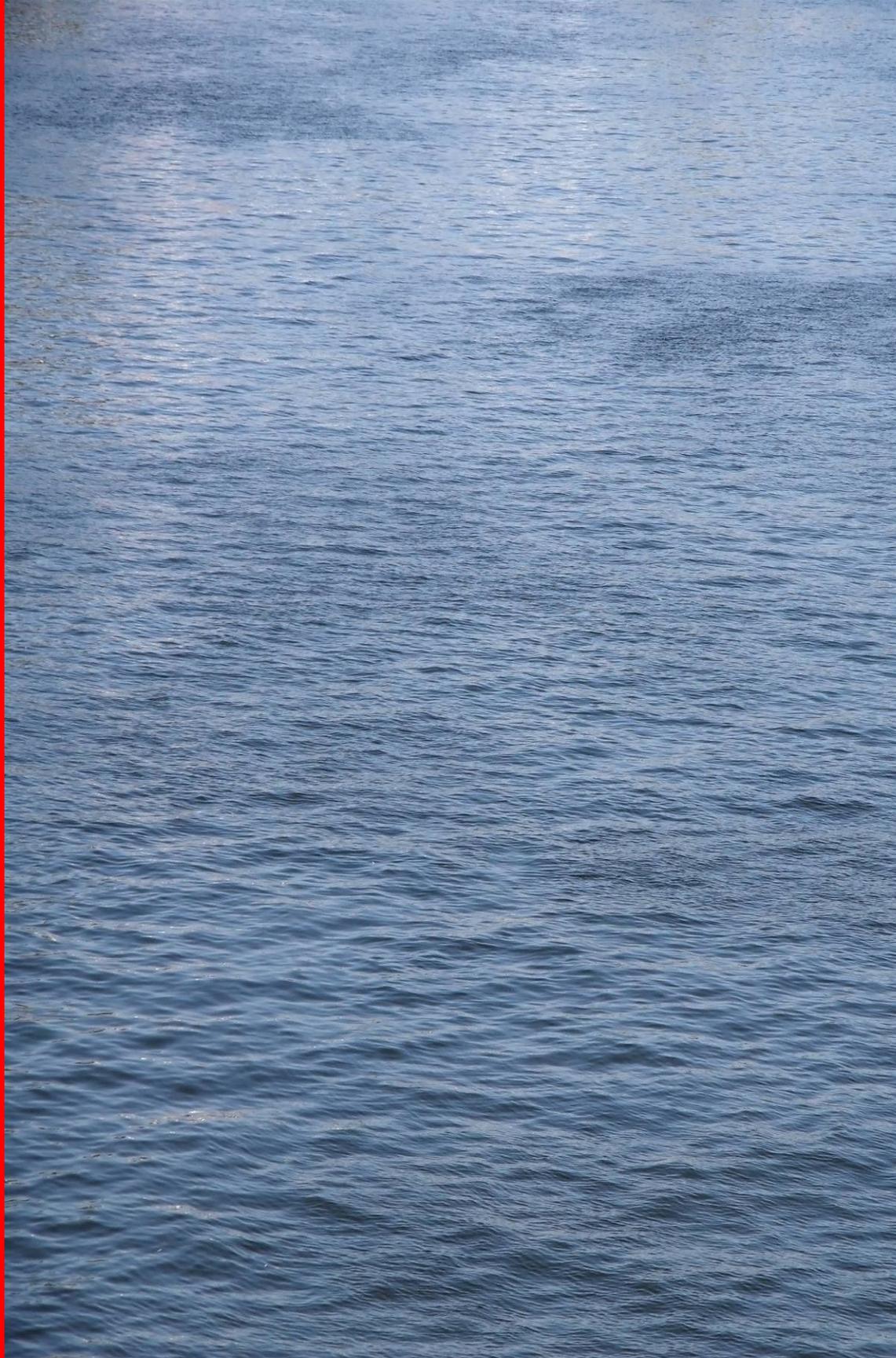
My pictures show that the traces of her residences are still visible in the (rural) landscape. You can map out your own route along the places which are reminiscent of Anne Frank.

I got permission for visiting and taking pictures of the (inside) locations from the organisations concerned. My visits to those locations were carried out respectfully whilst actively taking into consideration the applicable rules of the locations.

I hope that my picture book inspires the reader and viewer to delve deeper into the history of the Holocaust and Anne Frank, and that it contributes to the mutual tolerance and understanding between people and cultures. I also hope that my picture book contributes to the maintenance of the cultural heritage that still reminds us of Anne Frank.



FRANKFURT AM MAIN





307 Marbachweg, residence of the Frank family.

Annelies Marie Frank (Anne) was born on June 12, 1929 in 'der Klinik des Vaterländischen Frauenvereins in der Eschenheimer Anlage' in Frankfurt am Main. Anne lived in the house at the 307 Marbachweg until the end of March, 1931.



**307 Marbachweg,
residence of the Frank family.**

The large house is located in one of the neighbourhoods on the edge of Frankfurt. The birch tree in front of the house has become very large by now.



**307 Marbachweg,
residence of the Frank family.**

The cousins of Anne and her sister Margot, Stephan and Buddy Elias, often came to visit here.



**307 Marbachweg,
residence of the Frank family.**

In the summertime, the Frank family liked to sit on the balcony.

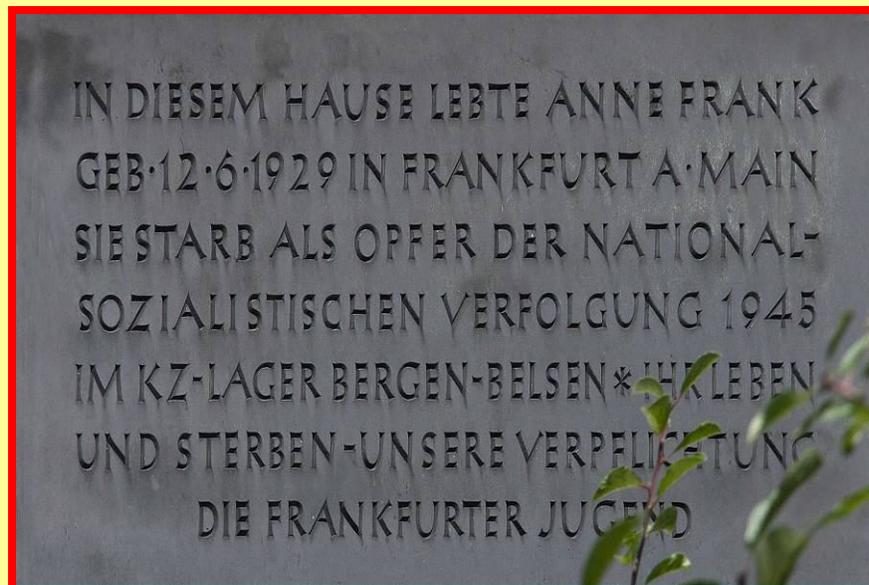


307 Marbachweg, residence of the Frank family.



**307 Marbachweg,
residence of the Frank family.**

The detached house is situated on a corner next to a crossing. Anne had a beautiful view from the balcony.



24 Ganghoferstrasse, residence of the Frank family.

The front of the building is adorned with a commemorative plaque from 1957. Anne lived here from end of March, 1931, until the end of March, 1933.



24 Ganghoferstrasse, front side of the residence of the Frank family.

Even though they lived almost two miles from the Marbachweg, Anne and Margot remained friends with several of the old neighbourhood children, but they also quickly made new friends.



**24 Ganghoferstrasse,
residence of the Frank family.**

Contrary to the Marbachweg house, there is no balcony here. Fortunately, there is a large yard at the back of the house as well as a courtyard where Anne could play.



Now: 24 Ganghoferstrasse.

The growth at the back of the house has increased quite a lot.
Many of the paving stones have made way for a lawn.





Then: 24 Ganghoferstrasse, residence of the Frank family.

Anne loved to play with her friends behind the house. In the summer of 1932, Margot (middle) is six years old; Anne (right) has just turned three.

Collection Anne Frank Foundation/Anne Frank Fund.



24 Ganghoferstrasse, residence of the Frank family.

The suburb was not bombed during World War II. This picture was taken from 24 Gangerhoferstrasse. The Frank family lived with Otto's mother, Alice Frank, at 4 Jordanstrasse during the period of the end of March, 1933, until July, 1933. The house at the Jordanstrasse was demolished after the war. During 1917-1933, the Jordanstrasse was called the Mertonstrasse, which was then changed to Dantestrasse.



Jewish cemetery, 238 Eckenheimer Landstrasse.

The cemetery was established in 1928, and is close to 307 Marbachweg. During the year when Anne was born, approximately 540,000 people lived in Frankfurt am Main, including 30,000 Jews. Frankfurt am Main had the second largest population of Jews in Germany, after Berlin. 75% of these Jews were killed during World War II.



Hauptwache, city centre.

Anne would go shopping with her mother in Frankfurt am Main. Together, they visited the Hauptwache and bought clothes. Anne and Margot always looked impeccable. In 1944, the Hauptwache was completely bombed. The buildings in and around the square were reconstructed later on.

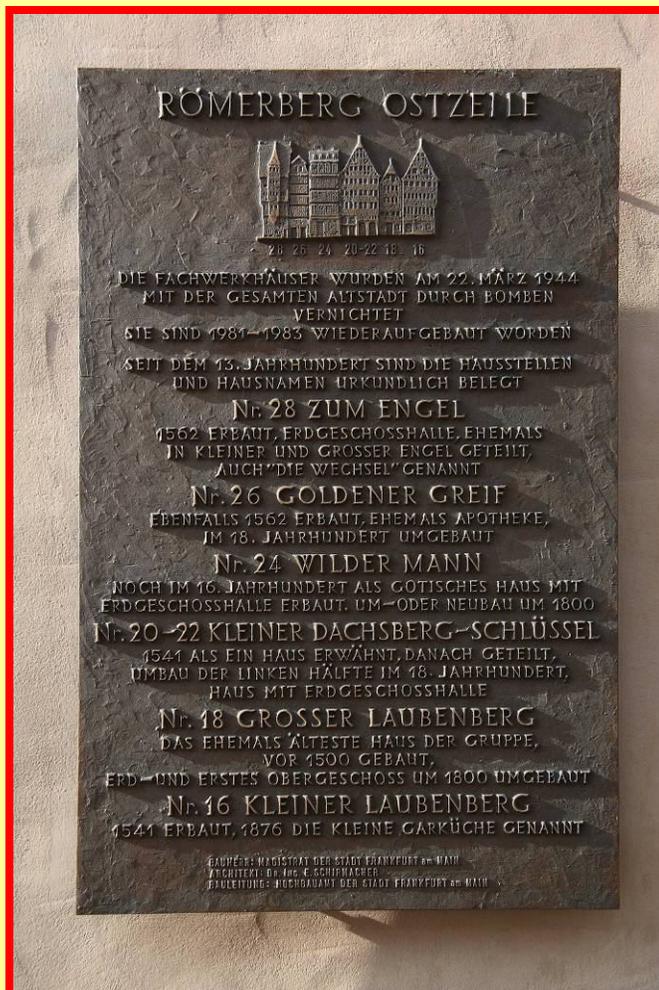


**Hauptwache,
Katharinenkirche**



Römersberg, city hall.

On March 13, 1933, the Nazis celebrated their electoral victory in Frankfurt am Main in the city hall.



Römersberg.

During Anne's time, the square was surrounded by original medieval buildings.

A heavy bombardment in 1944 destroyed these buildings.

The buildings were later reconstructed in their original style.



Römersberg, medieval buildings (reconstructed).



Römersberg, medieval buildings (reconstructed).



Römersberg, commemorative plaque.

The commemorative plaque says: ‘An dieser Stelle verbrannten am Mai 10, 1933 nationalsozialistische Studenten die Bücher von Schriftstellern, Wissenschaftlern, Publizisten und Philosophen’. This is translated to: ‘In this place, on May 10, 1933, national socialist students burned the books of writers, scientists, publicists and philosophers.’

At the edge of the plaque it reads: ‘It was merely a prelude, because where they burn books, they will also burn humans in the end.’ This is a quote from Heinrich Heine (1797-1856). The books — which were burnt — were written by Jewish writers and social critics, such as Sigmund Freud, Stefan Zweig and Bertold Brecht.



Modern Architecture.

Frankfurt am Main is the Manhattan of Europe. The skyline is dominated by modern skyscrapers. These skyscrapers were built after Anne's time.



Modern Architecture.

There is a bit of architectural chaos in Frankfurt am Main. Old and new buildings are all in a jumble.



Untermainbrücke, Main.

The Main in Frankfurt is a refuge with a beautiful view in a dynamic city — just like the Amstel in Amsterdam. Because of the city's central position next to the Main, Frankfurt has been an important trade centre for many centuries.



Central-Bahnhof.

The threat of the Nazis in Germany increased. Anne, Margot and their mother, Edith, left Frankfurt am Main and took the train to Aachen in July, 1933.



Central-Bahnhof.