it does enable the film's plot to have the American authorines in Germany moreover, was not that he was a Jew but that he was a Communist. While testify against her professor, the old man-who remains nameless-simply townspeople-and curiously that includes Sonja. After she uses him to ment should not be solely responsible for his reparations, blame for his suffering is by no means exclusively German but rather to from a German concentration camp, thus of course implying that the imprison him for his Communist affiliation only one year after his release this does nothing to alleviate his suffering or change his status as a victim. for reparations from the government. The reason for his imprisonment be shared by others. It even suggests a reason why the German govern fades from the picture, along with his heart medication and his struggle

is an extension), thus rendering herself and "her" three soldiers equally creates an analogy between the members of the Wehrmacht and the concern for her three men at the front and her hope that someone might at the Hackeldorf concentration camp, she attributes her behavior to timhood. Describing to Sonja how she threw food scraps to the inmater willing to risk punishment by the guards at Huckeldorf to help other victims. Her innocence is further underscored by the fact that she is victims at Hackeldorf (interned by the powers of which the Wehrmach) show them the same kindness. With this explanation, the grandmother identifies, and who can do no wrong in the film, suggests a sharing of vic attitude of the grandmother, the person with whom Sonja most closely If the case of the former camp inmate suggests a sharing of guilt, the

of guilt is described thus by the Mitscherlichs: "The replacement of appeal to one's schooling in obedience. . . The past is then consciously it is above all a decisive rejection of guilt, which is strengthened by an mourning with identification with the innocent victim occurs frequently, matter her parents, is never brought up. of complicity with the regime on the part of her grandmother, and for that specifically to the acts of criminality she seeks to uncover. The possibility tagsgeschichte of her family during the war beyond the facts relating speculative because Sonja does not show the slightest interest in the All deutscher Mildel (the counterpart for girls). But all of this must remain is also imaginable that this very same grandmother sent her sons to the for which one is now being repreached."51 With its menfolk in the innocent because one had only been following orders in doing everything discriminated against for a long time afterward, even though one was represented thus; one made many sacrifices, suffered through the war, was Hitler Youth before they joined the army and her daughters to the Burill Webtmacht, it's likely that the family did not actively resist the Nazis. It Such an identification with the victim as a means of avoiding feelings

> the Third Reich own family's history as Pfilzing is about the true history of its town during what unexpected, though, that her character is as "forgetful" alxout her in which the protagonist is treated as more heroic than human. It is some dimensional. Such a flattening of character is not unusual in a narrative to the history of Sonja's family undermines the integrity and credibility of undermine in her re-writing of Pfilzing's history. The film's blindness authere rigidly to the social rules and norms their daughter attempts to is all the more surprising, since Sonja's parents seem in many ways to with her own mother. The absence of such a generational confrontation Sonja. Her character, especially toward the end, becomes a bit oneparental authority, as described by authors of Vaterliteratur, nor does Pfilzing, or, more importantly, the milieu of Sonja's immediate family, Sonja's mother ever appear to have experienced any similar tension To our knowledge, her development has not included a revolt against There is also no sense that any generational tensions have ever troubled

"Stumbling Blocks": The Bayerisches Viertel and the Neue Wache

went signs already in place,31 will the artists' protests, the police dismantled and confiscated the seven-Armin Jager decided, "the limits of good taste have been overstepped"; serwork to the deported Jews of Berlin. "Art or no art," State Secretary of mounting eighty plaques that together were to form a memorial the artist Renata Stih and the art historian Frieder Schnock in the process investigate; what they found, however, was not a group of neo-Nazis, but On June 4, 1993, police in the Schöneberg district of Berlin received a fulled to lamp posts around the Bayerischer Platz. The police rushed to 11.3.1935" and "Jews may no longer keep pers, 15.2.1942" were being bearing such anti-Semine inscriptions as "Ban on Jewish musicians, number of telephone calls from trate individuals reporting that signs

wouldn't need such a memorial, "12 marted at sensitively during the Nazt era as they are reacting now, we ministed drily in a newspaper interview the next day, "If people had to be attached to the bottom of each plaque once they had finally been men that a smaller sign noting the context of the decree had subsequently assumed. Katarina Kaiser, head of the Schöneberg public art office, mittage on the part of many inhabitants and passers-by was in fact so work later in an official ceremony at the Schöneberg town hall, 12 The sum part of a larger memorial ensemble to be presented to the public a appeared suddenly and with no advance notification that they were to According to the press, the misunderstanding occurred because the signs

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in 1983 when, in a new and more hands-on version of Vergangenbeits: memorating Einstein's twelve-year sojourn in the area hardly prepared the of the rich Jewish life once in existence. A lone memorial stone marking Kurfurstendamm (largely rebuilt after the war), shows few physical traces away from the bustle and commerce of the Zoo train station and the the Bayerischer Platz, or Baxarian Square, located some live subway stops Today's rather charmless and placid middle-class neighborhood around and the neighboring district of Friedenau before and during the Holocaust stand), a neighborhood group began to research the history of Schöneberg nfarbeitung, with the motto "Grabe 100 du stabst" (excavate where you by degrees over a period of approximately ten years. The first spark came to Gestapo orders and deportation records, these documents attested to from real estate deeds to personal letters and diaries, from photographs researchers for the mass of documents they would eventually find. Ranging the spot where a synagogue was torn down in 1956 and a plaque comboth the former vibrancy of the area and to the scale of its subsequent destruction. The consciousness that such a memorial was in fact needed had grown

carried out in May 1933 revealed that 16,161 "Germans of the Jewish well in Germany and were thoroughly integrated into its social network the most part physicians, lawyers, businessmen, and architects, had done settling there since the turn of the century. The residents of the epoch, for "Jewish Switzerland" because of the many well-to-do Jews who had been its many streets named after Bayarian towns, was known colloquially as of Hitler's reign were assured by ordinances that were, relatively speak access to German education was restricted. In contrast to these stringent cians ceased to be reimbursed by the national health plan, and Jewish few exceptions, removed from public office, the services of Jewish physinesses were boycotted, Jewish judges, teachers, and lawyers were, with bourgeois integration. In March and April of 1933, Jewish shops and busor another, and as such they quickly undermined the very foundation of first laws were Berufsverbote, or professional proscriptions of one form on January 30, 1933, had come the first anti-Semitic laws. Many of the dominantly in the Bayerisches Viertel. However, with Hitler's 1180 to power faith" (Deutsche jüdischen Glaubens) lived in Schöneberg at the time, prethey left themselves to be Jewish Germans and not German Jews. A census laws, the further marginalization and isolation of the Jews in the first years ments, and indeed were perceived by many as harbingers of possible ation, distracted attention from the severity of other, less trivial harassities of organized chaos," ordinances forbidding Jews to swim in the ing, only a passing source of humiliation. Described by Goebbels as a "pul Wannee, for instance, or excluding them from the national chesi associ-In the 1920s, the Bayerisches Viertel or Bayarian Quarter, so called for

> ent in the establishment of governmental rules sanctioning the isolation of was the political message to their non-Jewish co-citizens which was inherpolitical improvement.34 Much more damaging and far-reaching than the actual inconvenience the ordinances caused Jewish inhabitants, however,

enter proof that they were Aryan. Jewish home owners lost their property in distribute new census questionnaires on which the inhabitants had to rights. In 1939 the superintendents of apartment buildings were required ", nontamon," from all over Berlin were crammed together in single rooms to await in the Bayerisches Viertel 14 houses were taken by force and 11 other more menacing in tone, as Jews were deprived of their most basic social [hilenbauser] were designated in the district, houses into which families tome owners were urged to sell theirs), and so-called "Jew houses" After the Reichskristallmacht on November 9, 1938, these laws became

the particulars of their deportation, typically passed on the following inverenigung, or religious union, in charge of notifying its members of Deportation itself had assumed the face of normality. The Jewish Kul-

mir power to belp them.34 community members as much as possible and that we will do anything in without saying that, insofar as we are allowed to do so, we will assist our tibute deciavely to the trouble-free execution of the trassport. It goes calmly. Those of our members affected by emigration should realize that their to follow these orders precisely and to plan for the transport carefully and A list of all pertinent orders is enclosed with the notice. We ask you kindly perional behavior and the orderly fulfillment of all instructions will con-

shat happened.' They couldn't help seeing it. It wasn't a matter of one the Jewish organizations evident in this notice had become so common, in our house, and one day they were no longer there. We didn't know ters, inge Deutschkron, author of the survivor's memoir leb trug den reported to have looked on with indifference at the plight of the depordeparture. Many of their non-Jewish neighbors, in the meantime, are than to go along with their matter-of-fact instructions and prepare for and the danger associated with resistance of any kind so great, that there specael, the mandatory participation and forced repression on the part of I ven when the first rumors of mass destruction and gassings began to has film Shoath: "They say they didn't see. 'Yes, there were Jews living when Stern (I Wore the Yellow Star), describes the attitude of the nonseried to be no other choice for those who received these instructions with inhabitants of the district in an interview with Claude Lanzmann

action. These were actions that were taking place over almost two years appeared simply as objects to be destroyed? away while people were gradually dehumanized, so that finally they the politics of marginalization and destruction? How could they look also asks precisely this question: how could thousands of people ignore lation at the Bayerischer Platz is dedicated to the victims of the area, it escape it? How could they not see it?"57 While the present memorial instal Every fortnight people were thrown out of the houses. How could they

was denounced by an apartment building superintendent; in the same an exhibit entitled "Life in Schöneberg/Friedenau 1933-1945," to suffering was brought together at the Schöneberg public art office in lowing day. Strung together in vexing narratives, this material testimony neighboring "Jew house" 72 people awaited their deportation the folbuilding a family committed suicide to avoid deportation; in a church house in the area: here Jews were hidden during the war, there a family the Schöneberg group to reconstruct the forgotten histories of almost every German Christians were piously attending Sunday services, while in a The materials uncarthed in 1983, meanwhile, enabled the members of

erry files diligently maintained by the Nazis to keep track of their growing of his most dependable sources of information turned out to be the propmind, the same group that previously had been responsible for the exhibit creet a memorial to the murdered Jews of the district. With this goal in months of work, Wilcke had recorded more than 6,000 names. In response wealth as more and more Jewish families were deported. After twelve ing research to determine the names of all of the deportees, fronically, one prey to the gradual "Aryanization" of the area and began the painstak Bayerisches Viertel, decided to find out just how many Jews had tallen name Arbeitsgruppe Mahn- und Gedenkstätte Bayerischer Platz, or continued their research of the neighborhood's past under the new, official to this overwhelming number, the Schoneberg district council voted to "Working Group for a Memorial at the Bayerischer Platz." Five years later, in 1988, Andreas Wilcke, an inhabitant of the

especially to encourage older inhabitants' participation in oral history prodecision that it should consist not of a central, unified monument but debate over the character of the future memorial, which then led to the group arranged an open-air exhibit on the Bayerischer Platz to document jects, public discussions were organized around pertinent historical dutes. tended toward preferences for a decentralized memorial, the working provoking thought" (Steine des Denk-Austosses)." Acting on ideas that rather of many small "stumbling blocks" (Stolpersteine), or "obstructions local involvement in the pogrom. The exhibit in turn gave rise to public On the liftieth anniversary of the Reichskristallmacht, for instance, the As a way to prepare the neighborhood for the planned memorial and

> with the fates of their former residents, current inhabitants had begun distwelve weeks, when they began to disintegrate, but in that relatively brief of cardboard signs inscribed with the names, ages, and deportation dates a Papptafelaktion or cardboard sign campaign. It consisted of the posting group even erected a temporary memorial of their own, which they termed denizens had come forth to talk to members of the working group about cussing the past with their neighbors, and several of the area's older time they had produced the desired results: the houses had been reinvested than ten people had been deported. The signs remained in place for over of Jewish citizens on all houses in the Bayerisches Viertel from which more their wartime experiences.

that re-creates on a linguistic and pictorial level the political violence that aboo people had vanished with virtually no trace. "Concrete lives and it should also reflect the day-to-day events of a neighborhood from which studd remember and mourn the murdered Jews of their district, but that sipulating that the memorial must serve not only as a place where people competition for the memorial at the Bayerischer Platz was announced, had characterized everyday life. and decrees on the other, incorporates these basic ideas into a memorial igns bearing stylized images on one side and inscriptions of Nazi laws thosen on April 1, 1992. Their concept, an installation consisting of eighty mon, the proposal of Renam Stih and Frieder Schnock was unanimously jury selected eight finalists; from these, after a second round of considernet of memories knotted together both spatially and themanically. The bouses, and should be brought into relation with the square itself like a lation are to be reflected artistically in the streets and in front of the individual events such as denunciations, emigration, suicide, and deporsumbling blocks," "" Ninety-six designs were submitted, from which the markers' to be developed along these lines should have the character of Three years later, in July of 1993, the first phase of a Berlin-wide design

place,6. The web of signs, moreover, does more than reinscribe the neighused in the deportation and murder of thousands of people. Deeming it rules and laws-some quite petty-that after a number of years culmiin how that the destruction of the German Jews had not been a sudden, out of the Jewish inhabitants. "40 In other words, the memorial was meant withle the conditions that led in an insidiously logical way to the destrucand political milien that had made the deportations possible in the first rappta/elaktion; instead, their memorial installation features the social inversible occurrence, but rather a slow process consisting of dozens of we Wilcke's roster of the names of the deported as had the creators of the membled the Jews for easier deportation, 5th and 5chnock declined to problematic to affix names to the Judenhäuser" where the Nazis had The governing principle of the memorial, in 5tih's words, was to "make



ausgeschlossen. dem großdeutschen Juden werden aus Schachbund

9.7.1933



Juden dürfen öffendsche Verkehrsmittel nur noch auf dem Weg zur Arbeit henutzen. 19-9-1941

Vollständiges Benutzungsverbot. THELIPE

Die Benutzung von Fahrkartenautomaten 1st für Juden verhoten

26.6.41



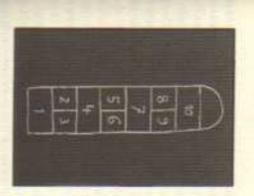
Juden sind hier unerwünscht." werden: es genügen Schilder wie extremem Inhalt abgenommen zu verhindern, sollen Schilder mit Ausland einen schlechien Eindruck "Um bei den Besuchem aus dem

19,1,1936



oder Zigarren mehr. keine Zigaretten Juden erhalten

11,6,1941



untersagt. miteinander das Spielen nichtarischen Kindern wird Arischen und



für Juden. Auswanderungsverbot

23.10.1941



Berliner Juden. Erste Massendeportationen

18,10,1941

Vernichtungslager Auschwitz. Erste Direktdeportation ins 11.7.1941

Details, front and back. © Renata Stih and Frieder Schnock, Berlin, from 5tth and Frieder Schnock. Sign memorial for the Bayerisches Viertel (1993).

today's society is capable of similar affronts. comography of today's urban text in the same way in which anti-Semino public announcements, the sign's neutral images obey, as 5tth puts it, an that mimic the informational aesthetics of today's advertisements and borhood with its past history. Consisting of simple items and pictograms ation of the socio-political circumstances leading up to the deportation of integration within an otherwise integrated landscape, the semantic recir imagery, however, is anything but innocuous. Acting as an agent of dissentiments and decrees had been absorbed into public consciousness fifty the quarter's Jews unmasks the guilt of its past even while suggesting that years earlier.4. The information that accompanies the unremarkable 'aesthetics of normality," an aesthetics that allows them to blend into the

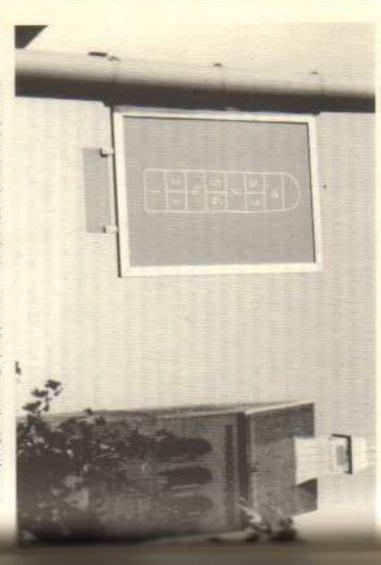
a sign, hung slightly askew, that reads Herglich willkommen (welcome) cigars 11.6.1942;" a pair of swimming trunks adorns the decree "Berlin coupled with the inscription "Jews are allowed no more cigarettes or and the letters "DR," for Deutsche Reichsbabn (German National the Berlin subway's white "U" on a blue ground, the "H" bus stop symbol group of signs consists of symbols for public services that have remained such as 'Jews are not wanted here' are sufficient, 19.1.1936."53 Another on foreign visitors, signs with extreme content are to be removed; signi The back of this sign reads, "In order to avoid making a bad impression inscription. The most poignant of this group is the picture of a door with consciously and ironically make clear the discordance between image and public pools may no longer be entered by Jews. 3.12.1938." Other signs between picture and information. An empty ashtray, for example, is from post to post. One group of signs shows a one-to-one concordance relationship between the information given and the image presented varies sible resurgence of xenophobia. Railway). These signs are especially impressive, since the proscriptions the same or similar to ones of the present day, included in this group is use today, their status as quotation remains open-ended, suggesting a pofrom all public and social life. And, since some of the symbols are still in printed on their reverse sides reflect the gradual disappearance of Jews The memorial speaks a complex sort of "sign language" in which the

of a simple statement without quotation marks or a date to situate them information each imparts varies. While some of the edicts take the form underscores the memorial's significance for the present. The lamp post in time, safely insulated from the present by quotation marks. The strategic within a historical context, others are clearly tied to a specific historical inscribed thus: "The time has come, tomorrow I must leave and that of from of the post office, for instance, bears the stylized picture of a lettill, placement of the signs in relation to contemporary social structures further Not all of the signs relate to the present. The historical specificity of the

> tourther 1938;" its reverse displays a stylized hopscotch game. In this that ended abruptly after the spontaneous and vehement reactions of the mine what Schnock calls "the actual borders of this project," an endeavor social conditions of the past. The dates were omitted in order to deterthe past within the present social structure, but actually recreating the ground originally carried no dates at all, thereby not only contextualizing matter of fact way. The signs in front of the park and the children's playfirms with her or his own reaction to violence presented in such a at fifty years ago are restaged, and the beholder is forced to come to direct association of anti-Semitic rules with today's world, the conditions increes that "Aryan and non-Aryan children are forbidden to play 1919." A sign in front of a children's playground further down the road the Bayerischer Platz that are marked in yellow. Eyewitness report Marx announces the ordinance that "Jews may only use those benches at 16.1.1942." The image of a bench posted near the green at the Bayerischer course is very difficult, (. , .) I will write to you' Before the deportation.

iipographical palimpsest of the past and present contours of the area, mytrisches Viertel in both its past and present forms. Lake a frame narwhere the signs have been placed, inviting an exploration of the rabble after the war." Small green dots on the map mark the locations tiward the end of the war, and partly in the process of clearing away the tirally destroyed as a result of the war, partly by the Nazis themselves from which one may conclude that sixty percent of the neighborhood was from 1993, superimposed upon one another. Together they produce a nows pre- and postwar maps of the area, one from 1933 and the other in front of the Munchener Strasse Gymnasium, Each of the billboards memorial area, the Schöneberg town hall, the Bayerischer Platz itself, and aftered signs are marked on large billboards posted at three sites in the mire, the eighty images serve as a border around the jumbled lines of the during the Reichskristallnacht, partly in the Allied bombing of Berlin lik Jews and the physical destruction of the Bayerisches Viertel by the mo maps as if to form a link between the Nazi violence committed against The memorial is not entirely decentralized. The locations of the eighty

as own helds of tension between image and script, between script and an even text to be read and understood immediately, as every sign creates the billboard, the memorial installed throughout the area does not provide agas amid the quotidian sights and sounds of the neighborhood. Unlike noter may be seen as a sort of mini-memorial. There's an instructive difnor, their locations, and the historical information about the area—each in oce, however, between reading the poster and actively seeking out the hearing all of the pertinent material—the signs' images and their mes-



A sign in situ. © Renata Stih and Frieder Schnock, Berlin, Photograph by Rafael Renau Suh and Frieder Schnock. Sign memorial for the Bayerisches Viertel [1993] Newman.

observer through a clever mechanical circumstance. To emphasize the signs' double-sidedness, the artists attached them to the lamp posts facing content, and between sign and site, to be interpreted anew at each viewing around to find either the written complement to the image or the illusmation; for, in order to get "the full picture," one must pause and turn in alternating directions, so that passing along the same street, one is con-Moreover, the memorial "works" and literally requires work from in together, the three aspects of image, writing, and location powerfully as such assists in the demystification of both past and present. Experienced sents the overcoming of a one-sided perception of the area's history, and tration of the script. The effort to see both sides of any given sign repredepending on the manner in which he or she handles the preferred infor by chooses between a double vision and a collection of half-truths, fronted first with the script side and then with the image side. The passer re-stage the persecution of a people within the space of the neighborhood

> neighborhood into a peerless innemonic landscape. and conversely, any of the three maps on the large billboards turn the

thet or Millaufer. Wandering along the streets "collecting" one sign after the role of a potential perpetrator, a passive collaborator, a fellow travof an orderly and sale modern environment, asks its beholder to assume rosiews synchronically what happened in the Bayerisches Vierrel over this way to transform a temporal experience into a spatial one, as it to assimilate each successive law more easily. The memorial manages in that is, the sights, sounds, and social structures of today's neighborhood mother, one also comes to know the interpext of the memorial marrative, or even a survivor, this memorial, by matter-of-factly presenting the antid'Hiver in Paris, which ask simply that one be a "rememberer," a mourner, trast to more traditional memorials, such as the plaque at the Velodrome ment of a role to the passerby, and it is not an easy one to play. In conreaction might be to the xenophobia potential in Germany today, mght have been had one hved during that time, and finally of what one's of the quarter leads naturally to the question of what one's own reaction Realization of the extent of Milläufertum among the former inhabitants intolds as one walks along the memory lines created by the memorial. everal years during the Nazi rule. The role of Millaufer then literally first shock of the laws' inhumanity, even the most sensitive flaneur begins the laws and decrees takes on its most monstrous shape, because after the And it is in this intertext of normality and security that the insertion of semitic decrees and laws from the vantage point and within the context Along with the re-staging of past events in the present goes the assign-

rial signs in the Bayerisches Viertel, of course, exploit the same relationof the past even as it borrows a system of references tying it to the present. and Schnock is even more complex, because it shapes a cultural memory work group had hoped to set up. But the memoryscape created by Suh my of the art of memory is in truth a palimpsest of stories covering up futher coexist like the two sides of a coin, shaping memory through a Greek lyric poet Simonides and his "art of memory." In this case, the mnemotechnical means to store that new knowledge. For the memoof the area and its involvement in the years of persecution, as well as with The memorial rewards its consenting participants with a new knowledge accepts Stefan Goldman's assertion that the legend of Simonides' discovrather than through its lustory of reception as a rhetorical device. If one misemotechnics might profitably be considered in light of the legend inelt recoding of past events into a visual and narrative form tied to the present. lowever, the image does not stand for the word, but the two elements ships among image, word, and location as are attributed to the ancient from the memorial perspective, the tale of Simonides' discovery of Those questions are the very Stolpersteine, "stumbling blocks," that the

association. The memory system could not have been invented without related in this economy, and a strange cycle emerges as a result of their had he not been able to identify them. Death and memory are closely the fact that the dead could not have been buried and mourned properly technique by which Simonides remembered the dead is less pertinent than of remembering and mourning the murdered Jews. In this context, the then a reiteration of the acts of persecution are a crucial part of the process the more primordial description of mourning rituals and ancestor worship bered without the mechanisms of the memory system. the central experience of death, and the dead could not have been remem

was no witness to reconstitute the order of the dead because that order were lost forever. For only in that way could the Jews of the Bayerisches schematic model of assumptions elucidates the incurive need behind the of a social collective, because the memory system did not even exist. This also not be buried and mourned and their memory could not become part by the wind, and that because they could not be remembered, they could no longer existed, and that the dead were burned and their ashes strewn self-righteous reactions to the first signs, those installed a week before the of age or generation, a chance to re-write their own history. The angry mourner. The memorial thus offers all of the area's inhabitants, regardless from the historically imposed role of perpetrator to that of witness and the active participant in the memory system is given the chance to switch their suffering can be mourned retroactively. In this re-creation of the past crimes against the Jewish population can be named and through which ronment with the help of the sign memorial provides a space in which the of the neighborhood. In this same vein, the re-creation of the pre-war city Viertel finally be mourned and become part of the collective social memory corpses in the last place where that was still possible before their traces persons as a way of 'ordering' their death, as a means of identifying their Papptafelaktion to put up names and dates on the houses of deporter memorial was to be unveiled, might then simply have been the relieved Mulanfertum and join the ranks of those who are vigilant lest history protestations of people who had finally found a way to cast off their Let us assume, however, that one of the elements is not given: that there

great care, especially by the members of the Schöneberg work group. This be strong, and the memorial's reception was accordingly prepared for with thereby revealing the underlying memorial intent of the group and creat censorship, led the work group to criticize some of the signs' implications ipatory obedience," and which was considered by him to be a form of same caution, which Schnock terms porasseilender Geborsom, or "antic ing not a little friction between the arrists and the group members. Par It was expected, of course, that public reaction to the memorial would

> the bittersweet heroic idealization that was their due as veterans,61 their having fought parriotically in World War I and thus having shared the proscription against the Jews' wearing of uniforms, an indication of use of cigars or cigarettes by Jews, since these commodities indicate prosresourceless victims. This included the sign with the law prohibiting the the notion that all Jews had been necessarily and essentially passive according to Schnock's mordant formulation, "fit the victim-perspective, ricularly troublesome to the group was the inclusion of signs that did not raises the possibility of their having defended themselves; and the sign with penty; the sign bearing the decree that Jews could own no weapons, which

as long as the victim is well-defined, and worthy of being mourned-that comfortable subject position with regard to the history of the Third Reich, non in this same conception is furthermore a means of assuming a more important in the public mind than the preservation of a pristine, if misrulnerable a people who had thought themselves secure, seemed less whock's memorial is important because it shows the process of making the Holocaust alone should be proof enough that people had been basethreatly upon the idealized victims they propose to mourn. Memorializanunocent as possible reveals that the privilege of "ideal mourners" depends mading, mage, Insily targeted regardless of their situation before the war, or that 5th and The orgent need to keep the image of the victimized Jew as pure and "unnocent," wretched, and delenseless. That the outrageous details of

if ubject position in the reception and interpretation of the Holocaust. of their memorial's viewers, and in so doing to highlight the crucial place non" in such a way as to destabilize the easy distance and moral certainty able to represent the period leading up to and enabling the "final solucurrents of resistance than those to be encountered in Schöneberg. Holocaust memorial, in which contest they have come up against stronger Haltzarion has not helped its creators in their bid to design the national nation. However, its international success as a local Berlin site of memo-Their bold conception has been much praised and discussed since its dedann-Semitic legislation in its full diabolical complexity. They were thus In the end, however, the artists prevailed in their desire to present the

the monarchy in 1918 it was guiled and its interior was re-designed by the Prussian monarchy as housing for the king's guards. At the end of rial, on November 14, 1993, a very different type of memorial was manfriedrich Schinkel in 1817-18, the neo-classical building was first used by numbed to honor "the victims of war and tyranny," "Built by Karl the Neue Wache on Unter den Linden, a centralized, national monument surated by Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the temple-like building known as Some five months after the installation of the Bayerisches Viertel Memo-



The Neue Wache today. Photograph by Rafael Newman.

ernment, into whose territory the Neue Wache had fallen, pressed it into during the Weimar Republic. After World War II, the East German govservice to bonor the victims of "fascism and militarism" in 1960. The Heinrich Tessenow to serve as a memorial to the victims of World War I for such a memorial, chosen by Kohl himself, was therefore to some extent Republic and the GDR, had left it virtually unchanged. This particular sitt his own vision of history. rather than preserving it as a GDR monument, would use it to articulate their respective memorial politics; it only seemed reasonable that Kohl different German governments and their leaders to chart the course of pre-determined by modern German history. It had already served three Nazis, who had used the building between the trnancies of the Weimar

journalists on the occasion of its dedication, "is an important symbol of artist Kathe Kollwitz depicting a grieving mother holding the body of its central feature, an enlargement of a sculptural group by the German her son." "This monument," the Chancellor announced to the assembled Kohl chose not only the site, but also the statue which was to figure an



wathe Kollwitz, Statue in the Nene Wacht (1993). Photograph by Rafael Newman.

which affirms the dignity, value and rights of each citizen." Not everynumeral Germany and the free democratic system of our constitution and protests against the monument were loud and clear in the weeks preme, however, felt that the Kollwitz sculpture was an appropriate symbol,

considered in Germany that those who voluntarily wore the swastika were man of Berlin's principal Jewish organization pointed out, "For the inscription on the floor in front of the sculpture. As Jerzy Kanal, chair murderers are not victims!" Protests were directed above all against the ceding its dedication. During the ceremony itself, hundreds of protesters equal to those who were forced to wear yellow stars inscribed with the and other public figures in signing a petition asking, "Should it now be Momin, declined to attend the ceremony and joined more than fifty writers officials, including Berlin's Minister for Cultural Affairs, Ulrich Rolott petrators of the Holocaust alike. He, along with many other high-ranking gathered in front of the Neue Wache to shout slogans such as "German Victims of War and Rule by Violence" commemorates victims and per

meant to be never the killed (or the killer) but only the mourner? Was continued, "The purpose in choosing this statue is to use the image of a mescapable necessity of suffering and sacrifice," one critic observed, and cized. "The image of the Mother of God is here misused to suggest the in what resembles a modern version of the Pieta, was also sharply critialong with them?" The choice of an artifact making implicit reference to to mourn their children, because they themselves had been murdered this to disregard the many Holocaust victims who had had no chance suffering mother to promote national unity." Furthermore, were women it is a perpetuation of the very cultural-hegemonic strategies at work in strained historical equivalencies in the interest of national unity. At worst genocide. At best, the Kollwitz reproduction in the Neue Wache makes the context of a memorial to the millions of non-Christian victims of Nazi Christian iconography is also clearly problematic, and even offensive in Germany's racist past. The choice of the statue itself, depicting a mother holding her dead sor

room listing the names of the various groups that had fallen victim to the agreed to affix a brass tablet outside the main entrance to the memoria torgetting and remembering. Kohl made two concessions to Bubis, Hi memory continues on several counts to be in fact a tug-of-war between nition of the Jewish victims demonstrates that the shaping of a national lowed when Kohl had conceded to Bubis' demands for independent recog community of Germany, would also boycott the mauguration ceremony threatened by the possibility that Ignatz Bubis, president of the Jewish "victims of war and tyranny," reflected simply a continuation of his 1988. Kohl's initial decision, meanwhile, to dedicate the memorial to all Jewish memorial in Berlin, a proposition already under discussion since Nazi terror, and he promised to support Bubis' request for a separate The uneasy truce in the politics of German memorial-making that fol-Despite the avid protests, however, Kohl refused to after his plans until

> turned in an atmosphere of general forgiveness-and forgetfulness. values the past an appropriate symbol to help "affirm the dignity, value world regards a monument which in many ways obfuscates and sentimental expediency than of historical accuracy. Finally, it is unsettling that the representation of Germany's past is more a matter of barter and politwould be supported by Kohl only as a practical concession implies that upon by Kohl and Buhis that a proposal for a separate Jewish monument rules. Furthermore, the suggestion inherent in the compromise agreed normalize the Holocaust by comparing it to other, allegedly similar genosome of the strategies at work in the Historians' debate, which sought to the Third Reich into a long string of other German disasters recalls too Ronald Reagan to the military cemetery at Bitburg. This gesture of fitting withins and perpetrators on the occasion of his visit with then-President till unresolved controversy with a comparable lumping together of numorial politics of the 1980s, which in 1985 stirred considerable and Newscon victims and perpetrators he proposes that a new identity be Germany, By blurring the distinctions between the two World Wars and resolute a German identity commensurate with his vision of the new and rights of each citizen," a symbol, in other words, which he enlists to

marrative in which a man is able to avoid sacribeing his son at the last minute, aided by the provident intervention of the transcendental Father one of the earliest of Western family narratives, or struck down by that And how did that son fall? At the hands of his brother, presumably, as in in which what is mourned is not only the fallen son, but the absent father. and son sets up Germany's twentieth century as a (nuclear) family drama, um of melancholy passivity, and the presence at center stage of mother Wache enables a fantasy reconstruction of German wholeness under the ingether of widely disparate sorts of "victims" within this new Neue mentary republic) that had previously made use of it. The lumping but also the variously successful regimes (kingdom, empire, and paritachinkel's building provides a perfect spot, then, to mourn not only the sordance of mourning for the very victims it purports to commemorate. Nohl's Neue Wache is clearly such an evasive employment, a tactic of ing readable in the Neue Wache controversy is "narrative fetishism," 23 narrative terms; indeed, his expression for the blocked process of mournabout the vicissitudes of official recognition of past crimes, in just such complex narrative to be discerned here than simply that of a political which the Federal Republic was founded, all suggest that there is a more trughted site, and his astonishing will to ignore the very differences upon same absent father in a piece of Christian one-upmanship over the Jewish missing of that nineteenth-century Germany's romantic-aesthetic grandeur impleateulation. Enc Santner has spoken of German postwar history, and But Kohl's mittal intransigence, his insistence on this particularly

Munich.76 rials of Hitler's own making, as for instance at the Ehrentempel in can fall freely, and one recalls the commonness of this feature in memoopening in the roof over the heads of the statue group through which rain son sacrificed by his father for the good of a folk. One notes finally the starue group's references. And yet it is obviously there—the legend of a irrelevant, the crucifixion being the clearest and most problematic of the The Old Testament allusions render this echo of the crucifixion almost

of the Bayerisches Viettel memorial which aims to recall aspects of accounting by the German people of the damage done by that same absent authorities than the Mitscheelichs, in order to remove the barrier to a full sors, for just such a mourning had been called for, after all, by no lesser This may not be as grotesque as it would sound to the memorial's spon and worshipful response, the Bayerisches Viertel memorial requires an the Holocaust. Unlike the reproduction in the new national memorial of from the city's "Aryan" population, a separation that led inexorably to administration by re-staging the gradual segregation of Berlin's Jewi the past as accurately as possible, and to demonstrate the effects of this gesture Chancellor Kohl has moved specifically against the strategies hather. Clear is that with his grandiose but nebulous commemorative active "readership" by observers willing to confront Germany's history the Kollwitz statue, which is prosaic and imperiously commands a passive Is the Neue Wache to be read, then, as a disguised memorial to Hirler

A Jewish Museum in Berlin

Daniel Libeskind's extension of the Berlin Museum for City History the old museum and its extension lie parallel, the two structures never walks past the two buildings, does the monstrously jugged form unfull bolt of lightning. As one approaches it from the north on Lindenstrass extends alongside its companion's demure baroque elevation like a supine A bird's-eye view reveals a straight incision, divided into sections, ranning actually touch; they are only connected by an underground passageway sheen of zinc that covers its outside walls. Although along some stretche its interior accessible only through windowslits criss-crossing the matter the building appears modest, even self-effacing; only gradually, as on creating empty spaces on the two top levels of the planned exhibit halls the length of the zig-zagging structure and bisecting the building's interior stones created by the celebrated poet's wife, Gisèle Lestrange Celan, con 18 meters, are various gardens. The Paul Celan Court, a paved design of Surrounding the immense metal structure, which measures some 150 by



hand Libraland. Berlin Museum Extension (1997). Aerial view, Photograph by

whily inclined concrete square composed of 44 thick cement steles. with to float unevenly beneath the new structure on one side, only to reand the old museum gardens with the new grounds in a mosaic that between the Celan Court and the E. T. A. Hoffmann Garden, the latter a wire on the other in front of a towering monument to the Hologaust. paulovinia, Celan's favorite tree, is planted in the transitional area

like everything elic in Berlin that was engendered in the explosive

which was in the midst of sacrificing itself so that Germany as a whole could win the interpretation. In his comparison, he concentrated on the heroism of the Sixth Army, war. Thus, in contrast to the demise of the Nibelungen, which is final, he positioned Göring overcame the unfortunate fact of the saga's gory ending through a slight reduring the Third Reich-even Hitler-doubt its efficacy as national epos. In his speech the German defeat at Stalingrad merely as a means to an end.

Walter Kaufmann and R. J. Hollingdale (New York: Random House, 1967), pp. 62-63. 4 Friedrich Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo, trans. and ed

4 Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals, p. 71.

4) Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals, p. 71.

Jahre danach (Zürich: Hochschulverlag AG, 1996), pp. 165-192, citation p. 172. Zum symbolischen Tausch der Wiedergutmachung," in Weigel and Erdle, eds, Fünfzig 4 S. Weigel, "Shylock's Wiederkehr: Die Verwandlung von Schuld in Schulden oder-

trasted with the rank and social standing of the creditor." On the Genealogy of Morals exchanged for the loss he had sustained, including the displeasure caused by the loss suffer was in the highest degree pleasurable, to the extent that the injured party an extraordinary counterbalancing pleasure: that of making suffer—a genuine festival again: to what extent can suffering balance debts or guilt? To the extent that to make something which, as aforesaid, was prized the more highly the more violently it con-4 Nierzsche makes the connection between suffering and Schuldlern: "To ask it

Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals, p. 65.

specine, p. 115. Bahti and Geoffrey H. Hartman, in Hartman, ed., Bitburg in Moral and Political Per-4" Adorno, "What Does Coming to Terms with the Past Mean?" trans. Timothy

4 A. and M. Mitscherlich, Die Unfähigkeit zu trauern, p. 27.

Adomo, "What Does Coming to Terms with the Past Mean?" pp. 117-118.

A. and M. Mitscherlich, Die Unfähigkeit zu trauern, pp. 66-67.

Zeitung, 5 June 1993, p. 14. 31 Ute Kiehn, "Vorbildlich: Schöneberger verhindern Neo-Faschismus," Berliner

1993; and die tuz, June 8 and 9, 1993. Berliner Morgenpost, June 6, 8, and 9, 1993; the Berliner Zeitung, June 5, 8, and 9, 13 Several newspapers followed the development of this case: see in particular the

"Gahi Bethke, "Mahnmal wird am Freitag enthüllt," in Berliner Morgenpost, 9

Denkmal in Berlin (Berlin: Vogt, 1993), pp. 18-23. Unmöglichkeit Jude zu sein," in Renata Stih and Frieder Schnock, Arbeitsbuch für ein Martin Knehler, "Wieviel Leben braucht der Deutsche-Über Zwang und

three members of the Arbeitsgruppe Schöneberg conducted in July of 1993. the memorial installation given here has been culled from a personal interview with 35 Much of the information about the history of the Bayerisches Viertel and that of

in Berlin, p. 7. für das Bayerische Viertel in Berlin," in Stih and Schnock, Arbeitsbuch für ein Denkmat " Quoted in Barbara Straka, "Normalität des Schreckens. Eine Denk-Installation

Lanzmann, Shoah, p. 50.

Denkmal in Berlin, p. 6. 31 Straka, "Normalität des Schreckens," in Stih and Schnock, Arbeitsbuch für ein

Gedenkstätte Bayerischer Platz" (Berlin: Kunstamt Schöneberg, 1991), p. 23. 38 Katharina Kaiser, ed., Broschüre zum offenen Kunstweitbewerb "Mahn- und

> für ein Denkmal in Berlin, p. 5. 60 Cited in Straka, "Normalität des Schreckens," in Stih and Schnock, Arbeitsbuch

mitted suicide? Less important?" troubled that only those houses received attention from which ten or more Jews had been deported. "What about nine Jews," he asks, "and what about those who com-"1 Frieder Schnock, personal communication, February 1994. Schnock is further

62 Renata Stib, interview, August 1994.

according to Schnock (personal communication), together with Berlin's application for the Olympics in the year 2000. 64 This notice, which appeared before the 1936 Olympics, was to be considered,

of the quarter during one of several public discussions: "We'd like to have the green on the square free of signs because we always go there to sit." Schnock, personal correspondence, February 1994. 64 This sign was created in response to the following remark made by an inhabitant

See Kaiser, Broschure, p. 23.

see to it that he get the other half from the gods whose praise he had just sung. Shortly a passage in praise of the gods Castor and Pollux. The nobleman accordingly rold mental images of the things they wished to remember, and "store" those images in interred that persons desiring to train their memory faculty must select places, form realized that spatial arrangement was the crucial aspect in illuminating memory. He the dead by identifying each member. Noting that it was through his memory of the they had been reclining and was therefore able to assist the relatives in the burial of for burial were unable to identify them. But Simonides remembered the places at which his guests. The corpses were so mangled that the relatives who came to take them away the room where the banquet was being held collapsed, crashing the nobleman and all to see him. He rose from the table, went outside, but found no one. In the meantime, thereafter, Simonides was told that two young men were outside, urgently requesting Simonides that he would pay him only half the sum agreed upon for his ode; he should sang a lyric poem in honor of his host but included, as was the custom among poets, the tale is as follows. At a banquet given by a nobleman of Thessaly, the poet Simonides image of the things denote the things to be remembered. See a brilliant and seminal those places, so that the order of the places preserve the order of the things, and the places where the guests had been reclining that he was able to identify the corpses, he (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1966), pp. 23-57. discussion of the history of this technique in Frances Yates, The Art of Memory "Both Cicero and Quintilian recount this legendary actiology. Cicero's version of

me is not to be connected to one single person alone, nor to one unique event. . . . " In traditional pantheon. . . . Thus it becomes clear that the invention of the nmemotechin victory, into one single new story. There it is possible to read not only biographical hunger for money, funereal song, and people who have made themselves noteworthy Keos," Poetica 21 (1989), p. 51. details of a notable figure (Simonides), but also . . . an altered consciousness vis-a-vis a places and condenses, therefore, known elements from the biography of Simonides, like Statt Totenklage Gedächtnis: Zur Erfindung der Mnemotechnik durch Simonides von As Stefan Goldman relates, 'The myth of the invention of the mnemotechnic dis-

" Schnock, personal correspondence, February 1994.

" See also Ladd, The Ghosts of Berlin, pp. 117-114.

The original sculpture was made to commemorate the artist's son who had fallen

ber 1993; and Wolf Jobst Siedler, "Wo Preussen am preussischsten war," Die Zeit, 3 Spiegel, 46 (1993), pp. 168-170; Benedikt Erenz, "In Betrieb," Die Zeit, 16 Novem-Times, 15 November 1993. See also Jürgen Hohmeyer, "Mutter im Regen," Der 71 Stephen Kinzer, "The War Memorial: To Embrace the Guilty, Too?" New York

77 Kinzer, "The War Memorial."

33 Kathrin Hoffmann-Curtius, cited in Kinzer, "The War Memorial."

kollektive Identitit," Sprache im technischen Zeitalter 133 (1995), pp. 260–268.

71 Santner, "History beyond the Pleasure Principle: Some Thoughts on the Repre-"Der Ort der Frauen im Gedächtnis des Holocaust: Symbolisierung, Zeugenschuft, und H For a discussion of the gendered implications of this monument, see Sigrid Weigel,

sentation of Trauma, p. 144.

History/Memories of Resistance," pp. 38-42. and endurance but also prefiguring elegantly melancholy ruins, in Comay, "Facing * See the extended discussion of this architectural trope, signifying hardness

When using this source in the following, I shall quote from the author's original text alogue takes the form of a collection of essays in both English and German versions. museum, which opened in September 1992 in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. The car alogue appeared in conjunction with the first exhibit of Libeskind's design of the Jewish Abteilung Jüdüsches Museum (Berlin: Ernst & Sohn Verlag, 1991), pp. 53-53. This cat zur Gartenplanung," in Kristin Feireiss, ed., Erweiterung des Berlin Museums mit 77 For more details on the garden design, see Cornelia Müller et al., "Erläuterung

p. 2, and more recently in Reiner Gimtzer, "Das Integrationsmodell mass bleiben," Der Integration in Germany" (German Studies Association, Seattle, Washington, 1996). lagesspiegel, 4 July 1997, p. 13. 78 Cited in Robin Ostow, "(Is It) A Jewish Museum? Six Models of Jewish Cultural

Diner, Kreisläufe, p. 26.

of Germany, was to undo Hitler's cynical plan to build a museum of the "Jewish Race" ished the original Jewish museum of Berlin during the Reichskristallnucht. had been stored away by the Nazis for their planned museum after they had demolbut its annihilation. In fact, some of the objects the new extension was meant to house perspective. Such a museum would indeed have meant not the preservation of memory in which the history of an eradicated people was to be told from a National Socialist 10 It was surely significant that Berlin, in becoming once more the functioning capital

11 Diner, Kreisläufe, p. 24.

controversial analogy with Germany of the 1930s. See Peter von Becker and Thomas 6 August 1997, p. 20. although they do give Nachama the opportunity to expand on and strengthen his Barzel and the Jewish Community, pose a series of remarkably hostile questions. later shows evidence of this inflammation. The interviewers, normally sympathetic to 1997, p. 21. An interview with Nachama published in the same newspaper a few weeks Lackmann, "Sind Sie stolz, deutscher Jude zu sein, Herr Nachama?" Der Tagesspiegel 12 Quoted in "Jüdisches Museum: Barzel gekündigt," Der Tagesspiegel, 27 June

after almost all reter to the project as "Extension (Enweiterungsbau) to the Berlin Museum in the Berlin Museum," though the written records of the conference therechanging name. Already at the Aspen conference the name was officially changed from Museum." The Berlin law gazette calls it simply "Berlin Museum (Libeskind Exten Jewish "department" (Abteilung) to "Berlin Museum/Jewish Museum," or "Jewish 41 The difficulty in conceiving of the museum's function is apparent from its over-

> of sixteen museum departments under the main administration of the city museum's sion)," and since 1995 it has become "Principal Department (Hauptabteilung) V," one foundation. I will refer to it henceforth as the extension.

type of shift that presaged the activities of Anja Rosmus, for instance. work of remembering and mourning known as Vergangenheitsaufarbeitung. This is the people as well, who began to form civil initatives (Bürgerinitativen) to perform the approach was no longer only reserved for academics, but could be pursued by laypeople were becoming more and more interested in Alltagsgeschichte. This sort of history were shifting. Rather than studying broad structural connections of past events, personal interview, August 1997), the exhibit came at a time when paradigms of 26 Robin Ostow, "(Is It) A Jewish Museum?" p. 2. As Reinhard Rürup points out

15 Cited in Martina Weinland and Kurt Winkler, Das Judische Museum im Stadt

museum Berlin: Eine Dokumentation (Berlin: Nicolai, 1997), p. 18.

creded at a snail's pace partly because it had proved to be difficult to find a suitable ocation for a new building. "Despite the seeming willingness of all sides to collaborate, however, plans pro-

Cited in Weinland and Winkler, Das Jüdische Museum im Stadtmuseum Berlin,

PP-33-34-

Erweiterung des Berlin Museums mit Abteilung Jüdisches Museum, p. 34-18 Rolf Bothe, "Das Berlin Museum und sein Erweiterungsbau," in Feireiss, ed.,

the life and work of Jewish citizens who had determined the face and the history of of the Jewish community in Berlin until National Socialism; and the representation of tions: its Judaica, enlarged considerably during Bendt's curatorship; its documentation the Jewish department, according to Bothe and Bendt, should be divided into three secthe city decisively. 19 Bothe, "Das Berlin Museum und sein Erweiterungsbau," p. 34. The collection of

Weinland and Winkler, Das Judische Museum im Stadtmuseum Berlin, p. 36.

of the notion of "playing the race card," made notorious in the United States during to the extension controversy (see for example its use in von Becker and Lackmann, of African Americans and German Jews. the O. J. Simpson trial, but also recognize the vast differences between the conditions "Sind Sie stolz, deutscher Jude zu sein, Herr Nachama?"). I am not deaf to the echo the Ticket mitten, or "using the Jewish ticket," as it has been employed in reference " "Playing the Jewish card" is my translation of the German expression das judis-

in Society" was replaced altogether by Libeskind's voids. See Weinland and Winklet, 72 The numbers in the building as realized have been scaled back very slightly. "Jews

Das Judische Museum im Stadtmuseum Berlin, p. 445-

Weinland and Winklet, Das Judische Museum im Stadtmuseum Berlin, pp. 35-

Museums mit Abteilung Jūdisches Museum, p. 65. " Daniel Libeskind, "Between the Lines," in Feireiss, ed., Erweiterung des Berlin

Libeskind, "Between the Lines," p. 65.

Museums mit Abteilung Jūdisches Museum, p. 29. " Vera Bendt, "Das Integrationsmodell," in Feireiss, ed., Erweiterung des Berlin

97 Cited in Libeskind, "Between the Lines," p. 63.

Libeskind, "Between the Lines," p. 67.

Santner, Stranded Objects, p. 150.

gische Herausforderung," in Renate Altner et al., Ein Museum für Berlin: Positionen 100 Winkler, "Die 'Leere' ausstellen? Daniel Libeskind's Museumsbau als museolo-