Christopher Bigsby, Remembering and Imagining the Holocaust: The Chain of Memory

Citation metadata

Author: Roxane Riegler
Date: Winter 2009
From: Studies in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature (Vol. 33, Issue 1)
Publisher: Kansas State University, Department of Modern Languages
Document Type: Book review
Length: 888 words

Main content

Article Preview:


Remembering and Imagining the Holocaust deals with memory, integrity, and the difficulty of remembering trauma whether in autobiography, novel, or drama.

Christopher Bigsby's study deals with an eclectic group of authors remembering the Holocaust in their quest of Vergangenheitsbewältigung and starts with W.G. Sebald, Bigsby's colleague and friend, to whom the author dedicates the volume. Sebald serves as a springboard to some of the other authors. Some were writers whom Sebald valued highly such as Arthur Miller, Rolf Hochhuth, Peter Weiss and Jean Amery. Miller, Weiss and Amery are also connected to Sebald by their shared attendance of the 1963 Auschwitz trials in Frankfurt. The remainder of the writers who complete the "chain of memory" were camp survivors (Amery, Primo Levi, Elie Wiesel, Tadeusz Borowsky) except for aspiring writer Anne Frank, who perished as a young teenager in Auschwitz.

Despite its definitive merits and display of great sensitivity--Bigsby provides us with thoughtful insight into the lives and ideas of his chosen writers and is a superb narrator--his study is quite reader-unfriendly. Unfortunately, he repeatedly interrupts his "chain of arguments" with reflections and comments having very little connection with those very arguments. The interrupted discourse however is not conducive to helping the reader grasp his...

Access from your library

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

Source Citation


Gale Document Number: GALE|A227281481

Explore

This is a preview. Get the full text through your school or public library.

Access from your library

Footer

- About
- Contact Us
- Terms of Use
- Privacy Policy
- Accessibility

Christopher William Edgar Bigsby FRSA FRSL (born 27 June 1941) is a British literary analyst and novelist, with more than forty books to his credit. Earlier in his writing career, his books were published under the name C. W. E. Bigsby. Educated at the Universities of