



2016

Book Review: In Those Nightmarish Days: The Ghetto Reportage of Peretz Opoczynski and Josef Zelkowicz

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Recommended Citation

Levy, D. B. (2016). [Review of the book *In those nightmarish days: The ghetto reportage of Peretz Opoczynski and Josef Zelkowicz*, by S. Kassow (Ed.) & D. Suchoff (Ed. & Trans.)]. *Choice Reviews Online*, 53(8).

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A division of the American Library Association
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Fax: (860) 704-0465
April 2016 Vol. 53 No. 8

Yale University Press

The following review appeared in the April 2016 issue of CHOICE:

Central & Eastern Europe

53-3631 PJ5129 MARC

OPOCHINSKY, Peretz. **In those nightmarish days: the ghetto reportage of Peretz OPOCHINSKI and Josef ZELKOWICZ**, ed. and introd. by Samuel D. KASSOW with David SUCHOFF; tr. by David SUCHOFF. Yale, 2015. 309p afp ISBN 9780300112313 pbk, \$35.00.

This volume comprises selections from the WW II writings of two Jewish journalists who lived in the ghetto (OPOCHINSKY in Warsaw, ZELKOWICZ in Lodz) and wrote for the secret ghetto archives. Both men died in the death camps, but not before documenting the disease, degradation, and starvation in the ghetto in order to bear witness against the Nazis. The title of this volume derives from ZELKOWICZ's essay by the same title (and included here), which documents the September 1942 removal and deportation from the Lodz ghetto to the death camps of all children under the age of ten and all adults over 65. The writings of these two men, and of others, were hidden (often buried) in the hope that someone would find them after the war. The writings that appear in this volume, many published previously in various languages, are translated here from the Yiddish. ZELKOWICZ's essays appeared in *In Those Terrible Days: Writings from the Lodz Ghetto*, (2002), and historians may know of him thanks to *A Holocaust Reader*, ed. by Lucy DAWIDOWICZ (CH, Jul'76), and *Truth and Lamentation: Stories and Poems on the Holocaust*, ed. by Milton TEICHMAN and Sharon LEDER (1994). One hopes this abridged edition will bring OPOCHINSKY and ZELKOWICZ the attention they deserve.

--D. B. Levy, *Touro College, Lander College for Women*

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.