

A Historiography of interned refugees in Canada during World War II

Annelise Rodrigo (Université de Toulouse II, France)

Civilian Internment in Canada
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1) 1960-1978 : the interned refugees, an ordinary event

2) 1978-2000 : Between founder books and testimonies

3) 2000' : a thematic opening

1) 1960-1978: the interned refugees, an ordinary event

a. The Jewish community role and the Jewish immigration

-> Kage Joseph, *With Faith and Thanksgiving. The story of Two Hundred Years of Jewish Immigration and Immigrant Aid Effort in Canada, 1760-1960* (1962)

-> Belkin Simon, *Through narrow gates: A review of Jewish immigration, colonization and immigrant aid work in Canada (1840-1940)* (1966)

“The Congress obtained the release of 2 300 German refugees who were sent by the British Government in 1940 to be interned in Canada. About half were returned to England for release, and those who remained in Canada were granted legal entry and received the status of immigrants.”

b. An example of prisoners of war

-> Kelly John Joseph, *The prisoner of war camps in Canada, 1939-1947* (1976)

c. The Canadian refugee policy

-> Dirks Gerald E., *Canada's Refugee Policy : Indifference or Opportunism ?* (1977)

2) 1978-2000: Between founder books and testimonies

a. Paula Draper's thesis and *None is Too Many*

- > Draper, Paula Jean, « The Accidental Immigrants : Canada and the Interned Refugees », *Canadian Jewish Historical Society Journal*, vol 2 (n°1 & n°2), 1978.
- > Draper Paula Jean, *The accidental immigrants. Canada and the interned refugees* (1983).
- > Abella Irving and Troper Harold, *None is Too Many: Canada and the Jews of Europe, 1933-1948* (1983)

b. A central axis: their contributions after WWII

- > Draper Paula Jean, « ' Refugee! ' The Adjustment of Jewish Refugees from Nazism to Canadian Life », *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees*, vol. 5, n° 2, 1985.
- > Abella Irving, *A coat of many colours : two centuries of Jewish life in Canada* (1990).
- > Moon, Barbara, « The Welcome Enemies. The Story of the Happy Accident by Which 972 Interned Aliens Became Some of the Liveliest Immigrants Canada Ever Had », *Maclean's* (1962)

c. The testimonies

- > Carter David, *Behind Canadian barbed wire: alien, refugee and prisoner of war camps in Canada, 1914-1946* (1980)
- > Koch Eric, *Deemed suspect : A wartime blunder* (1985)
- > Pollak Ernest, *Departure from freedom curtailed: interned by the British : from the original diary written on toilet paper during the internment in Canada in 1940* (1990).

3) 2000': a thematic opening

a. A historiographical continuity

- > Igersheimer Walter, *Blatant injustice the story of a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany imprisoned in Britain and Canada during World War II* (2005)
- > Couture Geneviève, *Réfugiés et prisonniers de guerre à Sherbrooke: le camp d'internement Newington, 1940-1946* (2003).
- > Auger Martin F., *Prisoners of the home front: german POWs and « Enemy Aliens » in southern Quebec, 1940-46* (2005)

b. Emergence of new topics: writing exile, gender, transcultural studies and comparative studies

- > Iacovetta Franca & Perin Roberto, *Enemies Within: Italian and Other Internees in Canada and Abroad* (2000)
- > Farges Patrick, « Cultural Transfer and Condensation of Memory : Textual Displacement in Henry Kreisel's Short Stories », *Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies*, vol. 42, n° 3, 2006, pp. 261-276.
- > Farges Patrick, *Le trait d'union ou l'intégration sans l'oubli: itinéraires d'exilés germanophones au Canada après 1933* (2008)
- > Banauch Eugen, *Fluid exile: Jewish exile writers in Canada 1940-2006* (2009)
- > Farges Patrick, « Masculinity and Confinement: German-Speaking Refugees in Canadian Internment Camps (1940-1943) », *Culture, Society & Masculinities*, vol. 4, n° 1, 2012, pp. 33-47.

Conclusion

“Enemy Aliens” THE INTERNMENT OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN CANADA, 1940-43

“We had to leave”

From Refugees to
Internees

Accidental
Immigrants

Camp Boys

Advocacy

New Lives

We want freedom, even if there are bombs in England and none here. Internment bears heavy on my nerves, the barbed wire seems almost choking me. Freedom, freedom. Henry Kriesel, one of the “Camp Boys”

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE No. 510224
ISSUED AT Canterbury County
ON 9-10-33
NAME (Surname first in Roman Capitals) IGERSHEIMER Walter
ALIAS
Left Thumb Print (if unable to sign name in English Characters)
Signature of Holder Walter Igersheimer

Nationality German
Born on 23-6-1917 in Goettingen, Germany
Previous Nationality (if any)
Profession or Occupation Student
Single or Married Single
Address of Residence Home Bay College, Home Bay
Arrived in United Kingdom on 21-9-33
Address of last Residence outside U.K. 1, Brentenestrasse, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Government Service
Passport or other papers as to Nationality and Identity German Passport No. 1 85, issued at Frankfurt am Main on 5.7.32



ENGLISH
SPOKEN
WITH
FRENCH
ACCENT

<http://www.enemyaliens.ca/accueil-home-eng.html>

« Many of the former internees went on to positions of prominence in academia, business and the arts. Among them are Members of the Order of Canada and two Nobel Laureates. The remarkable achievements of the interned refugees belied the arguments of the government officials who opposed their settlement in Canada. Their contributions highlight the lost potential of the fragment of European Jewry that Canada might have saved during the Holocaust. »