

International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust



BEARING WITNESS: Primo Levi and the Memory of the Holocaust

On the centenary year of Primo Levi's birth, Professor Mario Barenghi reflects on the continued importance and relevance of Levi's work for the field of Holocaust studies. From the beginning, his works have demonstrated a lucid awareness of the difficulties of witnessing an extreme, overwhelming, historically unheard-of experience. Comparisons of "If this is a man" (1947) and "The drowned and saved" (1986) reveal both the extraordinary acumen of Levi in analysing human behaviours, as well as the impossibility of having the last word on the Holocaust, whose distinctive characteristic remains: terrible brutality and dizzying absurdity.

Professor Mario Barenghi is a professor of contemporary Italian literature at the University of Milan-Bicocca. He published, among others, the bilingual Italian/English essay titled "Perché crediamo a Primo Levi? / Why Do We Believe in Primo Levi?" (2013).

29 January 2019 at 19h00

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Admission free, donations always appreciated