The Book Burning
Berlin
1933
The Book Burning

On the night of May 10th 1933 in the city of Berlin, under the direction of Nazi propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels, occurred one of the most memorable events in history.

Nazi members, professors and students took part in the massive act of burning thousands of books in the Opera square next to Humboldt University.

On that night more than 20,000 books were burned by Nazi order because they were considered books with "Jewish spirit".
In May 2023, we mark 90 years since the event of the Book Burning in Berlin.

The 'Wiener Library for the Study of Nazi Era and the Holocaust' dedicates this exhibition to some of the books that entered the "Blacklist", and were burned that night in Berlin, since they didn't correlate with the Nazi agenda.

Not only books that were written by Jews were burned that night, but many other works by numerous authors and artists.

The books that were burned on that night in May 1933 symbolized an entire world: freedom, education, culture, history, life and choice.
The exhibition presents some of the authors and artists that entered the Nazi 'Blacklist'.

Their works were considered 'un-German' and were confiscated, removed from book stores and burned that night in Berlin.
Erich Kaestner

“When on May 10th 1933, in all university towns, German students threw our books by the ton into the fire, we felt: This is politics, and this is history. The flames of the political arson would never be extinguished.”

“Their fellow-students were shovelling the books by the hundredweight unto the fire. Ladies and gentlemen, I have seen more dangerous things, more deadly things, - but nothing more mean!”

“It was a murder and suicide all in one. Intellectual Germany killed itself and the German intellect.”

“The events of 1933 to 1945, should have been fought against in 1928 at the latest. Later, it was too late [...] One must not wait until the fight for freedom is called treason. No one can stop the avalanche. It stops only when everything is buried under it.”

Max Brod

Tycho Brahes Weg zu Gott: ein Roman.
Thomas Mann

Author, 1875-1955

TONIO KRÖGER
VON
THOMAS MANN
Paul Klee

Painter, 1879-1940

Paul Klee, Tagebucher von Paul Klee, 1898-1918.
Otto Dix

Painter, 1891-1960
You can visit us at the Wiener Library to see the exhibition