

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NUMEROUS PEOPLE HAVE INFLUENCED, GUIDED AND SUPPORTED ME throughout the process of researching and writing this book. My study was part of the research project 'Exhibiting Europe', funded by the Research Council of Norway, which also awarded a generous travel grant. This grant allowed me not only to do my fieldwork and to travel to numerous conferences and workshops, but also to stay at the Institute of European Ethnology at the Humboldt University in Berlin for one year. I would like to thank Stefan Krankenhagen, Wolfram Kaiser, Kerstin Poehls, Leonore Scholze-Irrlitz and Torgeir Bangstad of the 'Exhibiting Europe' group for their support and the many formal and informal discussions that we have had. With his astute comments, Stefan always managed to push me to the limits and helped me to refine my arguments. With her ethnological gaze, Leonore opened my eyes to new ideas and theories. She has also been an extremely committed contact-person during my time in Berlin. Wolfram, Kerstin and Torgeir read either the whole or parts of this book and gave insightful comments. Kerstin helped me to find my way around the numerous workshops and reading groups in Berlin, and has been a dedicated friend and colleague throughout. Torgeir has been with me through the good times and the bad of the writing process. I thank him for his support and the many heated discussions that we have had. All six members of 'Exhibiting Europe' met up for common workshops in various European cities. I am grateful for having been given the opportunity to take part in these workshops and to see new sites and meet inspiring people. A very big thank you goes to Anette Homlong Storeide, for her useful advice and for her numerous comforting words. I would also like to thank Stefanie Schüler-Springorum and Sigrid Jakobeit for advice and their interest in my project, Daniel Weston for his comments from an outsider's point of view and Corinna Bittner and Michelle Lynn Kahn for many insightful last-minute comments and the endless discussions that we have had. A really big thank you goes to Sharon Macdonald and Habbo Knoch for their advice, criticisms, keen observations and encouragement. Habbo Knoch has been an enormous support and I thank him for endless

conversations during which he opened my eyes to new ways of looking at familiar topics and for his many comforting words.

Over the course of the last few years, I have visited many museums and met up with numerous museum directors and professionals. Many of them have sacrificed several hours to be interviewed by me. Without their support and help and especially their interest in my work and their encouragement, this book would never have been written. They also allowed me to reproduce pictures and even took new ones especially for this publication. In particular, I wish to thank Diana Gring, Katja Seybold and Stephanie Billib of the Bergen-Belsen Memorial and Helge Krückeberg for allowing me to use his pictures of the Begen-Belsen Memorial, Detlef Garbe, Jürgen Kinter, Herbert Diercks, Iris Groschek and Emily Mohney of the Neuengamme Memorial, Suzanne Bardgett of the Imperial War Museum and James Barker of October Films, Guido Vaglio, Luicano Boccalatte, Emiliano Bosi and Chiara Cavallarin of the Museo Diffuso and the Istoreto, Leah Teichthal and Karin Dengler of Yad Vashem, Isabelle Benoit of *tempora*, Elizabeth Selby of the Jewish Museum London, Beverley Cook of the Museum of London, Harald Biermann and Dorothea Kraus of the Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Daniel Baranowski of the Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin and Eva Geffers of the Zeitzeugenbörse Berlin.

I was given the opportunity to present the ideas for this book at numerous conferences and workshops. I wish to thank those who invited me and especially the many people who asked questions and gave me new insights and ideas. I would also like to thank my students in Trondheim, Maastricht and Cologne for the many insightful discussions that we have had during our seminars and for opening my eyes to new topics.

At Berghahn Books, I would like to thank Chris Chappell, Amanda Horn and Caroline Kuhtz for their support, their quick answers and especially for their patience. Parts of this book have already been published elsewhere. I would here like to thank the copyright holders for granting me the right to republication.

No book is written without the support of family and friends. I wish to thank my parents Monique and Willy for their support. I also want to thank my siblings Lisi and Tun. Tun read parts of this book and commented on them. His enthusiasm for my work has been of great help all along. A final very big thank you goes to my colleagues in Trondheim, Berlin, Maastricht and Cologne for making work in the office pleasurable and to my friends all over the world for keeping me away from it every now and then. This book would not have been written without you!