

Inside the Glass Case: *Trust No Fox* - Script

At the Holocaust Memorial Center, we have hundreds of artifacts and other items on display for our visitors to learn from. Unlike reading panels on a wall or paragraphs in a textbook, these objects tell stories and provide an opportunity to directly connect with the past. We want to know what it is, where it came from, who it belongs to. They provide clues to guide our study and help us find lessons for today.

This artifact is a children's book called "Trust No Fox on His Green Heath and No Jew on His Oath." It was published in Germany in 1936.

Soon after Hitler and the Nazi party came to power in 1933, efforts were made to organize society according to Nazi ideology. In this ideology, people were defined by their race. Germans, or Aryans, were the superior race whereas Jews were inferior. They were evil and were the primary enemy of the German people. Life, therefore, began to look and feel very different for Jewish people in Germany.

There were boycotts against Jewish-owned businesses. Jewish professionals holding government jobs as lawyers and judges and even as public school teachers and professors were dismissed from their positions. Jewish doctors could not treat non-Jewish patients and public book burnings took place throughout Germany in which many books written by Jewish authors were burned.

Antisemitism, the hatred of Jewish people, had existed long before the Nazis came to power in Germany. The long-standing and deeply rooted stereotypes and beliefs were used as the core of Nazi ideology. Joseph Goebbels, the head of the Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, was responsible for communicating Nazi messaging and ideology through the media. Films, books, radio broadcasts, newspapers, posters, and educational materials reached people all over the country. Across all of these platforms, stereotypes of Jewish people were spread to stir up suspicion, fear, and hatred.

In 1936, Julius Streicher published this children's book. It was written by Elvira Bauer who at the time was an 18-year-old kindergarten teacher. The goal was to instill hate at a very young age. On the cover of the book, we see a drawing of a Jew and a fox. Throughout Nazi propaganda, both foxes and Jews are depicted as cunning creatures that could not be trusted. Each page of the book contains a nursery rhyme that describes Jewish people as ugly, sneaky, and frightening.

[Narrator] "We do not buy from Jewish shops," says the mother to the child. "It is only German goods we buy. Remember that, my darling." It's going to be fine in the schools at last for all of the Jews must leave.

These words, images, and messages mattered. People of all ages were influenced by these ideas and their hateful thoughts and biased attitudes led to actions. Martin Lowenberg, a local Holocaust survivor and speaker at our museum, was born in 1928 in Schenklingfeld, Germany. In 1936, when Martin was in third grade, his teacher falsely accused him of sticking his tongue out at a picture of Hitler. In response, his classmates beat him up. The hatred they had learned turned into violence. After this incident, Martin's parents sent him to a Jewish boarding school 150 miles away from home. Martin continues to share his story at our museum today to help us understand the dangerous consequences of hate.

- Where do you see hatred in our world today?
- What can be done to help change its course?
- What can you do to make a difference?