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O'DONNELL
RESTORING PAGES TO A SACRED
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Dit is een foto, zoals
ik me zou wensen,
altijd zo te zijn.
Dan had ik nog wel
een kans om naar
Hollywood te komen.

Anne Frank.
10 Oct. 1942



(translation)
"This is a photo as I would wish
myself to look all the time. Then
I would maybe have a chance to
come to Hollywood."
Anne Frank, 10 Oct. 1942

Since the publication of her diary more than 50 years ago, Anne Frank has become a highly lucrative industry, and the people who stand to make millions from her are not afraid to sue.

Restoring pages to a 'sacred text'

DIARY DISPUTE

The recent publication of a missing section of Anne Frank's diary has forced the world to take stock of what it knows about the famous work.

DAN O'DONNELL
Special to The Globe and Mail, Lethbridge, Alta.

Her story has been a Hollywood movie (two movies, in fact), a Broadway play, a radio drama, an Oscar-winning documentary, several television specials, the focus of umpteen scholarly conferences and debate, and the subject of more than 50 translations around the world. Yet for all this attention, and more than a half-century after 15-year-old Anne Frank was abruptly forced to conclude her diary, we are still far from having a complete version of it.

Last week, a Dutch court ruled in favour of Het Parool, an Amsterdam newspaper that published newly discovered pages of the diary in late August. The powerful Anne Frank Fund in Basel, Switzerland, argued that the newspaper had violated its copyright by publishing this material by the young Anne, who hid with her family from

"Father doesn't always ask mother her opinion — about the business, about daily life, people, or anything, really. And he doesn't nearly tell her everything, either, because he knows that she is far too dramatic, far too critical, and often far too prejudiced. Father is not in love. He kisses her the way he kisses us. He never holds her up as a model for us. Because he can't. He looks at her teasingly, and satirically, but never lovingly. Perhaps mother has become so tough and bitter towards her surroundings because of the

the Nazis in a secret attic for more than two years during the Second World War before being discovered and shipped to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. She died there in March, 1945.

Such skirmishes have been commonplace ever since Anne's father, Otto Frank, published the first, now highly controversial, version of her writings, *The Diary of a Young Girl*, in 1947. Indeed, more disputes are likely in the century ahead, in large part because "Anne Frank" is a highly lucrative industry now and the people and institutions who stand to make millions from her are not afraid to sue.

EXCERPT FROM THE MISSING PAGES

great sacrifice she's had to make — but she'll only become more and more incapable of love this way. She'll awake less and less admiration in people and father will one day realize that she has never really demanded his love but has been slowly crumbling away inside as a result instead. She loves him like nobody else, and it's hard to see such a love always going unanswered. So shouldn't I really feel sorry for her then? Shouldn't I help her? And father? But I can't. I always see the other mother in front of me, and I can't. And how could I? She has never

told me the least thing about herself and I've never asked. What do we know about what we both think? I can't talk to her. I can't look lovingly into her cold eyes. I can't do it now and never will be able to. If she had even a single characteristic of an understanding mother! Either softness, or friendliness, or patience, or anything else — then I'd keep trying to get closer to her. But this insensitive character, this sarcastic creature — to love that becomes more and more impossible for me every day."

— Anne Frank

At the same time, people do not just read Anne Frank's diary; they venerate it. Her story has taken on the characteristics of a sacred text. Nearly 750,000 people visit the Frank family's hiding place each year in Amsterdam, and millions more have read books or seen dramas about the young Jewish woman.

Earlier this year Cor Suijk, a friend of Otto Frank (who was Anne's literary executor) surprised Frank devotees by announcing the existence of five previously unknown pages from Anne's diary. In them, Anne discusses what she considered her parents' near-loveless marriage, and

debates publishing the diary if she were to survive the war. How, readers wondered, could a single page — let alone five — from this worldwide bestseller possibly remain hidden for more than 50 years?

The answer lies in the publication history of the diary — a history that is almost completely unknown outside a relatively closed circle of specialists. With the "rediscovery" and publication of the five missing pages, the world is being forced to take stock of what it knows about her account.

At first glance, the story of the diary seems straightforward.

Please see FRANK on page A18

kept pages secret

FRANK from page A17

DEAR DIARY

The opening pages of the English translation contain an account of how Anne received a diary for her 13th birthday, and how, after the family was forced into hiding, she decided to use it as a replacement for the school friends she most missed. When the Frank family was arrested and deported to Germany, this diary was left behind and recovered by Otto's faithful secretary Miep Gies. After Anne failed to return at the war's end, Gies gave the diary to Otto Frank, who arranged for its publication.

The real story, however, is far more complex. Most readers assume they are reading a simple transcription of her daily notes on life in the "Secret Annex." What few realize is that the best-known text is actually a composite put together by Otto Frank from two original but very different versions of Anne's diary: a daily journal that she kept throughout her time in hiding (Version A), and a second, more literary text based on Version A that she wrote during the two months immediately preceding the discovery of the Frank family's hiding place (Version B).

The five "new" pages come from different places in this second text. Two form a draft introduction in which Anne expresses her doubts about publishing her memoirs after the war. The other three pages provide an unflattering portrait of her parents' marriage.

Not surprisingly, it's hoped that a new version of the entire journal, including the missing pages, will be published next year. But there are still many rivers to cross. Although reproduction rights are owned by the Anne Frank Fund, the manuscripts are owned by the Dutch Institute for War Documentation (RIOD), while the trademark "Anne Frank" is co-owned by the Anne Frank House and the Anne Frank Society, both of Amsterdam.

Further complicating matters is the existence of a third Anne Frank society, this one headed by Cor Sujik and based in New York. Sujik wants \$1-million (U.S.) from the RIOD before it receives the missing five pages, according to David Barnouw, media spokesman for RIOD and one of the two editors of the critical edition of the diary.

Yet while new material from the diary's author is extremely valuable, the contents of the five pages aren't likely to be all that shocking to close readers of her story. Though Anne's comments on her parents' marriage seem sharper than anything found elsewhere in her diary, the sentiments are in keeping with the tenor of many other entries in the published text.

Still, if these new pages are similar to material already published, the question remains: What could anyone have hoped to achieve by withholding their publication for all these years?

In fact, their suppression appears to have been the result of a series of conflicting historical pressures. Dropped from the first edition to protect the reputations of people then alive or only recently killed by the Nazis, the omissions seem to have taken on a life of their own in the face of neo-Nazi attacks on the diary's authenticity throughout the sixties and seventies. Otto Frank, after all, had a legitimate interest in protecting his own privacy and that of others in the years immediately after the war. The first Dutch edition of the diary was published just six years after the events it describes.

Indeed, a new biography of Anne by Melissa Muller (reviewed in *The Globe and Mail* Nov. 14, 1998) presents, albeit hesitantly, the name of the person who she believes betrayed the Franks to the Nazis, a woman named Lena van Bladeren Hartog who occasionally cleaned and worked in the house where the Franks were staying. She died in 1963, 16 years after the first edition of the diary was published.

In readying the diary for publication, Otto and his copy editors appear to have tried to avoid dishonouring those who had died or embarrassing, misrepresenting or defaming the survivors.

Important English-language editions of Anne Frank's writings:

Anne Frank wrote two books, her diary and a collection of short stories. Here is a brief guide to the English translations:

The Diary of Anne Frank: The Critical Edition, Edited by David Barnouw and Gerrold van der Stroom. This is the best edition for readers who want to know exactly what Anne wrote, although it is intended for study rather than browsing.

Based on a forensic investigation into the diary's authenticity, the edition contains a complete text of Anne's two revisions (Versions A and B) and Otto's Frank's typescript. A revised edition due out next year will include the text of the five new pages.

The Diary of a Young Girl, translated by B.M. Moysart-Doubleday (Doubleday). The original English translation of the diary, based on Otto's typescript, but with several omissions. This is not the book to use if you are interested in what actually happened in the Secret Annex. It is, however, the version most people know best.

The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition, Edited by Otto Frank and Mirjam Pressler (Penguin). A new translation of the diary with material not found in the original edition. Despite the title, this book is really just an expanded version of the original English translation. It is based on Otto's compilation of Anne's writings rather than Anne's original manuscripts. If you want to know more about the diary, choose the critical edition instead.

Anne Frank's Tales from the Secret Annex (Bantam). This is the English-language edition of Anne's short stories. They are far less accomplished than the diary itself.

The amount of material published on Anne's diary can be overwhelming. There is even a specialized bibliography about the Broadway play. Here is a recent work to whet your appetite: Laurence Graver, *An Obsession with Anne Frank* (University of California Press). An accessible account of Meyer Levin's obsession with the diary and his attempts to acquire the dramatic rights.

— Staff

But what began as an effort to avoid embarrassment soon became an embarrassment itself. As memories of the Holocaust faded, and as neo-Nazi and other extremist groups increasingly attempted to cast doubt on accounts of the concentration camps, the diary became a favourite target for Holocaust deniers. Otto Frank's alterations, omissions, and use of pseudonyms were deemed to be indicators of untruthfulness.

Things came to a head during a court-ordered investigation of the diary's authenticity in 1980. When detectives were sent to Basel to examine the manuscripts in his possession, Otto Frank appears to have removed permanently those sections of the unpublished text he least wanted to become public knowledge, giving this material — consisting of the five pages from Version B — to Cor Sujik and paginating the rest of the manuscript to disguise that they were missing.

The final stage in the disappearance of these pages took place when the Dutch State Institute for War Documentation began a second investigation of the diary's authenticity in preparation for a scholarly edition of all Anne's manuscripts. Misled by the incorrect pagination, and lacking permission to print the full text of the corresponding entry for Feb. 8, 1944 from Version A, their definitive edition inadvertently helped remove all suspicion of the five missing pages' existence.

In a sense, it was the efforts of the diary's defenders which, paradoxically and unintentionally, helped keep the five missing pages secret for all these years. Perhaps it is only now, 18 years after Otto's death and 12 years since Dutch scientists proved the diary's authenticity beyond doubt, that it is safe to bring them out of hiding.

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