

150772-6



YIVO YIDDISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE

ייִדישער וויסנשאַפֿטלעכער אינסטיטוט
YIDDISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE (YIVO)
YOUTH RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

All young men and women from the age of 16 to 25 may participate. Contestants' education, background, employment or party affiliation will not be considered. Each contestant may write in the language most convenient for him.

Twenty-five prizes have been determined for the best autobiographies:
First prize: 150 zlotys (about 30 dollars)
Second prize: 100 zlotys (about 20 dollars)
Third prize: 50 zlotys (about 12 dollars)

TO THE JEWISH YOUTH
A CONTEST FOR THE BEST AUTOBIOGRAPHY

The Yivo does not choose to discover new writers through the medium of this competition. We want to become fully aware of the life of the Jewish youth in their distant lands. We want to know what patterns and beliefs the young men who want to find his way in the world want combine into between him and both his immediate and general environment, as well as within himself. We want to know about the people who found it possible to overcome hardships and also about those who have not yet succeeded. When we shall collect this material, we shall be able to learn a great deal, and it is quite possible that from the mistakes and failures of one individual as well as from the successes of another, we shall be able to make deductions for the whole of the Jewish youth.

A bad literary style, an unexpanded pen and, therefore, no chances to participate in this contest and even to winning the first prize. It is, however, of the first importance that the autobiographies be written with detail, accuracy and sincerity.

Details of the contest will be published in the Yivo Bulletin.

Relate each point with as many particulars as possible. Do not think that "little things" are not important. Actually, important sociological and psychological conclusions can be derived just from such details. On the other hand, the "lost generation" have had no autobiographies, not a newspaper.



Do not talk around the subject. Avoid explanations.
Sincerity.
It is not necessary to tell fairy tales in order to make the autobiography "interesting". Neither the description of extraordinary



The Department of Youth Research of the Yiddish Scientific Institute announces a contest for the best Jewish youth autobiography. All young men and women from the ages of 16 to 22 may participate. Contestants' education, background, employment or party affiliation will not be considered. Each contestant may write in the language most convenient for him.

Twenty five prizes have been determined for the best autobiographies :

First prize: 150 zlotys (about 30 dollars).

Second prize: 100 zlotys (about 20 dollars).

Third prize: 60 zlotys (about 12 dollars).

Fourth prize: 40 zlotys (about 8 dollars).

Fifth and sixth prizes: each 25 zlotys (about 5 dollars).

Seventh to 25th: each one volume of a Yivo publication.

The Yivo does not propose to discover new writers through the medium of this competition. We want to become fully aware of the life of the Jewish youth in these difficult days. We want to know what barriers stand before the young man who wants to find his way in the world; what conflicts arise between him and both his immediate and general environment, as well as within himself. We want to know about the people who found it possible to overcome hardships and also about those who have not yet succeeded. When we shall collect this material, we shall be able to learn a great deal, and it is quite possible that from the mistakes and failures of one individual as well as from the successes of another, we shall be able to make deductions for the whole of the Jewish youth.

A bad literary style, an unpracticed pen are, therefore, no hindrances to participation in this contest and even to winning the first prize. It is, however, of the first importance that the autobiographies be written with detail, accuracy, and sincerity.

Detail.

Relate each point with as many particulars as possible. Do not think that "little things" are not important. Actually interesting sociological and psychological conclusions may often be derived just from such details. On the other hand, general statements about "hard times" and the "lost generation" have little value. The contest requires an autobiography, not a newspaper editorial.

Accuracy.

Do not talk around the subject. Avoid euphuisms.

Sincerity.

It is not necessary to tell fairy tales in order to make the autobiography more "interesting". Neither the description of extraordinary

events nor the total number of facts will be the deciding factor. One should not, on the other hand, conceal any experiences, since the perspective will then become distorted. Tell your story sincerely, what actually happened to you and your emotional experiences thereby. You may be fully assured that the anonymity of the autobiographies will be completely respected.

Each autobiography should be at least twenty five pages long, but the longer the work, the better, so that the personality of the writer may become clearer. Please write neatly and legibly on one side of the paper only.

Each writer has complete freedom to arrange his material as he he desires. We believe, however, that the chronological method is the simplest. Each contestant is also free to make his own selection of material. Nevertheless we suggest several topics which should be included:

The writer and his family; relations among members of the family; the earliest years; teachers, schools, and what the writer learned from them; friends, relations with them; youth organizations, party affiliations and the accruing loss or benefit to the personality; how the writer chose a trade, or how he plans to do so; what experience in his life created the greatest impression on the writer.

If the writer has ever kept a diary, he is requested to send it with his autobiography. It will help to give a clearer picture of the personality, and is, thereby, a further step toward a prize.

In the autobiography, age and sex only should be indicated; neither name nor address need figure. A pseudonym should be used for a signature. The same pseudonym is to be written on a sealed envelope in which name and address should be enclosed. These envelopes will be opened only after the prizes will be awarded. If a contestant prefers not to reveal his pseudonym, he may instead indicate an address in the envelope at which the prize may eventually be delivered.

The autobiographies should be sent by registered mail, classified "Mss." to the Yiddish Scientific Institute, Wivulskiego 18, Wilno, Poland, not later than July 1, 1939. The results of the competition will be announced September 1, and the prizes will be distributed shortly after.

All submitted manuscripts become the property of the Yivo. This Institute reserves the right to publish all autobiographies, either in part or in entirety, including those which will not receive awards. A fee will be paid for all works which will be fully printed.

The Yivo assures all contestants that submitted materials will be treated with discretion. No one, besides a few research workers, will see the autobiographies. Entire autobiographies will be published only with the consent of the author. If the contestants prefer not to have any names revealed even in brief citations, they need merely so indicate, and their request will be respected.

events by the total number of facts will be the deciding factor. One should not, on the other hand, conceal any experience, since the perspective will then become distorted. Tell your story sincerely, what actually happened to you and your emotional experiences thereby. You may be fully assured that the anonymity of the autobiographies will be completely respected.

Each autobiography should be at least twenty-five pages long, but the longer the work, the better, so that the personality of the writer may become clearer. Please write neatly and legibly on one side of the paper only.

Each writer has complete freedom to arrange his material as he desires. We believe, however, that the chronological method is the simplest. Each contestant is also free to make his own selection of material. Nevertheless we suggest several topics which should be included:

The writer and his family; relations among members of the family; the earliest years; teachers, schools, and what the writer learned from them; friends; relations with them; youth organizations, party affiliations and the meaning loss or benefit to the personality; how the writer chose a trade, or how he plans to do so; what experience in his life created the greatest impression on the writer.

If the writer has ever kept a diary, he is requested to send it with his autobiography. It will help to give a clearer picture of the person, and is thereby a further step toward a prize.

In the autobiography, age and sex only should be indicated; neither name nor address need figure. A pseudonym should be used for a signature. The same pseudonym is to be written on a sealed envelope in which name and address should be enclosed. These envelopes will be opened only after the prizes will be awarded. If a contestant prefers not to reveal his pseudonym, he may instead indicate an address in the envelope at which the prize may eventually be delivered.

The autobiographies should be sent by registered mail, classified "Mas." to the Jewish Scientific Institute, Wolskiego 18, Warsaw, Poland, not later than July 1, 1949. The results of the competition will be announced September 1, and the prizes will be distributed shortly after.

PRINTED IN POLAND

druk. d. krajnesa wilno, rudnicka 2

All submitted autobiographies are the property of the Yivo. This Institute reserves the right to publish or otherwise use the material in part or in entirety, including those which will not receive awards. A fee will be paid for all works which will be fully printed.

The Yivo assumes all contestants that submitted materials will be treated with discretion. No one, besides a few research workers, will see the autobiographies. Entire autobiographies will be published only with the consent of the author. If the contestants prefer not to have any names revealed even in brief citations, they need merely so indicate and their request will be respected.