

**Certified Translation from the German Language
Nomination form
International Memory of the World Register**

1.0 Checklist

Nominees may find the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to the International Memory of the World Secretariat. The information provided in italics on the form is there for guidance only and should be deleted once the sections have been completed.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Summary completed (section 1) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declaration of Authority signed and dated (section 2) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified, and all Declarations of Authority obtained |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | History/provenance completed (section 3.4) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner – completed (section 4.2) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented to support fulfilment of the criteria? (section 5) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Additional information provided (section 6) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of consultation with stakeholders completed (section 7) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Assessment of risk completed (section 8) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan attach details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 9) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Any other information provided – if applicable (section 10) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Suitable reproduction quality photographs identified to illustrate the documentary heritage. (300dpi, jpg format, full-colour preferred). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Copyright permissions forms signed and attached. Agreement to propose item(s) for inclusion on the World Digital Library if inscribed |

**Nomination form
International Memory of the World Register**

Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial

ID Code [2016-11]

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

The murders of millions of Jews, minorities, political opponents, and Europeans are associated with the Nazi dictatorship in Germany (1933-1945). This systematic killing of people for racial and political reasons to a previously unknown extent is unique worldwide. The experience of these violent crimes of the Nazi dictatorship was reflected in Art. 1 of the United Nations Charter (1945) regarding respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. Some of the main perpetrators were convicted at the Nuremberg trials (1945-1949) and in other court trials after the war, yet the structures of the killing machinery and the numerous accomplices long remained unconsidered.

As the legal successor of the Deutsche Reich, the Federal Republic of Germany initially only brought charges against individual representatives of the Nazi regime and former members of SS, the SA, and the Wehrmacht after the war. The Frankfurt Auschwitz trial comprising 183 days of hearings from 1963-1965 focused the world's attention on the system of practically industrialized homicide for racial and political reasons. This trial also facilitated the breakthrough of a critical and comprehensive analysis of National Socialism.

Soon the last survivors will no longer be able to bear witness to their persecution by the Nazi regime. Hence, the existing written and audio recordings of the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial, as a unique, authentic, contemporary, and moving resource about the crimes of the Nazi regime and the Holocaust, will continue to increase in importance for future generations.

The trial records comprising 454 volumes of files are stored at the Hessian State Archives – Hessian Main State Archives in Wiesbaden. They include 430 hours of recordings of the testimony of 319 witnesses (including 181 survivors of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration/death camp and 80 members of the camp staff, the SS, and the police) on 103 tapes. These recordings – originally intended to serve as memory aids during the trial – have a unique documentary value today. Holocaust victims from many European nations and overseas met their persecutors for the first time again 20 years post-war; these messages reveal an unimaginable emotionality. These authentic records about a monstrous crime unique in human history that should not be forgotten is of great relevance to cultural history. Therefore, these records belong to the documentary heritage of the world.

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

Hessisches Landesarchiv – Hessisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, Wiesbaden

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

Owner

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

Ltd. Archivdirektor Dr. Andreas Hedwig, as Executive Director of the Archives

2.4 Contact details

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	
Dr. Andreas Hedwig	Friedrichsplatz 15, 35037 Marburg	
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i>	<i>Email</i>
+49 (0)6421 9250-168	+49 (0) 6421 161125	andreas.hedwig@hla.hessen.de

3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

Case files of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial
(Archive reference number: HHStAW Abt. 461 No. 37638)

Audio recordings from the main proceedings of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial
(Archive reference number: HHStAW Abt. 461 No. 41000, 41003-41098)

3.4 History/provenance

Case files of 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial
(Archive reference number: HHStAW Abt. 461 No. 37638)

The Office of Public Prosecutions at the Regional Court of Frankfurt a. M. offered the case files to the Hessian Main State Archives, as the competent public archives in 2001, which the latter accepted as archival material in the following year (Access 2002/12). Since that time, they form part of the permanent collection there.

Audio recordings from the main proceedings of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial
(Archive reference number: HHStAW Abt. 461 No. 41000, 41003-41098)

The Office of Public Prosecutions at the Regional Court of Frankfurt a. M. had already offered the audio recordings to the Hessian Main State Archives in 1989, which the latter accepted as archival material (Access 1989/57). In the 1990s, the Frankfurt am Main/Potsdam Babelsberg Deutsche Rundfunkarchiv first digitized the 103 tape recordings and then returned them to the Hessian Main State Archives. Since that time, these tape recordings have been permanently stored there and the digitized materials are permanently stored in the Digital Stacks of the Hessian State Archives as well.

4.0 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address
Hessisches Hauptstaatsarchiv	Mosbacher Strasse 55 65187 Wiesbaden

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+49 (0)611-8810	+49 (0)611-881145	poststelle@hhstaw.hessen.de

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address
------	---------

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
-----------	-----------	-------

4.3 Legal status

The legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the records of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial lies with the Hessian State Archives – Hessian Main State Archives in Wiesbaden.

4.4 Accessibility

The legal basis for access to the records of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial (case files, audio recordings) and their use as public archival material is the Hessian Archives Act of November 26, 2012 (federal gazette p. 458; Link: http://www.arcinsys.de/recht/archivrecht_hessen.de). Accordingly, everyone has the right to use public archival material, unless the legal provisions state otherwise (sec. 12 (1) sentence 1). The intended use, which can be of a personal, official, academic, educational, journalistic or commercial nature, must be stated (sec. 12 (2)). More use-related details are regulated by the acceptable use policy of the Hessian State Archives of December 13, 2013 (StAnz.2014,p. 9;http://www.arcinsys.de/docs/20131213_hessen_nutzungsordnung_staatsarchive.pdf).

Online use of the records of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial is possible through the “Arcinsys” Archive Information System of the Hessian State Archive (<https://arcinsys.hessen.de>), which provides the respective archival material for downloads after the user has registered. The audio recordings of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial are already available today on the Internet under URL <http://www.auschwitz-prozess.de> and streamable from there.

The records and under certain conditions, even the original case files, may be used in the Reading Room at the Hessian Main State Archives in Wiesbaden.

Existing restrictions on their use:

Due to the date on which the last defendant of the Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial died (April 1, 2012), the case files are still subject to protection until April 1, 2022 pursuant to sec. 13 (2) of

the Hessian Archives Act. This period of protection may be shortened on request under certain prerequisites; thus use prior to April 2, 2022 can be made possible (request form: http://www.arcinsys.de/docs/2014_hessen_verkuerzung_schutzfristen_hhstaw.pdf) (sec. 13 (5)).

Digitization:

The case files of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial are currently being filmed at the Hessian Main State Archives as part of the protection offered by the German Federal Office of Civil Protection & Disaster Assistance URL: http://www.bbk.bund.de/DE/AufgabenundAusstattung/DE/Kulturgutschutz/Sicherungsverfilmung/sicherungsverfilmung_node.html) and will subsequently be digitized. This process will presumably be completed in 2016. The case files will then be available for use completely in digitized form.

The audio recordings of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial are already available for use in digitized form. On the one hand, they are stored in the Digital Stacks of the Hessian State Archives and on the other, they are available for streaming on the Internet (URL: <http://www.auschwitz-prozess.de>).

4.5 Copyright status

The complete rights of use to the records of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial lie with the Hessian State Archives – Hessian Main State Archives in Wiesbaden.

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity

The Office of Public Prosecutions at the Regional Court of Frankfurt a. M., as the creator of the records of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial (both the case files and the audio recordings), released these materials directly to the competent archives – the Hessian Main State Archives in Wiesbaden – in 1989 or in 2002, respectively. Since that time, they have been safely preserved there as archival material. Therefore, there can be no doubts about the authenticity and the integrity of these records.

5.2 World significance

The records of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial are of outstanding importance for the legal, social, and scholarly appraisal of the Holocaust, which was unique in the history of the world. Moreover, no other judicial proceeding had such a major impact on the appraisal of the crimes of Nazi Germany. The ongoing and intensive use and evaluation of these records, for scientific and journalistic purposes in particular, points to their continued importance. By virtue of the insights gained from the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial, the remembrance of Auschwitz extermination camp was able to become part of the collective memory of the world based on evidence that stood up in court. Owing to their authenticity, these records make an irreplaceable contribution to the memory of the world with regard to violence and genocide in the 20th century.

5.3 Comparative criteria:

1 Time

The 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial (1963-1965) marks the beginning of an intensive legal and subsequently social appraisal of the Holocaust. It ended the phase of collective silence and suppression of the Nazi crimes. Moreover, the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial was the first ever to examine the industrially and bureaucratically organized mass murder under National Socialism in detail. With this trial, an ongoing intensification of the reappraisal of the Holocaust began in spite of the resistance that still existed.

2 Place

Although the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial took place in Frankfurt a. M., it dealt solely with the crimes committed in the concentration/death camps set up by the Nazi regime at Auschwitz and in nearby Birkenau – then in occupied Poland – in 1940 and 1941. The name “Auschwitz” stands for the largest site of executions in the history of man. More than one million human beings were horrifically murdered. Since 1979, this camp has been part of the cultural memory of the world as the “Auschwitz Birkenau German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945)” UNESCO World Heritage Site.

3 People

The records of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial comprise a unique fund of information about the course of the mass murders at the largest extermination camp of the Nazi regime. These records describe the horrifying actions in the camps meticulously and vividly, and at the same time, they document the incomprehensibility of this collapse of civilization caused by the Nazis. This applies to the audio recordings in particular: Over and above the informational dimension, they provide an authentic and moving insight into the psyche of the former inmates who testified as witnesses, and who had survived this horror, yet had lost multiple family members at Auschwitz. In addition, they provide a deep insight into the self-understanding of the defendants who did not acknowledge their guilt or denied their shared responsibility for this mass murder.

4 Subject and theme

The 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial was a milestone in the legal reckoning with the Holocaust. No other criminal trial related to Nazi crimes of violence at that time or since has made such an extensive contribution to clarifying the facts about the Holocaust. In Germany, the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial marks the time of the commencement of the comprehensive and sustained social, political and legal reckoning with the crimes committed by the Nazi regime.

5 Form and style

From a purely formal standpoint, the records of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial are the con-

ventional files of the proceedings of a German criminal court with three professional and two lay judges. However, the audio recordings pertaining hereto – which are not a direct element of the case files, but were intended to serve merely as a memory aid for the court – go far beyond this. The outstanding importance of the records of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial ultimately arise from the subject-matter of the trial; namely the industrially and bureaucratically organized mass murder and its legal review, as well as from the very considerable social, political, and legal aftereffects of the trial.

6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

Without a doubt, the records of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial and the authentic information they contain are of outstanding international worth. At the same time, they are of special personal importance for those (few remaining) survivors of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and death camp as well as for the (numerous) family members and descendants of the people murdered there, who collectively are also victims of the Holocaust in the broadest sense. In particular, the audio recordings rank among the most impressive and simultaneously the most depressing evidence about the Holocaust due to their authenticity. Both the case files and the audio recordings are going to increase in forcefulness with the growing lapse of time since the events at Auschwitz. These records are already in use, particularly in historical and political educational work, not least for exhibitions and film productions, with great public feedback. Therefore, these records are also of outstanding personal importance for everyone who empathizes with the victims of the Holocaust.

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

The records of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial, both the case files and the audio recordings, are unique. No other documents anywhere in the world can replace them.

6.2 Integrity

The creator of the records of the 1st Frankfurt Auschwitz Trial, both the case files and the audio recordings, namely, the Office of Public Prosecutions at the Regional Court of Frankfurt a. M. gave these records directly to the competent archives, i.e., the Hessian Main State Archives in Wiesbaden in 1989 or 2002, respectively. Since that time, they have been preserved there safely and permanently as archival material. Therefore, there can be no doubt about the integrity of these records; this will also be ensured in the future.
