

The second edition of The Young Austria Book features more than 1000 images, new interviews and a DVD, together creating a visual memorial.

During November 2011, nine more Young Austrians told us about their lives. Plus the second, enlarged edition includes 18 additional contributions, hundreds of new entries about the contemporary witnesses in the newly designed appendix, as well as an index with more than 2000 people.

The illustrated stories help to better understand the Liberation Movement, the Free Austrian Movement (FAM), of which Young Austria was a part of.

Articles about FAM members, like Anna Mahler, anti-Fascists from Graz like Franz Preminger, Willy Scholz and Hans Winterberg, further show the reality of the Austrians living in exile in Great Britain.

A very tragic story, the suicide of the young poet Hans Schmeier in 1943 at the age of 18, is included, as are some of his unpublished poems.

Also members, who didn't return to Austria or only much later, found their way onto the pages of this second edition.

Eva Bentzen (Schweden), Helga Michie, twin sister of Ilse Aichinger, (London), Wolf Suschitzky (London) and Peter Melvyn (Vienna), who returned to Austria in the 1980s.

Stories of members, who were active in the Young Austria Choir or were working for the Austrian Center, could be documented with the help of their family members or their colleagues during that time.

Lotte and Seppl David, Franzi Frey, Ernst and Paul Frischauer, the siblings Alice, Felix, Steffi Graber, Fritz Kanfer, Berta Pordes, Dorothea and Salomon Schlifke and also Karl Svoma.

Stories about musicians, like Norbert Brainin, round off the wide spectrum of activities of the members of Young Austria during their exile in Great Britain.

Sonja Frank,
Publisher, 2014

More than 90 biographies from members of Young Austria were documented by the publisher together with the association KunstPlatzl and her team of contributors.

The Young Austria Documentation is being presented around Austria since 2012 by the association KunstPlatzl in the form of exhibitions and readings from the book.

Ruth Aspöck,
Contributor to the documentation, 2014

Former Young Austrians were very active in the fight against fascism during the Second World War, in Great Britain and across Europe.

They were Austrian, mostly Jewish, refugees, who worked for Young Austria and the Free Austrian Movement.

Many of them fought in the British Army or worked in the British War Industry.

Young Austria started small, with 20 people, but over the years grew into a strong 1300 member association.

Many came with Kindertransporten, trains full of children or escaped, by way of other rather dangerous escape routes, to Great Britain.

More than 25% returned to Austria after the Nazis were defeated, with the aim to rebuild Austria as a free, democratic and independent country.

Many of them joined the FÖJ (Free Austrian Youth) after their return.

Albert Hirl,
Contributor to the documentation, 2014