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Online cooperation on Jewish fates in Amiens

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The archive of the Somme department and the American historian David Rosenberg are now also working together on the Internet.

"Cultivating the memory of the Shoah together": under this motto, the archive of the Somme department has now set up its own website, which allows users to research the

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The project represents a remarkable transatlantic collaboration. Rosenberg's page is based on ten years of research, which initially led to an exhibition at the Temple Emanuel of the South Hills, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the spring of 2018 (Link). Rosenberg's daughter Lydia already supported him in digitizing the archives and then set up the site.

Rosenberg first came to Amiens in 1974 to do research for his dissertation on Protestants in the predominantly Catholic city north of Paris during the 16th century. Rosenberg returned in 2010 and became aware of the history of the Amiens Jewish community. With a trained eye, he discovered previously untapped archives about the fate of the 300 or so Jews of Amiens after the German invasion of France in 1940. These included personal files with photographs that local police stations created during June 1942 as part of a survey of the Jewish residents . From there the papers went on to the prefecture of the Somme department. The files make tangible the bureaucratic processes that made the Nazi genocide of European Jews possible in the first place.

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The Somme department provided enormous amounts of documents from the local prefecture for the project. These provide deep insights into the interaction of German military agencies and local authorities in the capture, robbery and murder of Jews in the region. From this, the historian, in collaboration with the municipality and the provincial administration, created an exhibition with the French title "Etre juif dans la Somme 1940-1945", which was then shown in Pittsburgh.

Rosenberg comes from Pittsburgh and during the negotiations over Nazi gold, Jewish assets and forced labor around the turn of the millennium, he initiated debates, initiated events and researched the history of the Bayer pharmaceutical company. Professionally, Rosenberg was an archivist at the University of Pittsburgh with a focus on workers' movement.

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