

The yizker bikher published in France after the Holocaust

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Until the 1960s, landsmanshaftn societies included more than 10,000 families in Paris alone, or three-quarters of Yiddish-speaking Jews. Composed mainly of Holocaust survivors, these societies gradually shifted from providing social services to serving as social spaces in which survivors could gather and share their memories of their traumatic experiences. They encouraged the publication of various memorial writings—from memorial books (yizker bikher) to historical essays and, sometimes, literary testimonies. This presentation analyzes all known publications from these landsmanshaftn societies in France between 1946 and the 1960s. Their distinctive features—such as the importance of war experiences in France, single-author-publications, or the emergence in Paris of the memorial book literary model—reflect the particularities of the Yiddish-speaking Holocaust survivors' community living in France, compared to their brethren—and interlocutors—in America or in Israel.