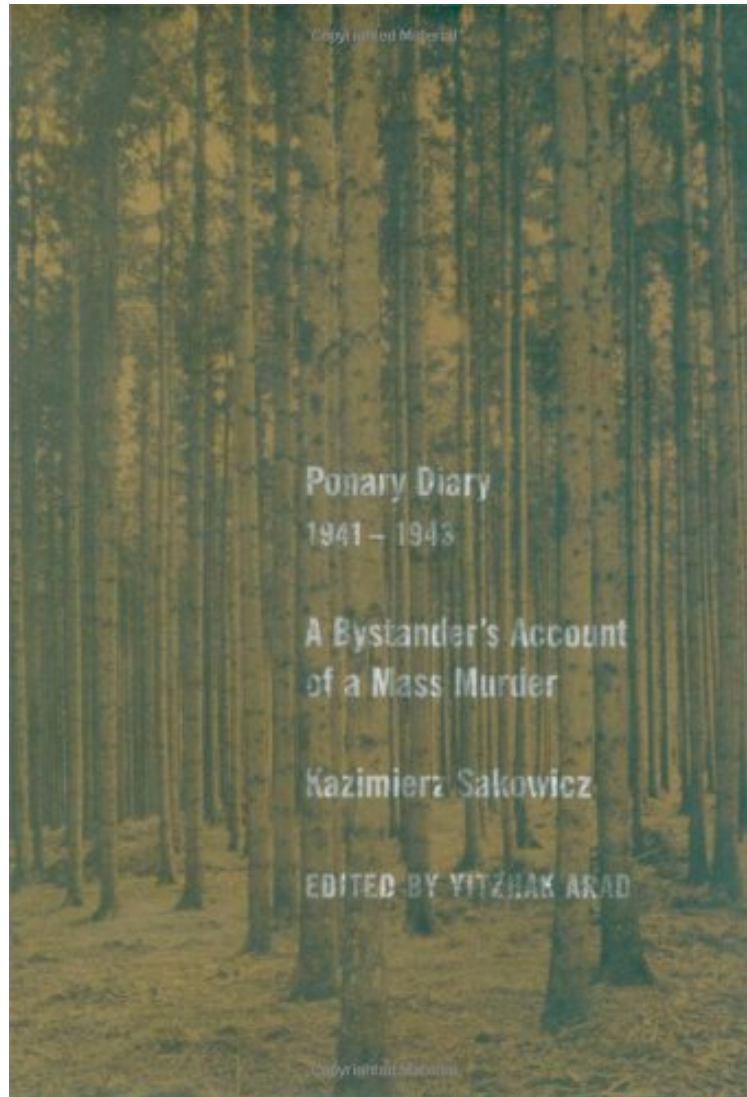


[Mobile ebook] Ponary Diary, 1941-1943: A Bystanders Account of a Mass Murder

## Ponary Diary, 1941-1943: A Bystanders Account of a Mass Murder

*Kazimierz Sakowicz*

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**Kazimierz Sakowicz : Ponary Diary, 1941-1943: A Bystanders Account of a Mass Murder** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ponary Diary, 1941-1943: A Bystanders Account of a Mass Murder:

29 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Shocking documentBy cccpI've decided to read this book because I visited Vilnius (Lithuania) last month and there I visited the KGB museum. The museum is very impressive, but where it does show a lot of wrongs of the KGB (when the Soviets were in power in Lith.), it hardly mentions anything at all about the significant role local Lithuanians played in the Holocaust during WW II. I stumbled upon this title by

surfing , and then decided to order it. The 'Ponary Diary' is hard to digest really. It is an almost casual diary of a Polish journalist who lived in the area of the infamous killing fields of Ponary. What I found so hard to digest, is the matter-of-fact style in which the entries are written. There is no emotion whatsoever, Sakowicz could have been describing the local cattle slaughter-house. But maybe it is a good thing he writes in such a distanced way, so the facts (the things he actually witnessed with his very own eyes) don't get blurred. I'm glad I read this book, but I would not want to read it again. It is that hard to take. (What bothered me also a bit, was the fact that nothing was written by way of an epilogue, of what happened to those sadistic Lithuanian and German mass-murderers. They remain nameless and faceless for the most part). 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Chilling and frightening By LoveHarryPotter I grew up with the Holocaust. I would wonder how people could let such things happen but came to realize how those who stood up were killed. Though this man could have done something to help those who were being killed, he made, at cost to his life, a record of what he saw and thus, what could have been considered a lie is truth. He detaches himself from what he saw and to protect his sanity. How would anyone believe such things happen. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent By Franks here I've read many, probably too many, books on the holocaust. I've written more than a few papers on the subject. This book does stand out from the rest, not necessarily better than, but different than. It is an excellent book, and it should be required reading for anyone interested in how "average citizens" ( the Lithuanians) could become the lapdogs of the Nazi machine. Hatred is a powerful thing, and this book explains the banality of the power when an entire society succumbs to it.

About sixty thousand Jews from Wilno (Vilnius, Jewish Vilna) and surrounding townships in present-day Lithuania were murdered by the Nazis and their Lithuanian collaborators in huge pits on the outskirts of Ponary. Over a period of several years, Kazimierz Sakowicz, a Polish journalist who lived in the village of Ponary, was an eyewitness to the murder of these Jews as well as to the murders of thousands of non-Jews on an almost daily basis. He chronicled these events in a diary that he kept at great personal risk. Written as a simple account of what Sakowicz witnessed, the diary is devoid of personal involvement or identification with the victims. It is thus a unique document: testimony from a bystander, an objective observer without an emotional or a political agenda, to the extermination of the Jews of the city known as the Jerusalem of Lithuania. Sakowicz did not survive the war, but much of his diary did. Painstakingly pieced together by Rahel Margolis from scraps of paper hidden in various locations, the diary was published in Polish in 1999. It is here published in English for the first time, extensively annotated by Yitzhak Arad to guide readers through the events at Ponary.

"This remarkable diary, written by a sympathetic Polish observer, gives a graphic and harrowing account of the mass murder of between fifty and sixty thousand Lithuanian Jews in the forest of Ponary just outside Vilna. It is a unique contribution to our understanding of the Holocaust." Antony Polonsky, Brandeis University