

When Anne Frank Met Astro Boy: Drawing the Holocaust through Manga

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We can never become just Netherlanders, or just English, or representatives of any country for that matter, we will always remain Jews, but we want to, too.

—Anne Frank

For the first anniversary of the massive Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami of 2011 that devastated northeastern Japan, Hiroshima Prefecture’s Horokōsuto Kinenkan ホロコースト記念館 (Holocaust Education Center) commissioned and distributed some 1,200 copies of a manga (print comic) adaptation of Anne Frank’s *Het Achterhuis* (1947; English trans., *The Diary of a Young Girl*, 1952) to the affected areas. The hope was that the children of Miyagi, Iwate, and Fukushima prefectures might find “hope and courage” through reading about the life of a young Jewish girl in hiding during World War II (Ōtsuka 2012: 2). Given the circumstances, this seems an odd choice since the historical Anne Frank died of typhus shortly before the liberation of

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