

**ANN WEST PAPERS, 1943-1988 (bulk 1943-1946)
1988.82.9**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
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Descriptive summary

Title: Ann West papers

Dates: 1943-1988 (bulk 1943-1946)

Accession number: 1988.82.9

Creator: West, Ann, 1920-

Extent: 0.4 linear foot (4 folders)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: The Ann West papers consist of Red Cross correspondence Ann sent to her sister in the United States just before her deportation to Auschwitz and following her liberation, an identification card documenting her mother's status as a victim of fascism, a photograph of six girls working at a German military laundry, lyrics to concentration camp songs, and a copy of a poem by Johannes R. Becher.

Languages: German, English

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Ann West papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Ann West donated the Ann West papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1988, 1989, and 1992. Accessions previously cataloged as 1989.120, 1989.210, and 1992.57 have been incorporated into this collection.

Related archival materials: Ann West also donated two Star of David badges, and armband from Malchow, a fabric swatch from her Auschwitz uniform, a piece of Theresienstadt scrip, and a personal narrative by Dachau political prisoner Bruno Theek (1988.82.1 through 1988.82.6) to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. An oral history interview conducted with Ann West on May 23rd, 1996 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, February 2015

Biographical note

Ann West (1920-) was born Anny Neumann in Leipzig to Leo and Johanna Neumann. She and her boyfriend (later husband) Heinz Rosenhain (1913-1945) joined the *Hachshara* in Ellguth (Oberschlesien), Gut Winkel (near Berlin), and finally Neuendorf bei Fürstenwalde, where she also worked at a German military laundry. In April 1943, she and her husband were deported with their friends to Auschwitz. Her husband perished at Ebensee (a subcamp of Mauthausen) just before liberation. West was evacuated from Auschwitz to Malchow (a subcamp of Ravensbrück) in January 1945. She escaped during the evacuation from Malchow in May 1945 and joined her sisters Emmy Pomper and Sabina Heliczer in the United States in 1946. Her mother survived Theresienstadt and immigrated to the United States in 1947. She married Czech Holocaust survivor Robert West.

Scope and content of collection

The Ann West papers consist of Red Cross correspondence Ann sent to her sister in the United States just before her deportation to Auschwitz and following her liberation, an identification card documenting her mother's status as a victim of fascism, a photograph of six girls working at a German military laundry, lyrics to concentration camp songs, and a copy of a poem by Johannes R. Becher.

The Red Cross correspondence includes Ann's last communication to her sister Emmy Pomper from the Hachshara at Neuendorf bei Fürstenwalde before her deportation to Auschwitz and her effort to contact Emmy following her liberation from Malchow.

Johanna Neumann's identification card documenting her status as a victim of fascism was issued in Leipzig in 1946.

The photograph depicts a group of girls who worked with Ann at a German military laundry during their time at Neuendorf bei Fürstenwalde. They were deported to Auschwitz with Ann and most were killed.

The songs and poem include typed lyrics to "Die Moorsoldaten" (mislabelled "Dachau Lied") and "Buchenwaldlied" and a photocopy of "Kinderschuhe aus Lublin." "Die Moorsoldaten" was composed by political prisoners in the Börgermoor concentration camp in 1933, "Buchenwaldlied" was composed

by Jewish prisoners in Buchenwald in 1938, and “Kinderschuhe aus Lublin” was written by Johannes R. Becher after the war. The lyrics and poem were given to Ann West by camp survivors.

System of arrangement

The Ann West papers are arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: Ann West papers, 1943-1988 (bulk 1943-1946)

Indexing terms

Jews--Germany--Leipzig.
Holocaust survivors--Germany--Correspondence.
Holocaust survivors--Identification.
World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Songs and music.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Poetry.
Laundresses--Germany.

Leipzig (Germany)
Fürstenwalde (Brandenburg, Germany)

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1:

Folder	
1	Correspondence (Red Cross) from Anni Rosenhain to Emmy Pompano, 1943-1945
2	Identification card documenting Johanna Neumann's status as a victim of fascism, 1946
3	Photograph of six girls in front of a German military laundry, approximately 1943
4	Songs and poem from concentration camps, approximately 1988