

**ELA WEISSBERGER PAPERS, approximately 1941-1989
1989.192.21**

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

Title: Ela Weissberger papers

Dates: approximately 1941-1989

Accession number: 1989.192.21

Creator: Weissberger, Ela, 1930-

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (5 folders)

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

Abstract: The Ela Weissberger papers consist of photocopies of materials related to cultural activities at Theresienstadt including a Purim play and *Brundibár*, poetry about Theresienstadt, a map of Theresienstadt and hand-colored coat of arms of Theresienstadt, and biographical materials and correspondence documenting Walter Weiss's imprisonment in Theresienstadt. Weiss was a cousin of Ela Weissberger.

Languages: Czech, 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), Ela Weissberger papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Ela Weissberger donated the Ela Weissberger papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1989.

Related materials: Ela Weissberger also donated a decorative metal cutout (1989.192.1) to the Museum. An oral history interview conducted with Ela Weissberger on December 7, 1997 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum. The Museum also holds five CDs of radio programming entitled "A Voice for the Silenced: Rediscovering Music Lost in the Holocaust," which was broadcast on Colorado Public Radio from May 2-5, 2005, and co-hosted by Monika Vischer and James Conlon with their guest Ela Stein Weissberger. The Museum's library holds a copy of Weissberger's book, *The cat with the yellow star: Coming of age in Terezin*. Weissberger also gave the Museum via Hadassah Rosensaft a videotape containing sequences from the film *Der Führer schenkt den Juden eine Stadt*.

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, July 2015

Biographical note

Ela Weissberger was born Ela Stein in 1930 in Lom u Mostu, Czechoslovakia (near Teplice) to Max and Marketa Stein. She relocated to Prague with her parents and sister Ilona (now Ilona Weinstock) after Kristallnacht, and they were deported to Theresienstadt in February 1942. At Theresienstadt Weissberger played the role of a cat in the children's opera *Brundibár*. In 1949 she moved to Israel with her mother and sister, married Leo Weissberger (1924-1994), and immigrated to the United States in 1958.

Scope and content of collection

The Ela Weissberger papers consist of photocopies of materials related to cultural activities at Theresienstadt including a Purim play and *Brundibár*, poetry about Theresienstadt, a map of Theresienstadt and hand-colored coat of arms of Theresienstadt, and biographical materials and correspondence documenting Walter Weiss's imprisonment in Theresienstadt. Weiss was a cousin of Ela Weissberger. His biographical materials include a vaccination card, a pass, two receipts documenting requests for passes, a tag bearing his identification number 646, an invitation to a soccer game and concert, an order to report for transport, and ration tickets. His correspondence consists of postcards he sent to or received from his mother Ruzenka (Rosa) Weiss and his aunt Marie Kral during his imprisonment in Theresienstadt.

System of arrangement

The Ela Weissberger papers are arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: Ela Weissberger papers, approximately 1941-1989

Indexing terms

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)

Jews--Czech Republic--Teplice.

Jewish children in the Holocaust--Czechoslovakia.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Czechoslovakia.
Concentration camp inmates--Czech Republic--Terezín (Ústecký kraj)

Teplice (Czech Republic)
Terezín (Ústecký kraj, Czech Republic)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Ela Weissberger papers, approximately 1941-1989

Folder	
1	Photocopies of artistic and literary materials, approximately 1989
2	Poetry, approximately 1945-1989
3	Theresienstadt coat of arms and map, approximately 1943-1945
4	Walter Weiss biographical materials, approximately 1943-1945
5	Walter Weiss postcards, 1941-1944