

BELA GONDOS FAMILY PAPERS, 1921-1995
1989.202.3

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

Title: Bela Gondos family papers

Dates: 1921-1995

Accession number: 1989.202.3

Creator: Gondos, Bela, 1903-2003

Additional creator: Gondos (Family : Budapest, Hungary)

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (14 folders and 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The Bela Gondos family papers consist of biographical materials, refugee and emigration papers, and writings documenting Bela, Anna, and Judith Gondos of Budapest and their journey aboard the rescue train organized by Rezső Kasztner, internment at Bergen-Belsen, transfer to Switzerland, and immigration to the United States.

Languages: English, Hungarian, German, French

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), Bela Gondos family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Bela Gondos and Judith Jacobs Gondos donated the Bela Gondos family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1989, 1995, 2006, and 2010. Accessions previously cataloged as 1995.A.0168, 2006.43.1, 2006.160, 2006.161, 2006.162.1, 2006.195, 2006.198, and 2010.241.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: Bela Gondos also donated a satirical watercolor by Istvan Irsai (1989.202.2) to the Museum, and Judith Jacobs Gondos also donated a suitcase (2003.198.1), a wallet (2003.198.2), a container (2003.198.3), three chemises (2003.198.4, 2003.198.5, and 2003.198.6), a watch (2003.198.7), eyeglasses (2003.198.8), a doll (2003.198.9), and a handkerchief (2003.198.10) to the Museum. The Museum also holds an oral history interview with Bela Gondos (2009.281.3).

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, May 2015

Biographical note

Bela Gondos (1903-2003) was born in Erdőbénye, Hungary, and lived with his wife, Anna (1910-1985), and daughter, Judith (1937-) in Budapest. Bela was a physician and Anna was an interior designer. He was conscripted into the Hungarian Labor Service around 1942. In June 1944 the Gondos family was selected by the Jewish Rescue Committee to leave Hungary on the Kasztner rescue train. The train departed Budapest on June 30, and the family was taken to Bergen-Belsen and placed in the *Ungarnlager* (Hungarian camp). They were released in December 1944 and taken to Switzerland. They immigrated to the United States in the fall of 1946, sailing from Genoa and eventually settled in Brookline, MA. Bela's mother, two sisters, one niece, three nephews, one aunt, and one brother-in-law were deported to Auschwitz and perished.

Scope and content of collection

The Bela Gondos family papers consist of biographical materials, refugee and emigration papers, and writings documenting Bela, Anna, and Judith Gondos of Budapest and their journey aboard the rescue train organized by Rezső Kasztner, internment at Bergen-Belsen, transfer to Switzerland, and immigration to the United States.

Biographical materials include birth and marriage certificates, identification papers, citizenship documents, education and professional records, foreign worker and air raid worker certificates, and inoculation records documenting Bela, Anna, and Judith Gondos and Bela's training and career as a physician. This series also includes an authorization signed by Dr. Polgar in Bergen-Belsen allowing Bela Gondos to receive wood for shoe soles.

Photographs depict the Gondos family, their friends, and Anna Gondos' parents, Jakab and Iren Havas.

Refugee and emigration papers include attestations and travel papers documenting the Gondos family's status as refugees in Switzerland and their departure via Genoa for the United States.

Writings consists of lectures presented by Bela Gondos to the Ohr Kodesh Congregation in Chevy Chase, Maryland, between 1989 and 1995 on topics including the Holocaust and Jewish communities in Hungary, the Kasztner train, and Jewish passivity, organization, or resistance in the face of the Holocaust.

System of arrangement

The Bela Gondos family papers are arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1921-1947
- Series 2: Photographs, 1929-1943
- Series 3: Refugee and emigration papers, 1945-1946
- Series 4: Writings, 1989-1995

Indexing terms

Kasztner, Rezső Rudolf,--1906-1957.

Bergen-Belsen (Concentration camp)

Jewish families--Hungary--Budapest.

Jewish physicians--Hungary--Budapest.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Hungary.

World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue--Hungary.

Concentration camp inmates--Germany--Bergen (Celle)

Jewish refugees--Switzerland.

Budapest (Hungary)

Belsen (Bergen, Celle, Germany)

Switzerland.

United States--Emigration and immigration--20th century.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1921-1947

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Gondos, Anna, 1939-1946
1 OS	2-5 1	Gondos, Bela, 1921-1947 (5 folders)
1	6	Gondos, Judith, 1944-1946

Series 2: Photographs, 1929-1943

Box	Folder	Title
1	7	Gondos, Bela, Anna, and Judith, 1938-1943
1	8	Havas, Jakab and Iren, 1929, approximately 1940

Series 3: Refugee and emigration papers, 1945-1946

Box	Folder	Title
1	9	Refugee and emigration papers, 1945-1946

Series 4: Writings, 1989-1995

Box	Folder	Title
1	10	<i>Diaspora, Holocaust and Resistance: Organization Generates Strength</i> , 1995
1	11	<i>The Hungarian Holocaust: How and Why?</i> , 1991
1	12	<i>A Hungarian Shtetl: The Story and its Lessons</i> , 1990
1	13	<i>The Kasztner Train: An Episode of the Holocaust</i> , 1989
1	14	<i>They Were Led Like "Lambs to the Slaughter." Is it True?</i> , 1992

Oversize material

Folder	Title
OS 1	Gondos, Bela, 1921-1947