

ABRAHAM LEWENT PAPERS, 1945-1950
1989.242.32

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Abraham Lewent papers

Dates: 1945-1950

Accession number: 1989.242.32

Creator: Lewent, Abraham, 1924-2002

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (6 folders)

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

Abstract: The Abraham Lewent papers include biographical materials, correspondence, immigration materials, poems, and personal narratives documenting Abraham Lewent, the concentration camps he survived during the Holocaust, his refugee and displaced person status and job training after liberation, and his immigration to the United States.

Languages: Yiddish, English, German, Polish, Hebrew

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), Abraham Lewent papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Abraham Lewent donated the Abraham Lewent papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1989 and 1991. The accession formerly cataloged as 1991.130 has been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: Abraham Lewent also donated a Buchenwald prisoner jacket (1989.242.1) to the Museum, and his son donated a wristwatch (2013.465.1) to the Museum. The Museum also holds an oral history interview conducted with Lewent on October 20, 1989. An oral history interview conducted with Lewent on March 15, 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, July 2015

Biographical note

Abraham Lewent (1924-2002) was born in Warsaw to Rafael Lewent and Hela Rozbruch and had three sisters. His father managed a clothing factory owned by his grandfather. The Lewents were confined to the Warsaw ghetto in 1940, and his mother and sisters were seized in a 1942 raid while Lewent hid in a crawl space. He performed forced labor, survived the Warsaw ghetto uprising in 1943, and was deported to Majdanek along with his father who perished there. After three months, Lewent was sent to the Skarżysko-Kamienna labor camp for about a year and a half. He was then sent to Buchenwald, its subcamp at Schlieben, the Natzweiler-Struthof subcamp at Bisingen, and Dachau. He was forced on a death march in 1945 and was liberated by United States Army. He relocated to the Munich area and immigrated to the United States in September 1949.

Scope and content of collection

The Abraham Lewent papers include biographical materials, correspondence, immigration materials, poems, and personal narratives documenting Abraham Lewent, the concentration camps he survived during the Holocaust, his refugee and displaced person status and job training after liberation, and his immigration to the United States.

Biographical materials include a list of the places Lewent was incarcerated, a certificate documenting his detention in Dachau, an identification card from the Feldafing displaced persons camp, a membership card for the Council of Warsaw Jews in the American Zone of Germany, a Munich public transportation pass, a notice indicating that a lung condition would delay Lewent's Aliyah, a Jewish Agency for Palestine certificate of registration, an ORT school identification card and professional testing certificate, an International Refugee Organization professional testing certificate and affidavit attesting to Lewent's identity, Munich Jewish Community membership card, a work card, and a hospital canteen card.

Correspondence includes tracing materials from the Jewish Agency and International Refugee Organization documenting Lewent's efforts to trace his relatives and a letter from the Yiddish Workers' Committee in New York City documenting Yiddish books Lewent had given the Committee.

Immigration materials include correspondence with the Displaced Persons Commission, Hebrew Immigration Aid Society, and International Refugee Organization; an affidavit of support; baggage checks and tags; a news bulletin from Lewent's transatlantic crossing; and an application initiating the naturalization process.

Writings consist of two notebooks containing Lewent's personal poems, notes, and observations about Jewish life in Warsaw, the ghetto, and antifascist resistance. Most are in Yiddish and some are in Polish.

System of arrangement

The Abraham Lewent papers are arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: Abraham Lewent papers, 1945-1950

Indexing terms

Buchenwald (Concentration camp)

Struthof (Concentration camp)

Dachau (Concentration camp)

Jews--Poland--Warsaw.

Jewish ghettos--Poland--Warsaw.

Holocaust survivors--Poetry.

Refugees--Germany.

Warsaw (Poland)

Munich (Germany)

Feldafing (Germany)

Gauting (Germany)

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

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Abraham Lewent papers, 1945-1950

Folder	
1-2	Biographical materials, 1945-1950 (2 folders)
3	Correspondence, 1946-1947
4	Immigration materials, 1949-1950
5-6	Writings, 1945-1946 (2 folders)