

**IRVING HEYMONT PAPERS, 1933-1995**  
**1989.259.3**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Irving Heymont papers

Dates: 1933-1995

Accession number: 1995.A.0159

Creator: Irving Heymont

Extent: 1 box, 1 oversized folder

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

Abstract: The Irving Heymont papers contains material concerning Irving Heymont, a U.S. Army officer who assisted in the liberation of Gunskirchen, and was tasked in the administration of the Landsberg am Lech displaced persons camp. Within the collection are letters from Irving to his wife, Joan, discussing the conditions and administration of the camp. Other items include military reports, theses on the Landsberg camp, and various mixed media including German cigarette cards, news clippings, and various photographs of Landsberg and the Gunskirchen liberation.

Languages: English, German

**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: Irving Heymont papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

**Acquisition information:** The Irving Heymont papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Irving Heymont. The papers are a result of several donations made in 1989, 1994, 1998, 2005 and 2006. These donations were given separate accession numbers: 1989.259, 1995.A.0159, 2004.80, 2005.352.1, 2006.239, and 2006.80. These accessions are now unified, and can be located through the accession number 1989.259.3.

**Related archival materials:** USHMM also houses several oral histories given by Irving Heymont.

**Accruals:** Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at [collections.ushmm.org](http://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

**Processing history:** Michael Folkerts, July 2015

### **Biographical note**

Irving Heymont was born in 1919 to a Jewish family in Brooklyn, New York. He worked as a metallurgical chemist before marrying his wife Joan and enlisting in the Army in 1940. He served in the Panama Canal Zone until the United States was drawn into World War II. In the war, Heymont served in Germany and Austria as an officer in the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. Towards the end of the war, he assisted in the liberation of Gunskirchen, a sub camp of Mauthausen and was later awarded the Silver Star medal for gallantry in action. Upon the war's conclusion, the 27 year old Heymont was assigned to run the displaced persons camp in Landsberg am Lech, Germany. His responsibilities included moving non-Jews out of Landsberg and abolishing the pass system which had restricted the freedom of movement of Jewish refugees. Heymont never disclosed his Jewish background to others, as he feared subverting military discipline. He wished to restore the refugee's dignity by treating them with dignity, knowing that "had my father not fled Russia, my family might have been inhabitants of the camp." Heymont continued to serve in the United States Army in Korea, and retired from military service in 1964. Throughout his life, he continued to educate people on the horrors of the Holocaust, up to his death in 2009.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The Irving Heymont papers contain primarily reports and correspondence related to the Landsberg am Lech displaced persons (DP) Camp, of which Heymont was tasked to administer. The majority of the correspondence is from Heymont to his wife Joan from late 1945 to early 1946, and discusses his experiences and camp conditions. Other correspondence is a letter from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration to Joan, and a letter from Frederic Schafranek regarding the suicide of Dr. Max Blanke, an SS doctor and Landsberg-Kaufering. The reports in this collection are various military reports regarding Landsberg DP camp, as well as a booklet describing the 71<sup>st</sup> infantry division liberating Gunskirchen. The theses are various German theses collected by Heymont covering the topic of the Landsberg DP camp. The mixed media series contains photographs of Gunskirchen and Landsberg am Lech, Nazi propaganda cigarette cards, various news clippings, and a videocassette of the memorial dedication at the site of the Landsberg DP camp in 1989.

### **System of arrangement**

The Irving Heymont papers are arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1945-1995
- Series 2: Reports and theses, 1945-1992
- Series 3: Mixed media, 1933-1989

### **Indexing terms**

Heymont, Irving  
Heymont, Joan  
Schafranek, Frederic  
Blanke, Max

Gunskirchen (Concentration camp)  
Landsberg am Lech (Displaced persons camp)  
Mauthausen (Concentration camp)  
United States. Army. Infantry Division, 71st.  
United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 5th (1815-1957)  
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

Concentration camp inmates.  
Jewish refugees--Germany.  
Refugee camps--Germany.  
World War, 1939-1945--Veterans--United States.  
Jewish refugees--Germany--Landsberg am Lech  
Holocaust survivors--Germany--Landsberg am Lech  
Jews--United States--Correspondence  
United States.--Army--Officers--Correspondence  
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees  
World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Liberation--Austria.

Landsberg am Lech (Germany)  
Gunskirchen (Austria)

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Series 1: Correspondence, 1945-1995**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Heymont, Joan, September 1945
2	Heymont, Joan, October 1945
3	Heymont, Joan, November 1945
4	Heymont, Joan, December 1945
5	Heymont, Joan, January 1946
6	Heymont, Joan, February 1946 and undated
7	Schafranek, Frederic, 1995
8	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, 1945-1950

### **Series 2: Reports and theses, 1945-1992**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
9	<i>Das DP-Lager Landsberg am Lech</i> , 1991
10	<i>Das DP-Lager Landsberg / Lech von 1945-1951</i> , 1989

11	<i>Das Landsberger DP-Camp unter der Leitung</i> , 1990
12	<i>Die Jiddisch "Landsberger Lager-Cajtung" als Quelle zur Beschreibung des DP-Lagers in Landsberg von 1945-1948</i> , 1992
13	Military reports, approximately 1945
14	<i>The Seventy-First Came...to Gunskirchen Lager</i> , 1945

**Series 3: Mixed Media, 1933-1989**

Folder	Title
15	Cigarette cards, approximately 1933
16	Landsberg dedication, 1989 [video tape]
17, OS1	Landsberg photograph collage, 1988 [see oversized folder]
18	News clippings, 1945
19-20	Photographs, 1945-1946

**Oversized folder**

Folder	Title
1	Landsberg photograph collage, 1988