

**NORBERT J. YASHAROFF COLLECTION, circa 1900-2003**  
**1990.151**

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

Title: Norbert J. Yasharoff collection

Dates: circa 1900-2003 (bulk: 1940-1945)

Catalog number: 1990.151

Creator: Yasharoff, Norbert J.

Extent: 4 folders

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

Abstract: The Norbert J. Yasharoff collection consists of photographs of the Yasharoff family of Sofia, Bulgaria before and during World War II; a letter written by Norbert Yasharoff to his cousin Narcisse Barouch, dated June 26, 1943; speeches relating to the Yasharoff family's Holocaust experiences in Bulgaria; and *Reaching the Light at the End of the Tunnel*, a Holocaust memoir written by Norbert J. Yasharoff.

Languages: English and Bulgarian

**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), Norbert J. Yasharoff (1990.151), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Norbert J. Yasharoff donated the Norbert J. Yasharoff collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1990 and 2002.

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

Related materials: Portraits of Norbert Yasharoff (PN: N00756.12; ID5482). Oral history interview with Norbert Yasharoff conducted on November 22, 1989 (1989.A.0355 / RG-50.030.0263); Oral history interview with Halina Peabody, wife of Norbert Yasharoff, conducted on June 3, 2002 (2002.68 / RG-50.106.0152). USC Shoah Foundation Institute testimony of Norbert Yasharoff (VHA Interview code: 35703). Photographs of the Yasharoff family in Sofia, Bulgaria available in the USHMM Photo Archives (PA#: 88590, 88587, 01228, 01210, 01209, 21434, 21433, 01218, 88589, 88588).

Processing history: Finding aid updated by Katelynn Vance, May 2020

### **Biographical note**

Norbert Yasharoff (1930-2013) was born on February 18, 1930 in Sofia, Bulgaria to Joseph (1894-1971) and Nelly Yasharoff (1910-1982). He had a sister, Odette Yasharoff (later Ora Odette Wolfram, 1936-2006). His father, Joseph Yasharoff, a prominent lawyer, was also active in the Jewish community, heading relief efforts for the city's Jewish orphans. In May 1943, the family was deported to Plevan in northern Bulgaria where they lived with relatives. Norbert even attended public school. The Soviet army arrived on September 9, 1944. Norbert finished high school in Sofia after the war. In 1948 he immigrated to Israel and later moved to the United States. Norbert Yasharoff married Halina Peabody and they had two sons. Norbert Yasharoff died on January 19, 2013.

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

The Norbert J. Yasharoff collection consists of photographs of the Yasharoff family of Sofia, Bulgaria before and during World War II; a letter written by Norbert Yasharoff to his cousin Narcisse Barouch, dated June 26, 1943; speeches relating to the Yasharoff family's Holocaust experiences in Bulgaria; and *Reaching the Light at the End of the Tunnel*, a Holocaust memoir written by Norbert J. Yasharoff. Many of the people in the photographs are mentioned in the memoir. The letter written by Norbert Yasharoff is addressed to his cousin Narcisse Barouch who was stationed in a northern Bulgaria in a forced labor battalion. The letter was written one month after the family's expulsion from Sofia and describes the family's experience.

### **System of arrangement**

The Norbert J. Yasharoff collection is arranged in four series.

Series 1: Yasharoff family photographs, circa 1900-1943

Series 2: Letter from Plevan, Bulgaria, June 26, 1943

Series 3: Norbert Yasharoff memoir

Series 4: Norbert Yasharoff speeches and letters regarding the Holocaust in Bulgaria, 2003

### **Indexing terms**

#### **People:**

Davidoff, Albert.

Lantos, Tom, 1928-2008.

Yasharoff, Berta.

Yasharoff, Joseph, 1894-1971.

Yasharoff, Lisa.

Yasharoff, Nelly, 1910-1982.

Yasharoff, Nissim.

Yasharoff, Norbert J., 1930-2013.

Yasharoff, Odette, 1936-2006.

**Topics:**

Children.  
Families.  
Holocaust survivors.  
Jewish lawyers.  
Jewish funder rites and ceremonies.  
Vitosha Mountains (Bulgaria)

**Geography:**

Bulgaria.  
Sofia (Bulgaria)

**Genre / Form:**

Photographs.  
Speeches.  
Memoirs.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Series 1: Yasharoff family photographs, circa 1900-1943**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
1 of 4	Yasharoff family photographs, circa 1900-1943

**Series 2: Letter from Plevan, Bulgaria, June 26, 1943**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
2 of 4	Letter written by Nobert Yasharoff, June 26, 1943

Series 3: Norbert Yasharoff memoir

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
3 of 4	<i>Reaching the Light at the End of the Tunnel</i> , memoir

Norbert Yasharoff speeches and letters regarding the Holocaust in Bulgaria, 2003

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
4 of 4	Speeches and letters, 2003