

LEO ARNFELD PAPERS, 1920-1958
1990.16.99

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Leo Arnfeld papers

Dates: 1920-1958

Accession number: 1990.16.99

Creator: Arnfeld, Leo, 1939-

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Leo Arnfeld papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, and a satirical pamphlet documenting the Arnfeld family in Warsaw, Sara and Leo Arnfeld in the Warsaw ghetto, Chaim Arnfeld in Vilnius, Kobe, and Shanghai, and Leo Arnfeld's postwar life in Munich. The collection also includes cosmetics and pharmaceutical labels.

Languages: Polish, English, Chinese, German, Japanese

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), Leo Arnfeld papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Leo Arnfeld donated the Leo Arnfeld papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1990 and 2000. The accession previously cataloged as 2000.74 has been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: Leo Arnfeld also donated a number of pieces of German and Chinese currency, Japanese Allied Military currency, and Lodz ghetto scrip (1990.16.39-1990.16.78), a "Foreign Pao Chia Vigilance Corps" armband from Shanghai (1990.16.82) and a metal Chinese travel permit tag (1990.16.81.b) to the Museum. An oral history interview with Leo Arnfeld dated June 19, 1996, which form part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive, can be accessed 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, November 2013

Biographical note

Leo Arnfeld was born in 1939 in Warsaw to pharmacist Chaim Wolf (Henry) Arnfeld and Sara Sniadowicz Arnfeld. His father was drafted at the outbreak of World War II and sent to Vilnius on the Russian front. He obtained a Japanese visa from Chiune Sempo Sugihara, traveled to Kobe, and then made his way to Shanghai. Leo remained in Warsaw with his mother, and the two were moved to the Warsaw ghetto and then the Poniatowa labor camp. Leo was smuggled out of the camp in a bread basket by a family friend named Wieshnevski and hidden in the home of Irena Dumbrowska under a false name. Sara Arnfeld is believed to have been killed during the liquidation of the Poniatowa labor camp. After the war, Leo was found by his aunt and moved to Munich. Chaim Arnfeld moved to Paris after the war. Leo immigrated to the United States in 1953 with his aunt and settled in Brookline.

Scope and content of collection

The Leo Arnfeld papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, and a satirical pamphlet documenting the Arnfeld family in Warsaw, Sara and Leo Arnfeld in the Warsaw ghetto, Chaim Arnfeld in Vilnius, Kobe, and Shanghai, and Leo Arnfeld's postwar life in Munich. The collection also includes cosmetics and pharmaceutical labels and sample from Chaim Arnfeld's pharmacy in Warsaw.

Biographical materials consist of business cards, identification papers, and a prescription documenting Chaim Arnfeld's situation and work in Shanghai.

Correspondence consists primarily of letters and postcards from Sara Arnfeld to her husband in Kobe describing her experiences with Leo in the Warsaw ghetto. This series also includes two postcards from Holocaust survivor Abram Kadysiewicz in Szczecin and two empty envelopes from survivor Regina Gutrajch, who had been a neighbor of Sara's and Leo's in the ghetto, as well as a copy of Sara's and Chaim's 1938 wedding invitation.

Pharmacy records include product labels and samples and a letter documenting Chaim Arnfeld's employment.

Photographs depict Leo, Chaim, and Sara Arnfeld and their family members and friends in Warsaw, the Warsaw ghetto, Vilnius, Shanghai, and Munich. This series also includes a photograph of Kanoh Ghoya, an official in the Hongkew ghetto in Shanghai.

The collection includes a 1945 pamphlet, "Good-bye Mr. Ghoya," including a series of color cartoons by F. Melchior that parodies Kanoh Ghoya, the Hongkew ghetto official in charge of distributing temporary leave passes to ghetto residents.

System of arrangement

The Leo Arnfeld papers are arranged as five series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1940s
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1938-1946
- Series 3: Pharmacy records, 1930s-1940
- Series 4: Photographs, 1920-1958
- Series 5: Printed materials, 1945

Indexing terms

Jews--Poland--Warsaw.

Pharmacists--Poland--Warsaw.

Jewish ghettos--Poland--Warsaw.

Hidden children (Holocaust)

Jewish refugees--China--Shanghai.

Drugstores--Poland--Warsaw.

Cosmetics industry--Poland--Warsaw.

Cosmetics--Labeling.

Cosmetics containers

Warsaw (Poland)

Hongkou Qu (Shanghai, China)

Kōbe-shi (Japan)

Munich (Germany)

Vilnius (Lithuania)

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1940s

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Business cards, 1940s
1	2	Identification papers and membership cards, 1941-1947
1	3	Prescription, 1948

Series 2: Correspondence, 1938-1946

Box	Folder	Title
1	4-5	Arnfeld, Sara to Chaim Arnfeld, 1940-1941 (2 folders)
1	6	Gutrajch, Regina to Chaim Arnfeld, envelopes, 1945
1	7	Kadysiewicz, Abram to Chaim Arnfeld, 1946
1	8	Wedding invitation for Chaim Arnfeld and Sara Sniadowicz, 1938

Series 3: Pharmacy records, 1930s-1940

Box	Folder	Title
1	9	Labels, 1930s
1	10	Note on company letterhead that Chaim Arnfeld served as manager, 1940
1	11	Samples, 1930s

Series 4: Photographs, 1920-1958

Box	Folder	Title
1	12	Arnfeld, Chaim, Vilnius, 1939-1940
1	13	Arnfeld, Chaim, Warsaw, 1920-1922
1	14-15	Arnfeld, Chaim, with friends in Shanghai, 1942-1948 (2 folders)
1	16	Arnfeld, Chaim and Sara, Wedding, honeymoon, and vacation, 1937-1938
1	17	Arnfeld, Leo, 1958
1	18	Arnfeld, Leo, Warsaw, 1939-1940
1	19	Arnfeld, Leo, with aunt, uncle, cousins, and friends in Munich, 1947
1	20-21	Arnfeld, Leo, with his mother in Warsaw and in the ghetto, 1939-1941 (2 folders)
1	22	Ghoya, Kanoh, 1945
1	23	Sniadowicz, Sara, and her family, approximately 1930s

Series 5: Printed materials, 1945

Box	Folder	Title
1	24	"Good-bye Mr. Ghoya," 1945