

SIMONE WEIL LIPMAN PAPERS, 1938-1946
1990.184.84

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

Title: Simone Weil Lipman papers

Dates: 1938-1946

Accession number: 1990.184.84

Creator: Lipman, Simone Weil, 1920-2011

Extent: 0.4 linear foot (4 folders)

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

Abstract: The Simone Weil Lipman papers consist of biographical materials and photographs documenting Lipman's work rescuing Jewish children with the Œuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE) in Rivesaltes, Poulouzat, and Châteauroux during the Holocaust and caring for child survivors at the le Petit Monde children's home near Paris after the war.

Languages: French, English

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), Simone Weil Lipman papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Simone Weil Lipman donated the Simone Weil Lipman papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1990.

Related materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds oral history interviews conducted with Simone Weil Lipman on July 3, 1990 (1990.418.1) and August 4, 1998 (1998.A.0167).

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, June 2015

Biographical note

Simone Lipman (1920-2011) was born Simone Margaret Weil in Ringendorf (Bas-Rhin) to Abraham and Jeanne (Schwab) Weil. She moved to Strasbourg at age three with her parents and her brother, Roger, and was active in the Jewish scouting movement, les Eclaireurs Israelites de France. As war broke out, her family moved to Blâmont and then Périgueux. In 1941, Lipman began relief work with the Œuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE) at the concentration camp at Rivesaltes, distributing food, caring for the children, and finding ways to get them out of the camp and into OSE homes. When Rivesaltes closed at the end of 1942, she began working at the Poulouzat children's home near Limoges. In 1943 she moved to Châteauroux, assumed a non-Jewish identity (Simone Werlin), and helped remove Jewish children from OSE homes, assign them non-Jewish identities, and move them into hiding. After the war she helped reopen the OSE home in Montintin and establish the Petit Monde children's home near Paris. She studied social work at Tulane and Western Reserve University in 1946 and 1947 and returned to France to work for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee surveying children's homes and the needs of survivor children. She immigrated to the United States in 1949.

Scope and content of collection

The Simone Weil Lipman papers consist of biographical materials and photographs documenting Lipman's work rescuing Jewish children with the Œuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE) in Rivesaltes, Poulouzat, and Châteauroux during the Holocaust and caring for child survivors at the le Petit Monde children's home near Paris after the war.

Biographical materials include identification papers and education and employment records in Lipman's assumed name (Simone Werlin) and attestations documenting her work rescuing and caring for Jewish children with the OSE at Rivesaltes and Châteauroux during the Holocaust.

Photographs depict prisoners, buildings, volunteer resident social workers, children, and scout troops at the concentration camp at Rivesaltes; children and staff at the OSE children's home in Poulouzat; and children and staff at the Petit Monde children's home near Paris. (See Photo Archives for detailed descriptions.)

System of arrangement

The Simone Weil Lipman papers are arranged as two series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1938-1945
- Series 2: Photographs, 1942-1946

Indexing terms

Œuvre de secours aux enfants (France)
Rivesaltes (Concentration camp)

Jews--France--Ringendorf.
Child concentration camp inmates--Care--France--Rivesaltes.
Jewish women in the Holocaust--France.
Social workers--France.
World War, 1939-1945--Children.
World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue--France.

Strasbourg (France)
Rivesaltes (France)
Limoges (France)
Châteauroux (France)
Paris (France)

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1938-1945

Box	Folder	
1	1	Lipman, Simone Weil, 1938-1945

Series 2: Photographs, 1942-1946

Box	Folder	
1	2	Rivesaltes, 1942
1	3	OSE home in Poulouzat, 1943
1	4	Le Petit Monde children's home, 1946