

LILA LAM NOWAKOWSKA PAPERS, 1933-2007 (bulk 1945-1952)
1991.102.21

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

Title: Lila Lam Nowakowska papers

Dates: 1933-2007 (bulk 1945-1952)

Accession number: 1991.102.21

Creator: Nowakowska, Lila Lam, 1922-

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 Lila Lam Nowakowska papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, and photographs documenting Lila's assumed identity in Warsaw during the Holocaust, her internment at Mauthausen and forced labor in Steyr and Znojmo, her postwar reunion with her mother, and the Jewish orphanage where her mother worked in Chorzów after the war.

Languages: Polish, German, Czech

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), Lila Lam Nowakowska papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Lila Lam Nowakowska donated the Lila Lam Nowakowska papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1991, 1994, 2008, and 2012. Accessions previously cataloged as 1994.15, 2008.108.1, and 2012.376.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds an oral history interview conducted with Lila Lam Nowakowska on August 20, 1990 (1990.431). Another oral history interview conducted with Lila Lam Nowakowska on September 17, 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, June 2015

Biographical note

Lila Lam Nowakowska was born in 1922 in Stanisławów, Poland (Ivano-Frankivs'k, Ukraine). Following the German invasion in summer 1941, she and her family were forced into the Stanisławów ghetto where her father was briefly chairman of the Judenrat. She obtained false papers along with her mother, brother, and uncle, and they escaped the Stanisławów ghetto in 1942. Using false papers, Lila went to Warsaw, Poland, and lived under an assumed identity, Leonora Leska, until the Warsaw Uprising in 1944. Then she was taken with other Warsaw civilians to the transit camp, Pruszkow, then to Mauthausen where she was quarantined for three weeks. She performed forced labor at the Steyr labor camp near Linz, Austria, until January 1945 and then at the Znojmo labor camp in Czechoslovakia until she was liberated by the Soviets in May 1945. She returned to Poland after World War II and was reunited with her mother who was working at a Jewish orphanage in Chorzów, Poland. Her father and brother both perished during the Holocaust

Scope and content of collection

The Lila Lam Nowakowska papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, and photographs documenting Lila's assumed identity in Warsaw during the Holocaust, her internment at Mauthausen and forced labor in Steyr and Znojmo, her postwar reunion with her mother, and the Jewish orphanage where her mother worked in Chorzów after the war.

Biographical materials include identification and work papers under Lila Lam Nowakowska's assumed identity, Leonora Leska.

Correspondence includes postwar letters from Lila and Dorota Lam in Chorzów, Nowy Tomysl, Elblag, and Cracow to Adam Sznaper in Starogrod, Koszalin, Szczecin, and Warsaw. This series also includes a 2007 letter from Adam to Lila returning the letters to her and commenting on the pain of the wartime and postwar periods.

Photographs depict Lila Lam Nowakowska, her mother Dorota, her brother Henryk, her cousin Hugo, Dorota's sister-in-law Charlotte Lam, children at the Jewish orphanage where her mother worked in Chorzów after the war. This series includes Mauthausen mug shots of Lila Lam Nowakowska and Stefania Korwin-Kossakowska.

System of arrangement

The Lila Lam Nowakowska papers are arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1940-1946
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1945-2007 (bulk 1945-1952)
- Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1933-1948

Indexing terms

Mauthausen (Concentration camp)

Jews--Ukraine-- Ivano-Frankivs'k.

Jewish ghettos--Ukraine-- Ivano-Frankivs'k.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Ukraine.

Identification cards--Forgeries--Poland.

Hiding places--Poland--Warsaw.

Forced labor--Austria--Steyr.

Forced labor--Czech Republic--Znojmo.

Orphanages--Poland-- Chorzów (Województwo Śląskie)

Ivano-Frankivs'k (Ukraine)

Warsaw (Poland)

Steyr (Austria)

Znojmo (Czech Republic)

Chorzów (Województwo Śląskie, Poland)

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1940-1946

Folder	
1	Nowakowska, Lila Lam, 1940-1946

Series 2: Correspondence, 1945-2007 (bulk 1945-1952)

Folder	
2	Lam, Lila and Dorota, 1945-1947, 1952, 2007

Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1933-1948

Folder	
3	Family and friends, approximately 1933-1944

4	Jewish orphanage in Chorzow, Poland, 1945-1946
5	Lam, Dorota, approximately 1946-1947
6	Nowakowska, Lila Lam, approximately 1944-1948