

**WILLIAM HERSKOVIC PAPERS, 1942-approximately 1995
1991.211.3**

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

Title: William Herskovic papers

Dates: 1942-approximately 1995

Accession number: 1991.211.3

Creator: Herskovic, William, 1914-2006

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 William Herskovic papers include two postcards written by Ezryl Anielewicz at the Jawischowitz concentration camp to his wife Mirele in Belgium, a photocopy of an attestation confirming William Herskovic's report of his escape from the Peiskretschan labor camp, Suzanne Herskovic Ponder's account of her father's escape from Peiskretschan, and a requisition order confiscating Herskovic's photography studio.

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: (Identification of item), William Herskovic papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: William Herskovic, Maria Herskovic, and Suzanne Herskovic Ponder donated the William Herskovic papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1991, 1995,

and 2011. The accessions formerly cataloged as 1995.A.0614 and 2011.186.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: An oral history interview conducted with William Herskovic on January 10, 1995 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum. The Museum's library holds a copy of Patricia Herskovic's *Escape to Life: A Journey through the Holocaust: The memories of Maria and William Herskovic*. The Museum also holds the memoir and papers of William Herskovic's younger brother, Otto (2015.301.1).

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, September 2015

Biographical note

William Herskovic (1914-2006) was born in Fišar (near Vrbnica, in what was then Hungary and is now Slovakia) and moved to Antwerp, Belgium, in 1929. He worked as a portrait photographer until his business was confiscated in 1942. He attempted to flee Europe with his wife, Esther, and their daughters, Katie and Germaine, but they were caught in Angoulême, France, and deported via Drancy on convoy 32. In Kędzierzyn-Koźle, Poland, Herskovic was removed from the train. His wife and daughters were murdered at Auschwitz while Herskovic was sent to the Peiskretscham labor camp, an Auschwitz sub-camp. He escaped in December 1942, returned to Belgium, and alerted the Judenrat and the Belgian resistance about the deportations and labor camps. He survived the remainder of the war under an assumed identity. After the war he married Mirele (Mireille, Maria) Maschkivitzan Anielewicz (b. 1923), the sister of his late wife and widow of Ezryl Anielewicz (1921-1945), who had survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald but perished in June 1945. The couple had three daughters in Belgium, immigrated to the United States in 1957, and settled in Los Angeles, where they established a photography business in Westwood.

Scope and content of collection

The William Herskovic papers include two postcards written by Ezryl Anielewicz at the Jawischowitz concentration camp to his wife Mirele in Belgium, a photocopy of an attestation confirming William Herskovic's report of his escape from the Peiskretscham labor camp, Suzanne Herskovic Ponder's account of her father's escape from Peiskretscham, and a requisition order confiscating Herskovic's photography studio.

System of arrangement

The William Herskovic papers are arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: William Herskovic papers, 1942-approximately 1995

Indexing terms

Drancy (Concentration Camp)

Peiskretscham (Concentration Camp)

Jawischowitz (Concentration camp)

Jews--Slovakia.

Jewish photographers--Belgium--Antwerp.

Concentration camp escapes--Poland--Pyskowice (Katowice).

Concentration camp inmates--Poland--Jawiszowice--Correspondence.

Aryanization--Belgium--Antwerp.

Antwerp (Belgium)

Pyskowice (Katowice, Poland)

Jawiszowice (Poland)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: William Herskovic papers, 1942-approximately 1995

Folder	
1	Anielewicz, Ezryl, postcards from Jawischowitz concentration camp, 1943
2	Attestation confirming William Herskovic's report of his escape from a concentration camp, 1951, photocopy, approximately 1995
3	<i>Escape: The true account of William Herskovic's escape from a Concentration Camp as told to Suzanne Herskovic Ponder, approximately 1995</i>
4	Requisition order for the photographic studio of William Herskovic, 1942