

HYMAN KIRSCH PAPERS, circa 1910s-1930s
1992.42.7

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

Title: Hyman Kirsch papers

Dates: circa 1910s-1930s

Accession number: 1992.42.7

Creator: Kirsch, Hyman (1924-2014)

Extent: 0.01 linear foot (2 folders)

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

Abstract: The Hyman Kirsch papers includes photographs of the Kirszencwajg family taken in Poland prior to World War II, and a fragment of an engagement announcement for Golda Kirszencwajg and Chaim Berenzweig, circa 1912-1914.

Languages: Hebrew, Polish

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), Hyman Kirsch papers (1992.42.7), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Hyman Kirsch donated the Hyman Kirsch papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1992.

Separated materials: Hyman Kirsch also donated a Yiddish prayer book (1992.42.1) to the Museum.

Related material: A group photograph of the Kirszenchwajg family taken in Poland between 1933-1935, can be found in the United State Holocaust Memorial Museum's photograph archive under the title Kirschenzweig family portrait (48860). Identified in the photograph is (left-right): Ruth (sister), Freda (mother), Herman (brother), Blina (sister), Harry (father), Hyman.

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

Processing history: Katelynn Vance, January 2019

Biographical note

Hyman Kirsch (born Chaim Kirszenchwajg , 1924-2014) was born in 1924 in Ciechanów, Poland to Harry and Freda (née Levkowitz) Kirszenchwajg . Hyman was the youngest of four children. In August 1941, the family was sent to live in the Nowe Miasto ghetto in the Zichenau region of Poland. Hyman and his father escaped the ghetto in July 1942. They hid on farms and in the woods before being captured by the Germans. They were imprisoned in the Baranwicze ghetto for a few months before escaping again. On November 18, 1942, the Nowe Miasto ghetto was liquidated and all the Jews were sent to the Płońsk ghetto. On November 30, 1942, the Jews originally from the Nowe Miasto ghetto were sent on transport 2 from the Płońsk ghetto to Auschwitz concentration camp. This is the likely experience of Hyman's mother, sister Blina, and brother Herman since they did not escape the Nowe Miasto ghetto and perished at Auschwitz. Hyman and his father lived in the woods until October 1944 when they were liberated by the Soviet army. Hyman's sister Ruth also survived the war by escaping to the Soviet Union, but other members of the family perished including Hyman's aunt and uncle Golda and Chaim Berenzweig.

Early in 1945, Hyman returned to his grandparent's apartment at Franciszkańska St. #4 in Lodz, Poland and recovered a few family possessions, including the materials he later donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In May 1945, while searching for survivors of Ciechanów at a Jewish center in Lodz, Poland, Hyman met Anna (born Chanka Garbarska). Anna, who was also from Ciechanów, survived imprisonment at the Nowe Miasto ghetto and Auschwitz concentration camp where she was assigned the number 24771. Despite being from the same hometown, they had not met prior to the end of the war. Hyman and Anna married in December 1945 and immigrated to the United States with Hyman's father in 1947. They settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. When they became United States citizens in 1953, they changed their names to Hyman and Anna Kirsch. They had three children, twins Bernard and George Kirsch, and Nina Samlin (née Kirsch). Both Hyman and Ann Kirsch died in 2014.

Scope and content of collection

The Hyman Kirsch papers includes photographs of the Kirszencwajg family taken in Poland prior to World War II, and a fragment of an engagement announcement for Golda Kirszencwajg and Chaim Berenzweig, circa 1912-1914. Kirszenweig, an alternative spelling for Kirszencwajg , is found within the collection.

The Hyman Kirsch papers contains a fragment of a handwritten engagement agreement, “Tnoim,” for Hyman’s aunt and uncle, Golda Kirszencwajg and Chaim Berenzweig, circa 1912-1914. The fragment, written in Hebrew, includes the signature of Golda’s father, Hyman’s grandfather.

The photographs in the collection include a picture of Herman Kirszencwajg , Hyman’s older brother, as an infant; a picture of Herman with the inscription “Ciechanow, 22 VII 35, For the proof of forever memory, I am giving my portrait to Kirszencwajg . Your grandson Herman Kirszencwajg ;” a photograph of three men including Chaim Berenzweig, Hyman’s uncle on the left, and a photograph of Hyman Kirsch, circa 1933-1935.

System of arrangement

The Hyman Kirsch papers are organized into two series.

Series 1: Photographs, circa 1910s-1930s

Series 2: Biographical materials, circa 1912-1914

Indexing terms

People:

Berenzweig, Chaim.

Berenzweig, Golda.

Kirsch, Hyman, 1924-2014.

Kirszencwajg , Herman

Geography:

Ciechanów (Poland)

Subject:

Children.

Holocaust survivors.

Holocaust victims.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

Marriage.

World War, 1939-1945.

Gene/Form:

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Photographs, circa 1910s-1930s

| Box / Folder | Title |
|--------------|---|
| 1 of 2 | Kirszenwajg family photographs, circa 1910s-1930s |

Series 2: Biographical materials, circa 1912-1914s

| | |
|--------|---|
| 2 of 2 | Engagement agreement of Golda and Chaim Berenzweig, circa 1912-1914 |
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