

HERMAN TAUBE PAPERS, 1934-2012

1992.A.0081.2

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: Herman Taube papers

Dates: 1934-2012

Accession number: 1992.A.0081.2

Creators: Taube, Herman (1918-2014)

Additional creator: Koreffová, Marie (1905-?)

Extent: 4.0 linear feet (5 boxes, 3 oversize boxes)

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

Abstract: The Herman Taube papers consist of articles, manuscripts, poetry, presentations, and translations by Herman Taube, a Jewish Holocaust survivor, as well as correspondence, photographs, and printed materials documenting Taube's career as a writer, journalist, and educator, which was often influenced by his own Holocaust experiences in Łódź, Siberia, and the Second Polish Army. The collection also includes biographical materials documenting Taube's wife's Czech stepmother, Marie Koreffová, who survived Auschwitz, Theresienstadt, and Flossenbürg, as well as translations of evidence presented at the Nuremberg Trial.

Language: English, Yiddish, Czech, 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 if item), Herman Taube papers (1992.A.0081.2) United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Herman Taube donated the Herman Taube papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1992 and 1995, and his widow Susan added an accretion in 2016. The accessions previously cataloged as 1992.A.0081 and 1995.A.0434 and the 2016 accretion have been incorporated into this collection.

Related archival materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds an oral history interview conducted with Herman Taube (2010.92) and one conducted with Susan Taube (1992.A.0129). The Library of Congress holds a collection of Herman Taube papers related to his professional career with the Baltimore Jewish Committee for New Americans, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and the Israel Histadrut Campaign.

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

Processing history: Colleen Benoit, May 2016, revised by Julie Schweitzer, December 2018

Biographical note

Herman Taube (1918-2014) was born in Łódź, Poland in 1918. Orphaned at an early age, he was raised by his grandparents Mirle and Gershon Mandel. Gershon ran a small shop that produced soap and candles. Herman attended a yeshiva, and Gershon hoped he would become a rabbi, but Herman pursued a career in nursing. He was called for duty as a medic in the Polish Army in August 1939. Germany defeated Poland by early October, the retreating Polish Army was captured by Soviet forces, and Herman was sent to Siberia with other lower ranking Polish soldiers. He was released following the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 and served as a medic with the Second Polish Army in Uzbekistan for two years and on the eastern front for another year. In June 1944, Herman was injured when his ambulance drove over a land mine. After recuperating, he was sent to the newly stationed Second Polish Army headquarters at the liberated Majdanek concentration camp, where he cared for inmates who had been left behind when the retreating Nazis liquidated the camp. He ended the war working at a hospital in Pomerania. After the war Herman married fellow Holocaust survivor Susan Strauss, and the couple immigrated to the United States in 1947. Herman was the author of more than twenty novels and books of poetry and has worked as a writer and journalist for over 60 years. Herman lived in the Washington, DC area and volunteered at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Marie Koreffová, Susan Taube's stepmother, was born in Bílina, Czechoslovakia to Františka Popperová (1865-1943). She married Jewish grocer Karel Koreff (1891-1944) in 1934. Karel was arrested following the German occupation of Czechoslovakia, deported to Theresienstadt in 1943, and killed at Auschwitz. Marie survived Auschwitz, Theresienstadt, and Flossenbürg. She immigrated to the United States via Gdynia, Poland, in 1948 aboard the M.S. *Stefan Batory* and settled in Macon, Georgia.

Scope and content of collection

The Herman Taube papers consist of articles, manuscripts, poetry, presentations, and translations by Herman Taube, a Jewish Holocaust survivor, as well as correspondence, photographs, and printed materials documenting Taube's career as a writer, journalist, and educator, which was often influenced by his own Holocaust experiences in Łódź, Siberia, and the Second Polish Army. The collection also includes biographical materials documenting Taube's wife's Czech stepmother, Marie Koreffová, who

survived Auschwitz, Theresienstadt, and Flossenbürg, as well as translations of evidence presented at the Nuremberg Trial.

Herman Taube's articles cover Holocaust and religious topics and include a regular column he wrote in 1968 called "Getting to Know You" and reviews he wrote about other authors' works. Additional articles can be found in the "Scrapbooks" series

Series 2 includes manuscripts for novels *Against All Despair* and *The Refugees: Refugee Village*, a play called *The Blizzard, the Rabbi, and the Barmaid*, and English and German versions of a non-fiction work called *The Translator: A Love Story*.

Poetry includes manuscripts for formal and informal poetry collections titled *50 Years of Poetry*; *At the Shores of Syr Darya*; *Eighty Years Around the World: The Collected Works of Herman Taube*; *For: Mrs. Michlean Amir, Thank you in advance*; *To Keep their Memory Alive*; and *Untitled*. Loose poems, poems published in periodicals, and poems published in a UJS Mission reunion program are also included. Additional poems can be found in the "Scrapbooks" series.

The presentations includes presentations, speeches, and lectures on Holocaust, religious, and literary topics given by Taube at religious, educational, and cultural events.

Scrapbooks include poems and articles by Taube as well as correspondence and programs documenting his cultural life. Similar materials can also be found in the "Articles," "Poetry," and "Presentations" series and in the "Correspondence" and "Writings by Others" series.

The translations include Taube's translation, primarily from Yiddish to English, of poetry, correspondence, and essays by other authors.

Additional writings by Taube include essays and interviews on Holocaust and literary topics.

Correspondence includes letters from Elie Wiesel, correspondence about the publication of Taube's works, letters from Jewish organizations with whom Taube worked, and thank you letters from organizations for whom Taube gave presentations. Additional correspondence can be found in the Scrapbooks series.

Photographs depict Herman and Susan Taube and events they attended, exhibits at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, and Warsaw, Poland.

Printed material includes clippings about Herman Taube, reviews of his work, programs featuring Taube, and a course syllabus and reading material from a course he taught about the Holocaust. Additional printed materials can be found in the Scrapbooks series.

Writings by others include Holocaust narratives documenting Auschwitz, Bialystok, Jasionówka, Turek, and Warsaw.

Marie Koreffová papers include identification papers and restitutions files documenting the property damage, bodily harm, and medical problems she and her husband suffered during the Holocaust.

Nuremberg Trial evidence consists of copies of English translations of evidentiary documents prepared for the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg. Taube obtained these copies from the Isaac Franck Jewish Public Library, in Rockville, Maryland.

System of arrangement

The Herman Taube papers are arranged as thirteen series:

- Series 1: Writings by Taube: Articles, 1968-2008
- Series 2: Writings by Taube: Non-fiction, novels, and a play, approximately 1970s-2007
- Series 3: Writings by Taube: Poetry, 1940-2011
- Series 4: Writings by Taube: Presentations/Speeches/Lectures, 1980-2006
- Series 5: Writings by Taube: Scrapbooks, 1970-2003
- Series 6: Writings by Taube: Translations, approximately 1990-2005
- Series 7: Writings by Taube: Other writings, approximately 1977-2012
- Series 8: Correspondence, 1948-2008
- Series 9: Photographs, approximately 1968-2008
- Series 10: Printed material, 1948-2008
- Series 11: Writings by others, approximately 1945-1987
- Series 12: Marie Koreffová papers, 1934-1948
- Series 13: Nuremberg Trial evidence, 1945-1946

Indexing terms

Koreffová, Marie, 1905-?

Taube, Herman, 1918-2014

Taube, Susan, 1926-

Holocaust survivors--Poland.

Holocaust survivors' writings.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Personal narratives.

Prisoners of War--Soviet Union.

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

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

Nuremberg War Crime Trials, Nuremberg, Germany, 1946-1949--Sources.

Łódź (Poland)

Baltimore (Md)

Warsaw (Poland)

Białystok (Poland)

Nuremberg (Germany)

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Writings by Taube: Articles, 1968-2008

| Box/Folder | Title |
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| 1.1-1.2 | Articles, approximately 1971-2008 (2 folders) |
| 1.3 | "Getting to Know You" column, 1968 |
| 1.4 | Reviews, approximately 1986-2007 |

Series 2: Writings by Taube: Non-fiction, novels, and a play, approximately 1970s-2007

| Box/Folder | Title |
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| 1.5 | <i>The Blizzard, the Rabbi, and the Barmaid</i> , approximately 1970s |
| 1.6 | <i>The Refugees: Refugee Village</i> , approximately 1990 |
| 1.7 | <i>The Translator: A Love Story</i> , 2004 |
| 1.8, 2.1 | <i>The Translator: A Love Story</i> (German), 2004 (2 folders) |

Series 3: Writings by Taube: Poetry, 1940-2011

| Box/Folder | Title |
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| 2.2 | <i>50 Years of Poetry</i> , 1996 |
| 2.3 | <i>50 Years of Poetry</i> , additional poems, 1996 |
| 2.4 | <i>At the Shores of Syr Darya</i> , 2000 |
| 2.5 | <i>For: Mrs. Michlean Amir, Thank you in advance</i> , (1946-200) approximately 2000 |
| 2.6 | <i>From Holocaust to Rebirth: UJA Mission October-November 1975, Reunion</i> , Poems by Herman Taube, 2005 |
| 2.7 | Published in periodicals, 1985-2006 |
| 2.8 | <i>To Keep their Memory Alive</i> , 1987 |
| 2.9 | <i>Untitled</i> , approximately 2000 |
| 2.10 | Loose poems, A-C, 1940-2011 |
| 2.11 | Loose poems, D-G, 1940-2011 |
| 2.12 | Loose poems, H-L, 1940-2011 |
| 3.1 | Loose poems, M-O, 1940-2011 |
| 3.2 | Loose poems, P-S, 1940-2011 |
| 3.3 | Loose poems, T-Z, 1940-2011 |
| 3.4 | Loose poems, Yiddish, approximately 1940-2011 |

Series 4: Writings by Taube: Presentations/Speeches/Lectures, 1980-2006

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| 3.5 | Kol Nidre Services, 1980 |
| 3.6 | Krystallnacht (sic) Anniversary: Can It Happen Again?, approximately 1980 |
| 3.7 | Poetry: A Method of Teaching Holocaust, 1983 |

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| 3.8 | Temple Solel, 1984 |
| 3.9 | Address at the reunion of the Farbregen Cheder, 1985 |
| 3.10 | Lion of Judah - A Symbol of Strength, 1985 |
| 3.11 | Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, 1985 |
| 3.12 | Selichot - A Time to Take Spiritual Inventory, 1988 |
| 3.13 | The Yiddish Influence on Anglo-Jewish Poetry and Literature Series: Yiddish Literature in Retrospect, 1992 |
| 3.14 | Introduction to our mini-lectures on Holocaust Literature, approximately 1993 |
| 3.15 | Chaim Grade, approximately 1993 |
| 3.16 | Hayyim Nahman Bialik, approximately 1993 |
| 3.17 | Ze'ev Vladimir Jabotinsky, approximately 1993 |
| 3.18 | M'Dor L'Dor: From Generation to Generation, approximately 1995 |
| 3.19 | Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising - 57 years later, 2000 |
| 3.20 | In Commemoration of the Murdered Jewish Poets, 2001 |
| 3.21 | My Life, 2002 |
| 3.22 | Looking Back, Going Forward, 2002-2003 |
| 3.23 | Chaim Goldberg, 2004 |
| 3.24 | Kristallnacht, 66 th Yartzeit (sic), 2004 |
| 3.25 | Simon Wiesenthal, 2006 |
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Series 5: Writings by Taube: Scrapbooks, 1970-2003

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| 3.27-3.28 | Scrapbook, 1974-1987 (2 folders) |
| 8.1 | Scrapbook: <i>May I Share a Thought with You?: Words and Thoughts of an Old Man on the Occasion of his 85th Birthday</i> , Herman Taube, 2003 |
| 9.1 | Scrapbook, Yiddish, 1945-1990 |

Series 6: Writings by Taube: Translations, approximately 1990-2005

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| 3.29 | Biegelman, Henry, We Long for Home, approximately 2000 |
| 3.30 | Book Proposal: Poetry in Hell, Yiddish Poetry in the Ringelblum Archives, approximately 1995 |
| 3.31 | Gidanski, Isaac, Will (1884), approximately 1990 |
| 3.32 | Gidanski, Joseph and Ida, letters (1938-1941), approximately 1990 |
| 4.1 | Schulshtain, Moshe, Poetry (1941-1946), 2004-2005 |
| 4.2 | Yizkor Book: Sefer Zloczew, Book of Zloczew, 2005 |

Series 7: Writings by Taube: Other writings, approximately 1977-2012

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| 4.4 | All We Wanted was to Live Another Day: Excerpts from an Interview with a Survivor of Stutthof K.L., approximately 1985 |
| 4.5 | Babi Yar, 1983-2006 |
| 4.6 | A Dream Accomplished: The Miles Lerman Center at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to Study Jewish Resistance, 1996 |
| 4.7 | "In only 12 more days. . .," 1993 |
| 4.8 | Interview with Mr. Chiel M. Rajchman, 1988 |
| 4.9 | Isaac Bashevis Singer, approximately 2004-2007 |
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| 4.24 | Miscellaneous and reproductions, approximately 1947-2014 |

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| 4.26 | Clippings about Radin, Poland, 1984 |
| 4.27 | Midrasha Community Hebrew High School, Social Studies course on Martyrdom and Resistance, taught by Herman Taube, 1982-1983 |
| 5.1 | Programs including Herman Taube, 1970-2008 |
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Series 11: Writings by others, approximately 1945-1987

| Box/Folder | Title |
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| 5.4 | Boguszewska, Helena, <i>Do Trzech Razy: Podług zeznań byłej więźniarki obozu koncentracyjnego w Oswiecimiu nr. 29700</i> , approximately 1950 |
| 5.5 | Burshtin, Aviezer, <i>The Martyr of Bialystok - Jacob Melamed - of Blessed Memory</i> , 1946 |
| 5.6 | Caloyanni, Eliza, <i>Anti-Semitism in the Eastern Orthodox Church of Greece</i> , approximately 1984 |
| 5.7 | Celinski, Usher, <i>Memoir</i> , 1964 |
| 5.8 | Romanowski, Henryk, <i>Memoirs</i> , 1989 |
| 5.9 | Schuster, Feitche, <i>Personal narrative about the Jews of Jasionowka</i> , (1945), 1987 |
| 5.10 | Waldman, Jacob, <i>The Chelmner Tragedy</i> , approximately 1945 |
| 5.11 | Unattributed, <i>From the Last Holocaust: Our Try</i> , approximately 1946 |
| 5.12 | Unattributed, <i>A Jewish Woman in Warsaw from September 1939 to...</i> , approximately 1946 |
| 5.13 | Unattributed, <i>Montreal and Lisbon diary entries</i> , 1933-1960 |

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Series 13: Nuremberg Trial evidence, 1945-1946

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| 5.19-5.20, 6.1-6.2 | Nuremberg Trial evidence, 1945-1946 (4 folders) |