

## **JIŘÍ LAUSCHER COLLECTION, 1939-1989**

### **1993.A.0003**

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

Title: Jiří Lauscher collection

Dates: 1939-1989

Accession number: 1993.A.0003

Creator: Lauscher, Jiří, 1901-1989

Extent: 2.5 linear feet (4 boxes, 1 oversize box)

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

Abstract: The Jiří Lauscher collection consist of reports, albums, artwork, writings, photocopies, photographs, copyprints, and diary entries documenting the Jüdische Kultusgemeinde's work related to emigration and job training in Prague; the administration, history, and culture of Theresienstadt; and Holocaust-era ghettos and concentration camps.

Records documenting the Jüdische Kultusgemeinde in Prague relate to two of the community's primary tasks under Nazi occupation: job retraining and preparation for emigration. Records include financial reports of the Central Office for Jewish Emigration, catalogs of job retraining course offerings, a metalworking course book, and reports about job retraining. Nearly all of the records in this series are original materials.

Theresienstadt materials document the administration, history, and culture of Theresienstadt, with a particular emphasis on the personal experiences of Jiří Lauscher and his family members and friends. Original materials in this series include administrative reports by the Jewish self-government of Theresienstadt and a scrapbook containing the passes, permits, and tickets governing the daily lives of Jewish inmates. Photocopies and copyprints include additional administrative documents such as reports and inmate registration cards, accounts of cultural and intellectual activities in the camp, artwork created in the camp, and the work of some of the camp inmates. Lauscher collected the materials during his internment in Theresienstadt from 1942-1945 and acquired many of them from friends and acquaintances as they were deported to killing centers.

Holocaust materials in series 11 consists of a chronology of Holocaust-era events, a photo album Jiří Lauscher created documenting ghettos and concentration camps, and a photocopy and translation of Otto Wolf's diary. The ghettos and camps photograph album contains photographs and copyprints of the Warsaw and Łódź ghettos, unidentified concentration camps, and sketches of camps. The Otto Wolf diary describes the experiences of a Czech family in hiding during the Holocaust.

Languages: German, Czech, and 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), Jiří Lauscher collection (1993.A.0003), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

**Acquisition information:** Jiří and Irma Lauscher and Michaela Vidláková donated the Jiří Lauscher collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1989.

**Separated material:** The yellow Star of David badge from Theresienstadt that was item 67 in the scrapbook and the Theresienstadt commemorative stamps that were item 70 in the scrapbook are being cataloged separately.

**Related material:** The Museum also holds 14 wooden tiles, pendants, and ornaments crafted by Jiří Lauscher (1989.342.1-.14), a metal brooch made in Theresienstadt (1989.342.15), and a metal medallion with crown (1989.342.16), and a scale model of Block 5 (1989.119.1), all created by Jiří Lauscher.

**Accruals:** Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at [collections.ushmm.org](https://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

**Processing history:** Julie Schweitzer, December 2016, revised April 2019

### **Biographical note**

Jiří Lauscher (1901-1989) was born near Prague to Siegfried and Anna Schwarz Lauscher. Following Siegfried's death, Anna (1876-1942) married Julius Katz (1874-1942). Jiří was an artisan and designer and was the technical director of a fur factory. He married Irma Kohn (1904-1985), a graduate of Charles University who taught children at the Jewish School in Prague. On December 22, 1942, Jiří, Irma, and their daughter Michaela were deported to Theresienstadt. Jiří was assigned as a draftsman in the camp's technical department and became part of a close-knit group of artists including Dr. Karel Fleishmann, Peter Kien, Bedřich Fritta, Karel Bruml, and Leo Haas. By early 1945, many of Jiří's close friends were deported to other camps, primarily Auschwitz, and he became the guardian of their personal papers. The family returned to Prague following liberation and learned that most of their relatives had not survived. Jiří's mother Anna and stepfather Julius were murdered in Treblinka killing center in October

1942. His brother Frantisek, sister Josefina, and her husband Arnost Saar were murdered at Auschwitz in February 1943. Jiří remained in Czechoslovakia after the war, led tours of the Theresienstadt site into his eighties.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The Jiří Lauscher collection consist of reports, albums, artwork, writings, photocopies, photographs, copyprints, and diary entries documenting the Jüdische Kultusgemeinde's work related to emigration and job training in Prague; the administration, history, and culture of Theresienstadt; and Holocaust-era ghettos and concentration camps. Lauscher collected the materials during his internment in Theresienstadt from 1942-1945 and acquired many of them from friends and acquaintances as they were deported to killing centers.

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Theresienstadt reports include reports written by the Jewish self-government of Theresienstadt and its Council of Elders documenting the organization, population, and activities in the camp. The reports discuss building projects, social services, self-administration, finances, sanitation, the fire department, and population statistics, and they include maps, charts, and graphs.

The Theresienstadt scrapbook: "Samples of Administrative Documents from the Theresienstadt (Terezin) Ghetto" includes the kinds of passes, permits, and tickets governing the daily lives of Jewish inmates as well as Jiří Lauscher's commentary on how life in the ghetto worked and transcriptions of some of the items. Original documents include samples of correspondence, an informational bulletin, food coupons, tickets for cultural performances, food orders, a certificate of vaccination, identity cards, documentation needed to leave the ghetto under supervision, parcel reception forms, and poems and sketches by inmates. Most items related to Marie Klein and her brother and sister Ernst and Rudolfine Klein, but other items document Irma Lauscher, Else Glaser, Irma and Karl Fischer, Hugo Dubsky, Karl Fleischmann, and others. Photocopies of reports by the Council of Elders on subjects concerning the daily activities of the camp such as food, housing, and work can be found at the end of this subseries. It is unclear when Lauscher created this scrapbook.

Jiří Lauscher's original Theresienstadt album included photographs of prisoners, guards, buildings, mass graves, and life and work in Theresienstadt; ration cards, passes, notifications, and correspondence related to Karl and Irma Fischer, Helene Bruml, and Jiří Lauscher; and original artwork by Leo Haas, Malva Schalek, Karl Fleischmann, Liza Ehrmannova, and Bedřich Fritta. Individuals depicted in

photographs included Zeev Scheck, Dr. Weinberger, Harry Tressler, Dita Sachscova, Lotka Brammerova, Corefova, Rutka Bonoyova, Karel Schliesser, Fredy Hirsch, and Jakov Edelstein. Many of the pages also included labels or descriptions relating to photographs and artwork. The reproduction album series consists of copyprints of the original album pages as well as photocopies of 1945 letters and postcards from Irma and Michaela Lauscher to Jiří Lauscher, layout drawings of the Hamburger Kaserne, and a partial index to the album that were tucked into the original album.

This next series consists of photocopies of index cards identifying various “prominent” residents of the Theresienstadt camp. The cards contain names, dates of birth, work specialization or trade, and other brief biographical information.

Karl Fleischmann’s materials consists of copies of essays and poems he wrote during his internment at Theresienstadt from 1942-1944 as well as a brief biography written about him after the war. In his writings, Fleischmann reflects on life in Theresienstadt, medicine, and art. Fleischmann was deported to Auschwitz in 1944 and killed. Most of the materials in this series are photocopies.

Cultural and literary materials include articles, catalogs, diary entries, essays, memoirs, poems, and theatrical performances documenting cultural and intellectual expression by prisoners in Theresienstadt. All of the materials in this series are photocopies.

Reproductions of artwork include copyprints of artwork created by Bedřich Fritta, Leo Haas, Peter Kien, Jo Spier, and Otto Ungar in Theresienstadt as well as catalogs for two exhibitions about Theresienstadt art.

Theresienstadt electrical works materials include photocopies of a personal narrative, name list, and letter documenting the Theresienstadt electrical works and its staff.

Photocopies of correspondence between Jiří Lauscher and Ulrike Migdal discuss the fates of former inmates of Theresienstadt.

Holocaust materials in series 11 consists of a chronology of Holocaust-era events, a photo album Jiří Lauscher created documenting ghettos and concentration camps, and a photocopy and translation of Otto Wolf’s diary. The ghettos and camps photograph album contains photographs and copyprints of the Warsaw and Łódź ghettos, unidentified concentration camps, and sketches of camps. The Otto Wolf diary describes the experiences of a Czech family in hiding during the Holocaust.

### **System of arrangement**

The Jiří Lauscher collection is arranged as eleven series:

Series 1: Jüdische Kultusgemeinde Prag, 1939-1941

Series 2: Theresienstadt materials, Reports, 1942-1944

Series 3: Theresienstadt materials, Scrapbook: “Samples of Administrative Documents from the Theresienstadt (Terezin) Ghetto,” 1942-1975

Series 4: Theresienstadt materials, Reproductions from Jiří Lauscher’s Theresienstadt album, circa 1942-1945

Series 5: Theresienstadt materials, Index cards of prominent individuals at Theresienstadt, circa 1943-1944

Series 6: Theresienstadt materials, Karl Fleischmann materials, 1942-1965

Series 7: Theresienstadt materials, Cultural and literary expression, 1941-1989

Series 8: Theresienstadt materials, Reproductions of camp artwork, circa 1967-1983

Series 9: Theresienstadt materials, Theresienstadt electrical works, 1979

Series 10: Theresienstadt materials, Ulrike Migdal correspondence, 1986-1989

Series 11: Holocaust materials, circa 1940-1945

### **Indexing terms**

Lauscher, Jiří, 1901-1989.

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)

Jüdische Kultusgemeinde Prag

Jews--Czech Republic--Prague.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Czech Republic--Terezín (Ústecký kraj)--Personal narratives.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945), in art.

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

Terezín (Ústecký kraj, Czech Republic)

Photographs.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Series 1: Jüdische Kultusgemeinde in Prague, 1939-1941**

<b>Box/ Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1.1	Letter about emigration to Palestine, 1939
1.2	<i>Přeškolení: Malá Nauka O Povolání Pro Praxi</i> , 1940
1.3	<i>Umschulung: Kleine Berufskunde für die Praxis</i> , 1940
1.4	Metal factory production book, approximately 1940
1.5	Metal factory production book, cover, approximately 1940
5	Financial reports, 1940
1.6	<i>Berufsberatung und Umschulung: Jahresbericht 1940</i> , 1941
1.7	Berufsumschichtung im Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren, Juni 1939-Juni 1941 (graph), 1941

### **Series 2: Theresienstadt materials, Reports, 1942-1944**

<b>Box/ Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1.8	<i>Ein Jahr Theresienstadt</i> , report by the Council of Elders, 1942
1.9	<i>Geschichte des Ghettos</i> , comments by Jiří Lauscher, undated

1.10	<i>Geschichte des Ghettos</i> , report, 1943
1.11	<i>Geschichte des Ghettos</i> , tables, 1943
1.12	<i>Geschichte des Ghettos</i> , notes and images tucked into the back of the report, approximately 1943
1.13	<i>Tätigkeitsbericht der Jüdischen Selbstverwaltung Theresienstadt</i> , 1943
1.14	<i>Tätigkeitsbericht der Jüdischen Selbstverwaltung Theresienstadt</i> , notes and images tucked into the back of the report, approximately 1943
1.15	<i>Tätigkeitsbericht der Jüdischen Selbstverwaltung Theresienstadt</i> , 1944
1.16	Flow chart for check-in procedures and youth and senior homes, approximately 1942-1944

**Series 3: Theresienstadt materials, Scrapbook: "Samples of Administrative Documents from the Theresienstadt (Terezin) Ghetto," 1942-1975**

Box/ Folder	Title
2.1	1. Correspondence between prisoners, approximately 1942-1945
2.2	2. Correspondence between prisoners, approximately 1942-1945
2.3	3. Postcards from outside, 1942
2.4	4. Information bulletin, 1944
2.5	5. Sketches of the dormitory of Marie Klein, approximately 1942-1945
2.6	6. Hospital rooms, 1943
2.7	7. Vegetable orders, 1945
2.8	8. Ration marks, approximately 1942-1945
2.9	9. Else Glaser poems, 1943
2.10	10. Beth coupons, approximately 1942-1945
2.11	11. Overtime vegetable rations, 1942-1943
2.12	12. No typhoid fever, 1945
2.13	13. Special food coupons, approximately 1942-1945
2.14	14. Food coupons, approximately 1942-1945
2.15	15. Permit to carry food out of the kitchen, 1943
2.16	16. Clothing rations, approximately 1942-1945
2.17	17. Vaccinations, 1943
2.18	18. Permission to skip the food ration line, 1942-1943
2.19	19. Drawings by Marie Klein of a Purim celebration, approximately 1942-1945
2.20	20. Identification and registration cards for Marie Klein, approximately 1942-1945
2.21	21. Identification and registration cards for Ernst Klein, approximately 1942-1945
2.22	22. Kitchen employment card for Marie Klein, 1942
2.23	23. Bank account for Marie Klein, 1944
2.24	24. Laundry pick up, approximately 1942-1945
2.25	25. Change of housing, 1944
2.26	26. Job list, 1942
2.27	27. Permission to enter a transport area, 1944
2.28	28. Deportation card, approximately 1942-1945
2.29	29. Permission to receive mail for deported or deceased individuals, 1943-1944
2.30	30. Repair of ladies' clothing, approximately 1942-1945

2.31	31. Repair of stockings, approximately 1942-1945
2.32	32. Tickets for cultural performances, approximately 1942-1945
2.33	33. Permission to enter a workshop, 1942
2.34	34. Entering women's barracks, 1942
2.35	35. Dyeing fabric, 1943
2.36	36. Day off work, approximately 1942-1945
2.37	37.-39. Permission to receive parcels, 1944-1945
2.38	40. Permission to send a parcel to Theresienstadt, 1942
2.39	41. Permission to be out after 8pm, 1943-1945
2.40	42. Permission to leave the ghetto, 1945
2.41	43. Permission to leave the ghetto, 1942-1945
2.42	44. Permission to enter areas outside of the ghetto, 1944
2.43	45. Room assignment, approximately 1942-1945
2.44	46. Doctor's report, 1943
2.45	47. Late work confirmation, 1943
2.46	48. Marie Klein's statement about Ernst Klein, 1973
2.47	49. Metal broach (removed), approximately 1942-1945
2.48	50. Bookmark, approximately 1942-1945
2.49	51. Sketch of Sabbath service, approximately 1942-1945
2.50	52. Sketch of Sabbath service, approximately 1942-1945
2.51	53. metal charm (removed), approximately 1942-1945
2.52	54. Birthday greeting, 1944
2.53	55. Postwar watercolor, 1975
2.54	56. Personal narrative by Marie Klein, 1943-1945
2.55	57. Dr. Martin Gerson letter to Dr. Epstein explaining he was voluntarily joining his wife and children on a transport, 1944
2.56	58. Shorthand, 1945
2.57	59. Confirmation that Marie Klein was a prisoner at Theresienstadt, 1945
2.58	60. Confirmation that Marie Klein was a prisoner at Theresienstadt, 1945
2.59	61. Permission to enter military installation, 1945
2.60	62. Permission to enter military installation, 1945
2.61	63. Employment in Theresienstadt after liberation,
2.62	64. Remaining at Theresienstadt after the war, 1945
2.63	65. Registration certificate for liberated prisoner, 1945
2.64	66. Birthday greetings, approximately 1945
2.65	68. "Matzes orden" (photocopy), 1943
2.66	69. Poems by Karl Fleischmann (photocopies), approximately 1942-1944
2.67	71. Testimonials to Irma Lauscher upon her death (photocopy), 1985
2.68	Daily orders 35, 43, 73, 84, 140, 217, 219 (photocopies), 1942
2.69-2.71	File references (photocopies), 1942 (3 folders)
2.72	Additional documents (photocopies), 1943-1945

**Series 4: Theresienstadt materials, Reproductions from Jiří Lauscher's Theresienstadt album, approximately 1942-1945**

Box/ Folder	Title
3.1	Jiří Lauscher album (copyprints), approximately 1942-1945
3.2-3.6	Jiří Lauscher album photocopies, approximately 1942-1945 (5 folders)

**Series 5: Theresienstadt materials, Index cards of prominent individuals at Theresienstadt, approximately 1943-1944**

Box/ Folder	Title
3.7	Identification cards, A-F, approximately 1943-1944
3.8	Identification cards, G-L, approximately 1943-1944
3.9	Identification cards, M-P, approximately 1943-1944
3.10	Identification cards, R-Z, approximately 1943-1944

**Series 6: Theresienstadt materials, Karl Fleischmann materials, 1942-1965**

Box/ Folder	Title
3.11	Biography, Živtopis Dr. Karla Fleischmanna (Resume Dr. Karl Fleischmann), by E. Fleischmann, 1965
3.12	Essay, Na Pomezí lékařské vědy a umění (On the border of medical science and the arts), 1943
3.13	Essay, Tereziňský Den (Theresienstadt day), 1943
3.14	Essay, Jedna ruka druhou myje (One hand washes the other), approximately 1942-1944
3.15	Essay, Kunst und Medizin (Art and Medicine), approximately 1942-1944
3.16	Poetry, 13 poems, approximately 1942-1944
3.17	Poetry, Držet! Pět písní úniku a naděje (Hold! Five songs of escape and hope), 1944

**Series 7: Theresienstadt materials, Cultural and literary expression, 1941-1989**

Box/ Folder	Title
3.18	Bejt Terezin, Giwath-Chaim Ichud, lists of documents, approximately 1988
3.19	Bejt Terezin, Giwath-Chaim Ichud, poems and drawings, approximately 1984
3.20	Darkova, Akce, 1968
3.21	Fuks, Ladislav, <i>Příspěvek k Řešení Antisemitizmu s Psychopatologického Hlediska</i> , 1960
3.22	Gluck, Christoph Ritter von, <i>Prelstény Kadi</i> , 1941



3.23	Grabova, Heda, 1945
3.24	Klanova, Marie (Marie Klein), diary entries, 1943-1945
3.25	Salus, Milos, list of lectures, approximately 1943
3.26	Salus, Milos, thank you letters, 1942-1944
3.27	Segerova, Vera, diary entries, 1942-1943
3.28	Segerova, Vera, essays, poems, and stories, 1941-1943
3.29	Vavruska, Eduard, <i>Lístky z Kroniky: Příspěvek k dějinám čs. loutkářství za II. světové války</i> , 1966
3.30	Vavruska, Eduard, <i>Loutky za Ostnatým Drátem</i> , 1989
3.31	Weisz, Arnošt, poems, approximately 1941-1945
3.32	Wiener, Oscar, poems, approximately 1941-1945
3.33	<i>Čeština terezínská/Šmelinovština</i> , 1943-1944
3.34	<i>Deník</i> , 1943
3.35	<i>Erste Eindrücke in Theresienstadt</i> , 1942
3.36	<i>Filmen im Kinderheim in Theresienstadt</i> , approximately 1941-1945
3.37	<i>Hoffnung in der Hölle</i> , approximately 1972
4.1	<i>Im Krankenzimmer/Vision</i> , approximately 1941-1945
4.2	<i>Liederabend Frau Lindt-Aronsohn - Raphael Schächter</i> , 1943
4.3	Poems about Theresienstadt building projects, approximately 1941-1945
4.4	Poems celebrating the birthday of R. Kraus, approximately 1941-1945
4.5	Story of Siegfried Lederer and Viktor Pestek, approximately 1972
4.6	<i>Die Vier Temperamente in einer Verwandten Nacht</i> , approximately 1941-1945

#### Series 8: Theresienstadt materials, Reproductions of artwork, approximately 1967-1983

Box/ Folder	Title
4.7	Fritta, Bedřich, approximately 1980s
4.8	Haas, Leo, approximately 1980s
4.9	Kien, Peter, approximately 1980s
4.10	Spier, Jo, approximately 1980s
4.11	Ungar, Otto, approximately 1980s
4.12	<i>Kresby Děti na Zastávce k Smrti</i> , published by Svoboda pro Svaz protifašistických bojovníků, 1967
4.13	<i>Theresienstadt in den Zeichnungen der Häftlinge, 1941-1945</i> , Das Staatliche Jüdische Museum in Prag, 1983
4.14	Additional reproductions, approximately 1980s

#### Series 9: Theresienstadt materials, Theresienstadt electrical works, 1979

Box/ Folder	Title
4.15	Theresienstadt electrical works, 1979

**Series 10: Theresienstadt materials, Ulrike Migdal correspondence, 1986-1989**

<b>Box/ Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
4.16	Migdal, Ulrike, 1986-1989

**Series 11: Holocaust materials, approximately 1940-1945**

<b>Box/ Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
4.17	Chronology of Holocaust events (photocopy), approximately 1945
4.18	Ghetto and camps album, approximately 1940-1945
4.19	Ghetto and camps album, loose photographs, approximately 1940-1945
4.20-4.23	Transcription of Otto Wolf diary (photocopy), 1942-1943 (4 folders)
4.24	Translation of Otto Wolf diary, 1942-1943