

**CLARA KRAMER PAPERS, approximately 1940-1951
1994.95.3**

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

Title: Clara Kramer papers

Dates: approximately 1940-1951

Accession number: 1994.95.3

Creator: Kramer, Clara

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Clara Kramer papers consist of a wartime diary written in hiding, an autograph book, biographical materials, and photographs documenting Kramer's experience in hiding during the war as well as pre-Holocaust friendships and postwar nursing training and work in displaced persons camps and in Israel.

Languages: Polish, German, English, Hebrew

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), Clara Kramer papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Clara Kramer donated the Clara Kramer papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1994, 1999, and 2011 in memory of her sister Mania. Accessions

previously cataloged as 1994.95.2, 1999.A.0138 and 2011.271.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: Clara Kramer also donated a two Mark scrip note (1994.95.1) from the Litzmannstadt Ghetto to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The Museum also holds an oral history interview with Kramer conducted in 1982. An oral history interview with Kramer conducted December 28, 1997 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum. The library holds Clara Kramer's manuscript *Wartime Diary, 1942-1944* and two versions of her biography, *Clara's War: A Young Girl's True Story of Miraculous Survival Under the Nazis* and *Clara's War: One Girl's Story of Survival*.

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, March 2014

Biographical note

Clara Kramer was born Klara Schwarz in Żółkiew, Poland (now Żhovkva, Ukraine) in 1927 to Meir Schwarz and Salka Reizfeld Schwarz. In December 1942, the Schwarz family found refuge in a bunker hidden under the home of an ethnic German family, Valentin and Julia Beck and their daughter Ala. Clara's sister was caught and killed when she fled the bunker during a block fire in April 1943. The rest of the family was liberated in July 1944 and emigrated to Israel in 1948. Clara immigrated to the United States with her husband, Sol Kramer (1920-2011), in 1957.

Scope and content of collection

The Clara Kramer papers consist of a wartime diary written in hiding, an autograph book, biographical materials, and photographs documenting Kramer's experience in hiding during the war as well as pre-Holocaust friendships and postwar nursing training and work in displaced persons camps and in Israel.

Clara Kramer's diary contains daily accounts of her life in a hidden bunker from April 1943 through their liberation written in notebooks given to her by the family's protector, Valentin Beck. The diary describes cramped living conditions, meager food supplies, frequent threats of discovery, and the death of Kramer's sister.

The autograph book includes autographs, messages, poems, and drawings by Kramer's childhood friends.

Biographical materials consist of certificates and memoranda documenting Kramer's training and service as a nurse in and around displaced persons camps in Linz, Steyr, and Bad Reichenall as well as affidavits documenting the identities and marriage of Sol Kramer's parents, Berisch and Ethel Kramer.

Photographs depict Clara Kramer's childhood friends and the Żółkiew synagogue. These photographs were removed from the autograph book described above.

System of arrangement

The Clara Kramer papers are arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Diary, 1943-1944
- Series 2: Autograph book, 1940-1941
- Series 3: Biographical materials, 1947-1951
- Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1940-1941

Indexing terms

Jews--Ukraine--ŻHovkva.

Hidden children (Holocaust)--Ukraine--ŻHovkva.

Jewish children in the Holocaust--Ukraine--ŻHovkva.

Żółkiew (Poland)

ŻHovkva (Ukraine)

Diaries.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Diary, 1943-1944

Folder	Title
1	Diary, April 1943-April 1944
2	Diary, April 1944
3	Diary, April-May 1944
4	Diary, May-June, 1944
5	Diary, June-July, 1944

Series 2: Autograph book, 1940-1941

Folder	Title
6	Autograph book, 1940-1941

Series 3: Biographical materials, 1947-1951

Folder	Title
7	Kramer, Clara, 1947-1950
8	Kramer, Berisch and Ethel, 1949-1951

Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1940-1941

Folder	Title
9	Clara Kramer's childhood friends, 1940-1941
10	Żótkiew synagogue, pre-1941