

**SIEGFRIED HALBREICH PAPERS, 1942-2004**  
**1995.A.0178**

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

Title: Siegfried Halbreich papers

Dates: 1942-2004

Accession number: 1995.A.0178

Creator: Siegfried Halbreich

Extent: 10 boxes, 5 oversized folders

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

Abstract: The Siegfried Halbreich papers contain primarily the subject files of Siegfried Halbreich, a concentration camp survivor who spent much of his later life lecturing and educating about the Holocaust. Included in his papers are thank you letters, various subject files which include his manuscript, invitations to lectures, and correspondence with various organizations. Also included are several publications and articles regarding the Holocaust.

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: Siegfried Halbreich papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Siegfried Halbreich papers are a result of several donations to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Siegfried Halbreich. These donations were given in several

accretions from 1993 to 2005. Each collection was given a separate accession number at the time of donation: 1995.A.0178, 1996.A.0541, 1997.A.0202, 2000.65, and 2005.144. These collections have since been unified and can be located under 1995.A.0178.

Related archival materials: Siegfried Halbreich also donated a copy of a list of names of 982 Jews deported from Beuthen, Germany, (now Bytom, Poland) in May and June 1942 (1993.A.0043) to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The Museum also holds two oral histories conducted with Siegfried Halbreich.

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

Processing history: Michael Folkerts, August 2015

### **Biographical note**

Siegfried Halbreich (1909-2008) was born in Dziedzice, in the Upper Silesia region of Poland. After his graduation from high school, he served briefly in the Polish Army from 1930-1932, before attending the University of Krakow to become a pharmacist. He practiced pharmacy in Katowice, Poland from 1935-1939 before the outbreak of World War II. At the outbreak of war, Halbreich was drafted back into the Polish Army and fought for thirteen days until Poland surrendered and his battalion was dissolved. Following his brief period in the army, Halbreich returned home to Katowice. After two weeks, a transport for Jewish men was being arranged by the Germans, and so he escaped by train through Germany and Austria, before being stopped at the border in Yugoslavia, where a German spy in the Yugoslavian army arrested Halbreich and turned him over to the Gestapo. From that point until the end of World War II, Halbreich was imprisoned in concentrations camps; first at Sachsenhausen, and then later Gross-Rosen, Buna/Monowitz in Auschwitz, and Dora-Nordhausen where he was eventually liberated in 1945. Upon release, Halbreich worked with the American War Crimes Department as an interpreter in preparation for the Nuremberg Trials. He also gave testimony to the Polish War Crimes Commission and testified against Adolf Eichmann in 1960. Halbreich immigrated to the United States in 1946, settling first in Cleveland, Ohio, and later in Beverly Hills, California, where he ran a picture framing business. Halbreich spent much of his later years educating on the Holocaust, giving many lectures to schools around the country. In Los Angeles, he was active in the "1939 Club," where he served as President from 1976 to 1977, and he was also active in the Martyr's Memorial and Museum of the Holocaust in Los Angeles, as well as the local branch of the Anti-Defamation League.

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

The Siegfried Halbreich papers contain the desk files of Siegfried Halbreich. The "Correspondence related to speaking engagements" series contains a variety of letters related primarily to Halbreich's speaking engagements at schools, universities, temples, churches, and various civic organizations, mostly around the greater Los Angeles area, from the mid-1970s to the early 2000s. Included is correspondence from event organizers thanking Halbreich for his lectures, letters of appreciation from those who attended, including a large amount of correspondence from school children, and fliers, newsletters, newspaper clippings, and other printed material related to Halbreich's appearances. Also included is correspondence related to his activities working with the Martyr's Memorial and Museum of the Holocaust in Los Angeles, California. The "Subject files" series contains correspondence, transcripts, texts, brochures, newsletters, clippings, and other materials collected by Halbreich over the years, including materials related to the organizations that Halbreich participated in or supported. Other items

in this include articles regarding specific topics, speeches Halbreich had given, and a copy of the manuscript for his memoir, *"Before-During-After."* The "Publications" series contains carious books and articles concerning the Holocaust as well.

### **System of arrangement**

The Siegfried Halbreich papers are arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Thank you letters, 1976-2004
- Series 2: Subject files, 1942-2004
- Series 3: Publications, 1945-2000

### **Indexing terms**

Halbreich, Siegfried

Sachsenhausen (Concentration camp)

Gross-Rosen (Concentration camp)

Auschwitz (Concentration camp)

Nordhausen (Concentration camp)

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

Holocaust survivors.

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

War crime trials.

World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Liberation--Germany--Nordhausen (Thuringia)

World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prisons, German.

World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Liberation.

World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--Germany.

Silesia (Poland : Voivodeship)

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Series 1: Thank you letters, 1976-2004**

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 1976-1979</a>
1	2	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 1980-1982</a>
1	3	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 1983-1984</a>
1	4	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 1985-1986</a>
1	5	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 1987-1990</a>
1	6	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 1991-1994</a>
1	7	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 1995</a>
2	1	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 1996</a>
2	2	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 1997</a>
2	3	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 1998</a>
2	4	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 1999-2000</a>
2	5	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 2001</a>

2	6	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 2002</a>
2	7	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 2003</a>
2	8	<a href="#">Reservation forms and thank you notes, 2004</a>
2	9	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1979</a>
3	1	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1981</a>
3	2	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1982</a>
3	3	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1983</a>
3	4-5	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1984</a>
3	6-7	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1985</a>
4	1	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1986</a>
4	2	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1987</a>
4	3	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1989</a>
4	4	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1990</a>
4	5	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1991</a>
4	6	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1994</a>
4	7	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1995</a>
4	8-9	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1996</a>
5	1	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 1997</a>
5	2	<a href="#">Responses from schools, 2002</a>
5	3	<a href="#">Various, 1982-2000</a>

## Series 2: Subject files, 1942-2004

Box	Folder	Title
5	4	<a href="#">1939 Club, 1976-2000</a>
5	5	<a href="#">90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, 1999</a>
5	6	<a href="#">ABC Interview at Martyr's Memorial Museum, undated</a>
5	7	<a href="#">Adolf Eichmann trial, 1952-1961</a>
5	8	<a href="#">American Association of Survivors and Victims of Dora and Outer Camps and Their Friends, 2000-2001</a>
5	9	<a href="#">American Psychological Association, undated</a>
5	10	<a href="#">Anniversary of Kielce pogrom, 1995</a>
5	11	<a href="#">Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, 1979-1983</a>
5	12	<a href="#">Anti-Semitic letter, 1978</a>
5	13	<a href="#">Auschwitz concentration camp, 1960-1996</a>
5	14	<a href="#">Auschwitz museum, 1947-1996</a>
5	15-16	<a href="#">Before-During-After manuscript, 1988</a>
6	1	<a href="#">Biography, 1978-1996</a>
6	2	<a href="#">Biography contract agreement, 1986-1988</a>
6	3	<a href="#">BookCrafters, 1999</a>
6	4	<a href="#">Buna / Monowitz survivor reunion, 2001</a>
6	5	<a href="#">Children of Auschwitz Nazi's Deadly Lab Experiments Survivors (CANDLES), 1985-1989</a>
6	6	<a href="#">Claims conference, 1996-1998</a>
6	7	<a href="#">Condolence letters, 1977-2001</a>
6	8	<a href="#">Congregation Mogen David, 1999</a>

6	9	<a href="#">Correspondence, 1945-1989</a>
6	10	<a href="#">Dallas Memorial Center for Holocaust Studies, 1996</a>
6	11	<a href="#">Department of Investigation (Office of Special Investigations, U.S. Department of Justice), 1982</a>
6	12	<a href="#">Descendants of the Shoah, 1999</a>
6	13	<a href="#">Dora-Mittelbau trial, 1962-1985</a>
6	14	<a href="#">Dr. Stefan Budziaszek trial, 1970-1972</a>
6	15	<a href="#">Education materials, 1978</a>
6	16	<a href="#">Eulogies, 1979-2004</a>
6	17	<a href="#">Fritz Bauer Institute, 1998-1999</a>
7	1	<a href="#">Ghetto Fighter's House, 1997-1999</a>
7	2	<a href="#">Gross-Rosen, 1982</a>
7	3	<a href="#">Gross-Rosen trial, 1970-1973</a>
7	4	<a href="#">Halbreich family reunion, 1997-1999</a>
7	5	<a href="#">Halbreich, Jeremy, 1995</a>
7	6	<a href="#">Holocaust Sites Preservation Committee, 1993</a>
7	7	<a href="#">Imperial War Museum, 1996</a>
7	8	<a href="#">Interviews, 1996</a>
7	9	<a href="#">Investigation of Arthur Rudolph, 1984-1985</a>
7	10	<a href="#">Lecture announcements, 1996-1997</a>
7	11	<a href="#">Lecture invitations, 1960-1961</a>
7	12	<a href="#">Letters regarding <i>Before-During-After</i>, 1991-1995</a>
7	13	<a href="#">List of speeches, 1997-2003</a>
7	14	<a href="#">Little Auschwitz trial, 1966-1967</a>
7	15	<a href="#">Lodz ghetto exhibition, 1990</a>
7	16	<a href="#">Martyrs Memorial and Museum of the Holocaust, 1994-1997</a>
7	17	<a href="#">Memoirs, undated</a>
7	18	<a href="#">Michel, Ernst W., 1993-1997</a>
8	1	<a href="#">Miscellaneous, 1946-2000</a>
8	2	<a href="#">Nordhausen photographs, 1945</a>
8	3	<a href="#">Number on my Father's Arm letters and press, 1987-1990</a>
8	4	<a href="#">Nuremberg laws, 1935</a>
8	5	<a href="#">Nuremberg trial conference, 1995</a>
8	6	<a href="#">Nuremberg trial interview, 1961</a>
8	7	<a href="#">Pamphlets, 1981-1984</a>
8	8	<a href="#">Photographs, 1937-1986</a>
8	9	<a href="#">Post-liberation documents, 1945-1946</a>
8	10	<a href="#">Reclaiming my Family History exhibition, 1997-1998 [also see oversized folder 1]</a>
8	11	<a href="#">Remembering for the Future 2000, 2000</a>
8	12	<a href="#">Request for help, 2000</a>
8	13	<a href="#">Restitution, 2000</a>
8	14	<a href="#">Reunions in Germany, 2000</a>
8	15	<a href="#">Roth, John – Claremont McKenna College, 1990</a>
8	16	<a href="#">Sachsenhausen concentration camp, 1997-1998</a>
8	17	<a href="#">Sachsenhausen trial, 1961-1969</a>
8	18	<a href="#">Silberstein, Fred, 1999</a>

8	19	<a href="#">Sobibor rebellion, 1987-1993</a>
8	20	<a href="#">Society of Orphanages, Tel-Aviv, 1977</a>
8	21	<a href="#">Speeches and testimonials, 1996-2004</a>
9	1	<a href="#">Stern family information, 1933</a>
9	2	<a href="#">Survivors of the Holocaust news articles, 1965-1989</a>
9	3	<a href="#">Survivors of the Shoah, 1995-1997</a>
9	4	<a href="#">Testimonial report, 1973</a>
9	5	<a href="#">Transcription, 1983</a>
9	6	<a href="#">Transport records, 1942-1943</a>
9	7	<a href="#">Trips, 1996</a>
9	8	<a href="#">UJA – Federation of New York, 1998-2000</a>
9	9	<a href="#">United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1991-1999</a>
9	10	<a href="#">Vantage Press, 1992-1997</a>
9	11	<a href="#">Voices of the Shoah, 2000</a>
9	12	<a href="#">Yad Vashem, 1960-2000</a>
9	13	<a href="#">Yom Hashoah speeches, 1984-2001</a>

### Series 3: Publications, 1945-2000

Box	Folder	Title
9	14	<a href="#">Articles regarding <i>Before-During-After</i>, 1992 [see oversized folder 2]</a>
9	15	<a href="#">Articles regarding Joseph Mengele, 1985-1989 [also see oversized folder 3]</a>
10	1	<i>Geschichte wird Erinnerung</i> , 1995 (Not Digitized)
10	2	Saturday Evening Post – Auschwitz trial, 1966 <a href="#">[also see oversized folder 4]</a> (Not Digitized)
10	3	Shabbat Shalom, 1987 (Not Digitized)
10	4	<i>The March of Evil</i> , 1945 (Not Digitized)
10	5-6	Various articles, 1945-2000 <a href="#">[also see oversized folder 5]</a> (Not Digitized)

### Oversized

Folder	Title
1	<a href="#">Reclaiming my Family History exhibition, 1997-1998</a>
2	<a href="#">Articles regarding <i>Before-During-After</i>, 1992</a>
3	<a href="#">Articles regarding Joseph Mengele, 1985-1989</a>
4	<a href="#">Saturday Evening Post – Auschwitz trial, 1966</a>
5	Various articles, 1945-2000 (Not Digitized)