

EFREM OSTROWSKY FAMILY PAPERS, 1938-1946
1995.A.0306.2

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
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Descriptive summary

Title: Efrem Ostrowsky family papers

Dates: 1938-1946

Accession number: 1995.A.0306.2

Creator: Ostrowsky, Efrem, 1919-2009.

Additional creator: Ostrowsky, Samuel, 1885-1946.

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box, 1 oversize folder, 1 oversize box)

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

Abstract: The collection primarily consists of wartime photographs taken by Efrem Ostrowsky and others as well as liberation photographs taken at the Dachau concentration camp by Ostrowsky. The photographs depict Allied troops in Austria, France, and Germany, captured German soldiers, liberated concentration camp survivors, cannons, tanks, and aircraft. The captured German soldiers include Major Wilhelm Oxenius, Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, and Colonel-General Alfred Jodl. Documents primarily relate to Efrem's father Samuel Ostrowsky's art career, including clippings, a program from a Spertus Museum exhibition on his work, publications, photocopies of correspondence, and a list of Jewish artists. Also included are two broken glass negatives.

Languages: English, French

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), Efrem Ostrowsky family papers (1995.A.0306.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Efrem Ostrowsky in 1994. His daughter Julie Ostrowsky donated an accretion in 2017. The collection is a unification of the prior donations, and consists of the accessions 1995.A.0306 and KE559401 under the new catalog number 1995.A.0306.2.

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

Processing history: Adam Fielding, February 2018

Biographical note

Efrem Ostrowsky (1919-2009) was the son of artist Samuel and Anna (née Israelson) Ostrowsky. He was a trained artist in sculpture. During World War II, he was a specialist in deactivating landmines with the 103rd Infantry Division. His unit helped in the liberation of France, and was among the first U.S. troops to enter the Dachau concentration camp. After the war he continued his studies in art in France at the Ecole Nationale de Beaux Arts and the Sorbone. Efrem later worked in industrial design. He married Thelma Horner and had three daughters: Lenore, Saula, and Julie.

Efrem's father, Samuel Ostrowsky (1885-1946), was born near Kiev and studied art from an early age. He immigrated to the United States in 1903 and settled in Chicago. He married Anna Israelson in 1912, and continued to take frequent trips to Paris to study and exhibit. He also began to design theatre sets. He had a studio in Paris and was there when World War II began. Samuel had difficulties leaving France, but was eventually able to secure passage back to the United States due to assistance from his friend Leon Blum (who was later arrested and survived internment in Dachau).

Scope and content of collection

The collection primarily consists of wartime photographs taken by Efrem Ostrowsky and others as well as liberation photographs taken at the Dachau concentration camp by Ostrowsky. The photographs depict Allied troops in Austria, France, and Germany, captured German soldiers, liberated concentration camp survivors, cannons, tanks, and aircraft. The captured German soldiers include Major Wilhelm Oxenius, Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, and Colonel-General Alfred Jodl. Documents primarily relate to Efrem's father Samuel Ostrowsky's art career, including clippings, a program from a Spertus Museum exhibition on his work, publications, photocopies of correspondence, and a list of Jewish artists. Also included are two broken glass negatives.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as two series:

Series 1. Documents and publications, 1938-1946

Series 2. Photographs, circa 1944-1945

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically. Negatives in this collection have been removed for conservation reasons.

Indexing terms

Person:

Ostrowsky, Efrem, 1919-2009.

Ostrowsky, Samuel, 1885-1946.

Corporate:

Dachau (Concentration camp)

United States. Army. Infantry Division, 103rd.

Germany--Armed Forces.

Topical Subject:

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

Jewish artists.

World War, 1939-1945--Military life--American--Europe.

Geography:

Austria.

Dachau (Germany)

France.

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Documents and publications, 1938-1946

| Box/Folder | Title |
|-------------------|---|
| 1.1 | Correspondence, 1945-1946 |
| 1.2 | Documents regarding art careers of Efrem and Samuel Ostrowsky, 1945-1946 and undated |
| OS.1 | Publication: <i>Beaux Arts</i> newspapers, 1938-1939 |
| 1.3 | Publication: George, Waldemar, <i>S. Ostrowsky: Illustré de Vingt-Quatre Reproductions</i> , 1939 |

Series 2. Photographs, circa 1944-1945

| Box/Folder | Title |
|-------------------|---|
| 1.4 | Cannons and tanks, circa 1944-1945 |
| 1.5 | Captured German soldiers, 1945 |
| 1.6 | Dachau concentration camp, 1945 |
| 1.7 | German aircraft, circa 1944-1945 |
| 1.8-1.9 | Miscellaneous military photographs, circa 1944-1945 (two folders) |
| 1.10 | Ostrowsky, Efrem, circa 1945 |
| 2 | Glass Negatives (broken) |