

## **IRVING NEWMAN PAPERS, 1935-1949 AND UNDATED**

### **1995.A.0753.1**

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

Title: Irving Newman papers

Dates: 1935-1949 and undated

Accession number: 1995.A.0753.1

Creator: Irving Newman (1907-1984)

Extent: 4 folders plus 1 oversized folder

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

Abstract: The Irving Newman papers contain documents concerning Irving Newman (formerly Isaak Nementschik, 1907-1984), a Jewish accountant living in Kaunas, Lithuania, and his family. Irving, his wife Lisa (Lea Berstein, 1910-) and their children, Florence (Fira, 1936-) and William (Boris, 1939-) all survived the Holocaust. Irving survived by escaping Nazi detainment during a death march. Lisa smuggled the two children out of the Kovno (Kaunas) ghetto, hid them with Christian families, and traveled Lithuania as a migrant farmer until the war ended. The family reunited in 1945. This collection is comprised primarily of newspaper clippings of articles Irving wrote for the *Jidisze Cajtung*, one of the largest displaced persons newspapers while living in displaced persons camps in West Germany between 1945 and 1949. These articles are primarily in Yiddish and describes the situations of surviving Jews in Germany. Also included in this collection is correspondence written in the post-war period between 1945 and 1948 and family photographs that document the Newman family before the war and their life in a displaced persons camp in Erzabtei St. Ottilien.

Language: Yiddish, Hebrew, 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 if item), Irving Newman papers (1995.A.0753.1) United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Irving Newman papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1995 by Irving's daughter, Florence N. Post.

Related archival materials: An oral history interview conducted with the donor, Florence N. Post, is also held by The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum under record group number RG 50.269. The USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive also conducted an oral history interview with Florence N. Post under VHA interview code 25703.

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: Colleen Benoit, December 2015

### **Biographical note**

Isaak Nementschik (later Irving Newman) was a Jewish accountant born in April 1907 in Ukmerge, Lithuania. He married Lea Bernstein (Lisa Newman, 1910-), a dentist from Mariampole, Poland in May 1935. Together, they had a comfortable life in Kaunas, Lithuania and two children, Fira (Florence) born March 1936 and Boris (William) born April 1939. In the years leading up to World War II, Irving tried to obtain papers in order to flee Lithuania, but was unsuccessful. As persecution against Jews by the Nazis increased, the family was moved into the Kovno (Kaunas) ghetto. In 1940, Irving was arrested with several thousand other professional Jewish men and taken to a fort in Kaunas where over 3,000 were shot and killed. Irving survived by bribing a guard and hiding in a hole. He returned home to work as a laborer and fed his family by trading valuable items for bread and potatoes.

Around 1943 Irving was deported to Stutthof concentration camp. His wife and children remained in the ghetto. Lisa later escaped the ghetto and smuggled the children out to safety in 1944 by cutting a hole in the ghetto fence and carrying Florence, William, and a cousin named Llana out in sacks. Florence and Llana were taken to a farm in the countryside of Lithuania where they stayed in hiding until the war ended. William stayed with a Christian woman living in Kaunas, whom Lisa paid by working as a migrant farmer traveling around Lithuania. During this time, Irving was transferred to Buchenwald concentration camp and escaped into the woods during a death march. Emaciated and starving, he was nursed back to health by a Czech woman who discovered him. The entire family survived the war and reunited in Łódź, Poland in 1945.

For four years the family lived in displaced person camps in West Germany, where Irving became active in writing for the *Jidisze Cajtung*, one of the largest displaced persons newspapers. In May 1949, the family immigrated to the United States aboard the SS *Marine Marlin* after obtaining papers from relatives in Connecticut. Irving died in 1984 in Connecticut.

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

The Irving Newman papers are comprised primarily of newspaper clippings of articles Irving wrote for the *Jidisze Cajtung* while living in displaced persons camps in West Germany between 1945 and 1949.

These articles are primarily in Yiddish and describes the situations of surviving Jews in Germany, relations with Germany, and preparations for relocation to Israel. Included among the newspaper clippings is correspondence soliciting articles, acknowledging the receipt of articles, and one letter written by Irving in which he describes his detainment. This collection also includes a series of photographs depicting the Newman family before and after World War II. Images taken before the war include Lisa and Irving's wedding in 1935 and the young family in 1939 or 1940. Post war images include the surviving children and daily life at a displaced person's camp in Erzabtei St. Ottilien near Landsberg, Germany and the Newman family aboard the SS *Marine Marlin* in route for the United States in 1949.

### **System of arrangement**

The Irving Newman papers are arranged as two series:

- Papers, 1945-1948 and undated
- Photographs, 1935-1949 and undated

### **Indexing terms**

Newman, Irving.

Newman, Florence.

Newman, Boris.

Newman, Lisa.

Stutthof (Concentration camp).

Buchenwald (Concentration camp).

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

Emigration and immigration--United States--1940-1950.

Death march survivors--Germany.

Escapes--Lithuania.

Hiding places--Lithuania.

Dentists--Lithuania.

World War, 1939-1945--Children--Lithuania.

Jewish refugees--Lithuania.

Refugee children--Lithuania.

Jewish children in the Holocaust--Lithuania.

Ukmerge (Lithuania).

Kaunas (Lithuania).

Łódź (Poland).

Landsberg am Lech (Germany).

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Series 1: Papers, 1945-1948 and undated**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Articles, 1945-1946 and undated [See oversized folder]
2	Correspondence, 1945-1948

**Series 2: Photographs, 1935-1949 and undated**

Folder	Title
3	Pre-war, 1935-1940 and undated
4	Post-war, 1945-1949

**Oversized folders**

Folder	Title
1	Articles, 1945-1946 and undated