

RENATA LAQUEUR PAPERS, 1945-1995
1995.A.1169.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Renata Laqueur papers

Dates: 1945-1995

Accession number: 1995.A.1169.1

Creator: Renata Laqueur

Extent: 4 folders

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

Abstract: The Renata Laqueur collection includes the typed transcript of diaries and relevant background information for Renata Laqueur, a Holocaust survivor. The diaries were written while Renata and her husband were imprisoned in Bergen-Belsen. Also included are the curriculum vitae and dissertation abstract for Renata Laqueur.

Languages: 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: Renata Laqueur papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Renata Laqueur collection was donated by Renata Laqueur to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1995. These donations were given two separate accession

numbers: 1995.A.1169 and 1995.A.1203. These accessions have since been unified, and can be located under 1995.A.1169.1.

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

Processing history: Michael Folkerts, June 2015

Biographical note

Renata Laqueur was born in 1919 in Brzeg, Poland. In that same year her family moved to Amsterdam after her father, Ernst Laqueur, had been appointed professor of pharmacology at the University of Amsterdam. Renata attended school in Amsterdam, and eventually studied at the International Secretarial School in 1939. In 1941, she met and married Paul Goldschmidt, a speech therapist. Renata and her husband were arrested in 1943, and taken to the Vught concentration camp and the Westerbork transit camp. Their arrest was due to Paul's sister and brother-in-law, who were members of the resistance and, when their home was raided by the SS, held false identity papers for Renata and Paul. Due to the efforts of Renata's father, Paul and Renata were released. They were arrested again, however, in November 1943 and were taken to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. While imprisoned, Renata kept a diary, spanning from March through December 1944. On April 10 1945, Renata and Paul were placed on the last transport from Bergen-Belsen to Theresienstadt. The train, infamously known as "The Lost Train," did not reach its destination and was stopped by Soviet troops in the town of Tröbitz on April 23. For several months while they recovered, Renata helped in a hospital for liberated camp prisoners, until she fell ill with typhus. The couple returned to Amsterdam in 1945, where they lived together until 1950, when they divorced. During this time, Renata deposited a typed manuscript of her diaries in the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation. In 1952, Renata immigrated to the United States, and in 1960, she began undergraduate studies at New York University. In 1971, Renata completed her Ph.D. dissertation which examined fourteen diaries, including her own, written by inmates in concentration camps. Meanwhile, excerpts from her diary that she had deposited in the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation had been published in anthologies in the Netherlands, and in 1965 had been published in paperback under the title "Dagboek uit Bergen-Belsen." Her diary has been republished several times since.

Scope and content of collection

The Renata Laqueur collection includes the typed transcript of diaries and relevant background information for Renata Laqueur, a Holocaust survivor. The diaries were written while Renata and her husband were imprisoned in Bergen-Belsen. Also included are the curriculum vitae and dissertation abstract for Renata Laqueur.

System of arrangement

The Renata Laqueur papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Laqueur, Renata.
Goldschmidt, Paul.
Laqueur, Ernst.

Bergen-Belsen (Concentration camp)

Vught (Concentration camp)
Westerbork (Concentration camp)
New York University.
Nederlands Instituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie.

Concentration camp inmates' writings.
Diarists.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Netherlands--Personal narratives.
Jewish women in the Holocaust--Personal narratives.
Jews, Polish--Netherlands.
Jews--Persecutions--Netherlands.
Refugee camps--Germany.
Typhus fever.
Women concentration camp inmates.
World War, 1939-1945--Hospitals--Germany.
World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prisons.

Brzeg (Województwo Opolskie, Poland)
Amsterdam (Netherlands)
Tröbitz (Germany)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Renata Laqueur papers, 1945-1983

Folder	Title
1	Background information, approximately 1995
2	Curriculum vitae, 1995
3	<i>Diary of Bergen-Belsen (March 1944-April 1945)</i> , 1945
4	Dissertation abstract, 1971