

**PAULINE KRA PAPERS, approximately 1928-1955**  
**1996.67.26**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
Tel. (202) 479-9717  
e-mail: [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org)

**Descriptive summary**

Title: Pauline Kra papers

Dates: approximately 1928-1955

Accession number: 1996.67.26

Creator: Kra, Pauline, 1934-

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (6 folders)

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

Abstract: The Pauline Kra papers consist of biographical materials and photographs documenting the Bartkowski and Skornicki families from Łódź, their confinement in the Tomaszów Mazowiecki ghetto, Pauline's hidden Jewish identity in a Warsaw convent, and the family's relocation to Caracas after the war and eventual immigration to the United States.

Languages: English, Spanish, Polish, 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: (Identification of item), Pauline Kra papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Pauline Kra donated the Pauline Kra papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1996. The accession formerly cataloged as 1996.124 has been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: Pauline Kra also donated two scarves (1996.67.24 and 1996.67.25) to the Museum. An oral history interview conducted with Pauline Kra on November 1, 1995 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum.

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: Julie Schweitzer, January 2016

### **Biographical note**

Pauline Kra was born Paulina Skornicka July 30, 1934 in Łódź, Poland to Eljasz (Edward, 1905-1991) and Natalia (Natka, 1909-2000) Skornicki. The family moved to Tomaszów Mazowiecki in 1941 to join her aunt Marysia, and the family was forced into the ghetto. Pauline's father, who was working outside the ghetto, befriended Mr. Wojdan, the head of a socialist cell in Tomaszów Mazowiecki. Mr. Wojdan arranged for a woman named Mrs. Zajdel to hide Paulina in her home posing as her niece "Lusia" visiting from Warsaw. Her parents obtained false papers under the names Stefan and Janina Ziemnicki, moved to Warsaw, and Paulina joined them there. In 1943, she was placed in an orphanage where her Jewish identity was not known, and she visited her parents on weekends. Her family was evacuated during the Warsaw Uprising in August 1944 and stayed on Mrs. Rojkowna's farm in Chudolipie until they were liberated by the Russians in January 1945. The family left Poland in 1946 and lived in Paris until 1947 when they traveled via the United States to Venezuela. They immigrated to the United States in the 1950s.

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

The Pauline Kra papers consist of biographical materials and photographs documenting the Bartkowski and Skornicki families from Łódź, their confinement in the Tomaszów Mazowiecki ghetto, Pauline's hidden Jewish identity in a Warsaw convent, and the family's relocation to Caracas after the war and eventual immigration to the United States.

Biographical materials include a Tomaszów Mazowiecki identification card for Natalia Skornicka's mother Tauba Bartkowska, an American Foreign Service application for non-immigrant visa for Natalia and Paulina Skornicka, and Polish, Venezuelan, and American identification and immigration papers for Paulina Skornicka.

Photographs depict Paulina Skornicka and members of her father's and mother's families, mostly in Łódź but also in Caracas and Brussels. One photograph documents Paulina's first communion while she was hiding under a non-Jewish identity in a convent in Warsaw.

### **System of arrangement**

The Pauline Kra papers are arranged as two series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1942-1955
- Series 2: Photographs, approximately 1928-1949

**Indexing terms**

Jews--Poland--Łódź.

Hidden children (Holocaust)--Poland--Warsaw.

Holocaust survivors--Venezuela--Caracas.

Łódź (Poland)

Tomaszów Mazowiecki (Poland)

Warsaw (Poland)

Caracas (Venezuela)

Photographs.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Series 1: Biographical materials, 1942-1955**

Folder	
1	Bartkowska, Tauba, 1942
2	Skornicka, Natalia, 1946
3	Skornicka, Paulina, 1946, 1951-1955

**Series 2: Photographs, approximately 1928-1949**

Folder	
4	Bartkowski family, approximately 1935-1940
5	Skornicka, Paulina, approximately 1940-1949
6	Skornicki family, approximately 1928-1941