

ABE WEISS PAPERS, approximately 1920-1996
1996.A.0081
RG-10.173

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

Descriptive summary

Title: Abe Weiss papers

Dates: approximately 1920-1996

Accession number: 1996.A.0081

Creator: Weiss, Abe, 1912-1995

Extent: 1.0 linear foot (2 boxes)

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

Abstract: The Abe Weiss papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, and restitution papers documenting Abe Weiss from Kołomyja, his relocation to Leipzig, and his immigration to the United States as well as his family members who remained in Kołomyja, Leipzig, Zbąszyń, Kolno, and Białystok and perished in the Holocaust. A photo album includes photographs from his visit to the Berlin Olympics.

Languages: Yiddish, German, English, and Polish

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), Abe Weiss papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Barbara Jacobson and Susan Bloom, daughters of Abe Weiss, donated the Abe Weiss papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1996.

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, May 2016, revised February 2019

Biographical note / Administrative history

Abe Weiss (1912-1995) was born in Kołomyja, Poland (Kolomyia, Ukraine) to tailor Selig Nachbar and his wife, Baile Weiss. He was also called Alfred and Adi, he used his mother's maiden name rather than his father's last name, and his siblings used both Weiss and Nachbar. He moved to Leipzig in 1929 to work in his brother Salomon's clothing factory, and he lived with his brother, sister-in-law Ethel (Etti) and niece Beata. His half-brother, Marcus (Mordechai) Birnberg also moved to Leipzig, as did their sister Regina (Rivka). Abe Weiss immigrated to the United States in December 1938, and lived briefly with relatives Mollie and Ben Yuran in New Brunswick, New Jersey and Nathan and Anna Weiss in the Bronx. In 1939, he married Brooklyn-born Mollie Levin (1917-1989), but despite his marriage to an American citizen, he found it necessary to travel to Cuba and reenter the United States under another emigration quota. He became a naturalized citizen in 1943. He worked as a tailor before attending the Fashion Institute of Technology to learn pattern making. He and his wife later moved to Maspeth, Queens. He sold United States war bonds during World War II and Israel bonds afterwards. A lifelong Zionist, he was honored for his bond-selling by the Maspeth Jewish Center and by a meeting with David ben Gurion during Weiss's first trip to Israel. Abe's mother died before the Holocaust, and his father, brothers Marcus, Salomon, and Jacob (Koppel), sisters Regina and Rachel, niece Beata, and nephews were all killed in the Holocaust.

Scope and content of collection

The Abe Weiss papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, and restitution papers documenting Abe Weiss from Kołomyja, his relocation to Leipzig, and his immigration to the United States as well as his family members who remained in Kołomyja, Leipzig, Zbąszyń, Kolno, and Białystok and perished in the Holocaust. A photo album includes photographs from his visit to the Berlin Olympics.

Biographical materials include photocopies of Abe Weiss' Polish and German birth certificates, wedding announcements for Regina Nachbar and Chaim Dudowicz, Red Star Line and *S.S. Gerolstein* travel receipts and passenger lists and additional records documenting Weiss' immigration, Abe Weiss' marriage certificate, certificates recognizing Abe Weiss for selling war bonds, Rosh Hashanah cards and Nachbar stationery documenting the Nachbar family, and family histories composed by Abe Weiss's daughter, Barbara Johnson.

The correspondence series contains letters and postcards exchanged among Abe Weiss and his relatives following his immigration to the United States while his family remained in Leipzig, Kołomyja, Zbąszyń, Kolno, and Białystok. Correspondence from Kołomyja documents Selig Nachbar, Rachel and Leyb Koch, and Jacob Nachbar in Kołomyja; correspondence from Leipzig documents Salomon, Ethel, and Beata Nachbar, Marcus Birnberg, and Regina and Chaim Dudowicz; and correspondence from Zbąszyń, Kolno, and Białystok further documents Regina and Chaim Dudowicz. The letters and postcards primarily

report on anti-Semitic harassment, efforts to emigrate from Germany and Poland, Salomon Nachbar's and Max Birnberg's imprisonment in concentration camps, Chaim Dudowicz's confinement in a refugee camp, and Regina Dudowicz's efforts to rejoin her husband.

Loose photographs include images of Weiss and Nachbar family life in Kołomyja and Leipzig, and the photo albums contain photographs of Abe Weiss at the Berlin Olympics and in the United States, with his family and friends in Leipzig, and vacationing elsewhere in Germany.

The restitution papers primarily consist of correspondence between Abe Weiss and the United Restitution Organization (URO) documenting his attempts to gain restitution for loss of fortune and property, damage to professional development, and insurance payments, especially in relation to his brother, Salomon Nachbar, and the Nachbar clothing factory and for his own emigration costs during the Holocaust.

System of arrangement

The Abe Weiss papers are arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, approximately 1920-1945, 1996
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1935-1941
- Series 3: Photographic materials, approximately 1930-1940
- Series 4: Restitution papers, 1930-1978

Indexing terms

United Restitution Organization.

Olympic Games (11th : 1936 : Berlin, Germany)

Jews--Poland--Kołomyja.

Jews--Germany--Leipzig.

Jewish refugees--United States.

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

Kołomyja (Poland)

Leipzig (Germany)

Zbąszyń (Poland)

Kolno (Poland)

Białystok (Poland)

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, approximately 1920-1945, 1996

Box/Folder	
1.1	Weiss, Abe, approximately 1930-1945, 1996
1.2	Nachbar/Weiss family, approximately 1920-1945

Series 2: Correspondence, 1935-1941

Box/Folder	
1.3	Kołomyja, 1939-1940
1.4	Leipzig, 1938-1941
1.5	Zbąszyń, Kolno, and Białystok, 1939-1941
1.6	Miscellaneous, approximately 1935-1939

Series 3: Photographic materials, approximately 1930-1940

Box/Folder	
1.7	Dudowicz, Regina and Chaim, approximately 1935-1938
1.8	Koch, Rachel and Leon (Leyb), approximately 1937-1938
1.9	Nachbar, Salomon, Ethel, and Beata, approximately 1930-1938
1.10	Nachbar/Weiss family and friends, approximately 1930-1940
1.11	Weiss, Abe, approximately 1935-1938
1.12	Weiss, Jacob (Koppel), approximately 1930s
2	Photo album, Abe Weiss at Berlin Olympics, vacationing, and in the United States, 1936-1938
1.13	Photo album, Abe Weiss and relatives in Leipzig, 1938

Series 4: Restitution papers, 1930-1978

Box/Folder	
1.14	Restitution papers, 1930, 1940, 1957-1965, 1978