

**ROSE KAPLOVITZ PAPERS, circa 1920-1947**  
**1996.A.0576.2**

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: Rose Kaplovitz papers

Dates: circa 1920-1947

Accession number: 1996.A.0576.2

Creator: Kaplovitz, Rose, 1930-

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (18 folders, 1 BE)

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

Abstract: The Rose Kaplovitz papers consist of correspondence, autograph books, and photographs documenting the lives of Rose and her family in Sosnowiec, Będzin, and Łazy. The collections relates to their experiences before the Holocaust, Rose's survival in the Sosnowiec ghetto and Ober-Altstadt forced labor camp, and her postwar life in a Jewish orphanage in Chorzów and at the Leipheim displaced persons camp.

Languages: Polish, English, German, Hebrew, Yiddish

**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), Rose Kaplovitz papers (1996.A.0576.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Rose Kaplovitz donated the Rose Kaplovitz papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1996, 2004, and 2006, and Gerald Kaiser added an autograph book to

the collection in 2014. Accessions formerly cataloged as 1996.A.0576, 2004.207, 2006.441.1, and 2014.137.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Separated materials: Rose Kaplovitz also donated pieces of Theresienstadt scrip (1996.A.0576.3-1996.A.0576.9) to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Related materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds three oral history interviews conducted with Rose Kaplovitz (RG-90.063.0718; RG-50.091.0081; RG-50.431.0334).

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, September 2019

### **Biographical note**

Rose Kaplovitz was born Rózia Zaks (Saks) on September 6, 1930 in Sosnowiec, Poland, to Mendel and Hindel (Helen) Zaks. Her parents owned a grocery store, and Rose had six siblings: Regina (later Rosenman), Cesia (later Kaiser), Tola (later Gilbert), Romek, Mania (Maria, Malka, later Ullman), and Cyma (Cymusia). The children attended the Jewish public school on Ostrogórska Street in Sosnowiec. When the Germans occupied Sosnowiec in September 1939, they shot and killed Rose's brother Romek and her uncle and cousin. The Zaks family was forced to live in the Sosnowiec ghetto. Mania was selected for forced labor in February 1942, sent to the Parschnitz subcamp of Gross-Rosen, and later to the Ober-Altstadt subcamp. That summer, Rose, her parents, her sisters Cyma and Regina, and Regina's husband and daughter, Lala, were selected for Auschwitz but escaped. Tola was selected for forced labor in August 1942 and, like Mania, sent to the Parschnitz and Ober-Altstadt subcamps of Gross-Rosen. The rest of the Zaks family was forced into the closed ghetto at Środula, and Rose was ordered to work in a factory making dominoes and checkers for the German army. In July 1943, her parents convinced her to volunteer for the Ober-Altstadt camp, where Rose was assigned work making thread. In August, Mendel, Hindel, Cyma, Regina, and Lala were deported to Auschwitz and gassed upon arrival. Rose, Tola, and Mania survived together in Ober-Altstadt. After liberation by the Soviet army in May 1945, the three sisters made their way back to Sosnowiec and discovered that only their sister Cesia and her son Jurek had survived. Rose's sisters found her a place in a Jewish orphanage in nearby Chorzów, where she could resume her schooling. In July 1946 she moved to the kibbutz at the Leipheim displaced persons camp, and her sisters lived at the Bergen-Belsen DP camp. She hoped to immigrate to Palestine, but in December 1946 learned that her sisters wanted her to immigrate to the United States with them. She registered with UNRRA, under the altered birth date she had created to make herself eligible for Palestine, and was moved to the children's home at Prien am Chiemsee. In September 1947, she and other child survivors immigrated to the United States aboard the SS *Ernie Pyle*. She married fellow survivor Henry Kaplovitz in September 1951, and the couple had three children.

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

The Rose Kaplovitz papers consist of correspondence, autograph books, and photographs documenting the lives of Rose and her family in Sosnowiec, Będzin, and Łazy. The collections relates to their experiences before the Holocaust, Rose's survival in the Sosnowiec ghetto and Ober-Altstadt forced labor camp, and her postwar life in a Jewish orphanage in Chorzów and at the Leipheim displaced persons camp.

Correspondence primarily consists of wartime letters and postcards written by the Zaks family in the Sosnowiec ghetto and sent to Rose's sisters Mania and Tola at the Welzel textile plant in Trautenau (Trutnov, part of the Parschnitz labor camp) and the Kluge textile plant (part of the Ober-Alstadt labor camp). This series also includes prewar letters belonging to Rose's maternal relative Sam Kleinman.

The collection includes two autograph books kept by Rózia Zaks during and after the Holocaust. She used the first in the Sosnowiec ghetto from September 1941, at slave labor camp Ober-Alstadt in 1943, and through her liberation in 1945. The book includes written entries from her sisters and friends, and several pages include a "secret" folded corner. She used the second after liberation in May 1945, during her time at a Jewish orphanage in Chorzów and at the Leipheim displaced persons camp, and until her immigration to the United States in 1947.

Photographs include pre-war photographs of Sosnowiec, Będzin, and Łazy Poland; wartime photographs of Sosnowiec; and post-war photographs of a children's home in Chorzów. The photographs depict Zaks family members and friends, many of whom perished during the Holocaust.

### **System of arrangement**

The Rose Kaplovitz papers are arranged as three series:

Series 1: Correspondence, 1934-1947

Series 2: Autograph books, circa 1941-1947

Series 3: Photographs, circa 1930-1946

### **Indexing terms**

#### **Personal names**

Kaplovitz, Rose, 1930-

#### **Topical terms**

Jews--Poland--Sosnowiec.

Jewish ghettos--Poland--Sosnowiec.

Slave labor--Czech Republic.

Holocaust survivors--Poland.

#### **Geographic terms**

Sosnowiec (Poland)

Będzin (Poland)

Chorzów (Województwo Śląskie, Poland)

Łazy (Poland)

#### **Genre terms**

Correspondence.

Photographs.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1934-1947

Box/Folder	Description
1 of 18	Letters to Mania Zaks, circa 1942-1943
2 of 18	Postcards to Mania Zaks, 1942-1943
3 of 18	Letters to Tola Zaks, circa 1942-1943
4 of 18	Postcards to Tola Zaks, 1942-1943
5 of 18	Sam Kleinman letters from Chaim Guttman and the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, 1934-1935, 1941-1944
6 of 18	Page from <i>Jidisze Sport Cajtung</i> , annotated, July 2, 1947

### Series 2: Autograph books, circa 1941-1947

Box/Folder	Description
7 of 18	Rózia Zaks, wartime, circa 1941-1945
BE 1	Rózia Zaks, post-war, circa 1945-1947

### Series 3: Photographs, circa 1920-1946

Box/Folder	Description
8 of 18	Zaks, Rózia, at school, circa 1936-1938
9 of 18	Zaks family, circa 1937-1940
10 of 18	Zaks family and friends in Sosnowiec, circa 1937-1942
11 of 18	Goldzweig family, circa 1920s
12 of 18	Gutman family, circa 1920s-1930s
13 of 18	Kaiser, Jurek, circa 1940-1946
14 of 18	Kleinman, Abraham and Leah, circa 1920s
15 of 18	Rosenblum family, circa 1920s-1930s
16 of 18	Wilkom, Genia and Heniek, circa 1930s
17 of 18	British POWs at Ober-Alstadt, 1943
18 of 18	Chorzów children's home, 1945