

**SAMUEL ZISMAN PAPERS, 1944-1996 (bulk 1945-1949)
1996.A.0581.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Samuel Zisman papers

Dates: 1944-1996 (bulk 1945-1947)

Accession number: 1996.A.0581.1

Creator: Zisman, Samuel, 1908-1970

Extent: 3.9 linear feet (7 boxes, 4 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The Samuel Zisman papers consist of biographical materials, team records, drawings and maps, memoranda and reports, personal correspondence, photographs, and printed materials documenting Samuel Zisman's service as United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) director of District 5 in Bavaria from 1945-1947 and the administration of displaced persons camps in that district.

Languages: English, German, French, Hebrew, Russian, Czech

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), Samuel Zisman papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Paul Spreiregen donated the Samuel Zisman papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1996 and 1998. The accession formerly cataloged as 1998.A.0122 has been incorporated into this collection.

Custodial history: Frank and Camille Rosengren of San Antonio, Texas, friends of Samuel Zisman, obtained the collection after Zisman's death in 1970. The Rosengrens contacted Paul D. Spreiregen, Zisman's nephew, who arranged for the records to be stored at the home of Amy Shuman, grandniece of Samuel Zisman, in 1989. In 1995, Martin Zisman, nephew of Samuel Zisman, removed seven boxes to his home in Dallas, Texas. Paul Spreiregen received the remainder of the records in June 1996. Spreiregen donated the portion of the records relating to Samuel Zisman's career as a teacher and city-planning consultant to the Archives of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) later in June 1996. He then donated the records relating to Zisman's work with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives in December 1996. These records can be referenced with accession number 1996.A.0581. Martin Zisman later turned over his portion of the collection to Paul Spreiregen in May 1998 and he, in turn, donated the materials to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives in July 1998.

Related materials: Paul Spreiregen also donated a leather notebook case and a cartoon drawing of Mickey Mouse and Fiorello LaGuardia to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1996 and Samuel Zisman's UNRRA uniform patch in 1998.

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

Processing history: Revised, Julie Schweitzer, July 2014

Biographical note

Samuel B. Zisman was born in 1908 in Boston, Massachusetts and served as director of the Bavarian District (District 5) of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration from August 1945 to July 1947. After his service in Europe, he worked as a city planner and as a planning consultant and architect until his death in 1970 in San Antonio, Texas.

Scope and content of collection

The Samuel Zisman papers consist of biographical materials, team records, drawings and maps, memoranda and reports, personal correspondence, photographs, and printed materials documenting Samuel Zisman's service as United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) director of District 5 in Bavaria from 1945-1947 and the administration of displaced persons camps in that district.

Biographical materials consist of Samuel Zisman's international certificate of inoculation and vaccination, chest x-ray, and permit to cross the Soviet zone of occupation as well as Paul Spreiregen's career chronology and biographical sketch of Zisman and provenance statement about the custodial history of the Zisman papers.

UNRRA team records include memoranda, notes, and reports documenting UNRRA's efforts to secure adequate facilities and supplies for displaced persons; team organization and staff responsibilities; notable events and crises within the camps; relationships among groups of displaced persons, UNRRA personnel, the local German population, and the military government; camp conditions; health, nutrition, and sanitation; and repatriation. Many files also include organizational charts, drawings, and maps. A few files also include photographs.

Drawings and maps consist of renderings of barracks and an UNRRA reception center; maps of District 5 zones, requisitioned housing in Munich, and the area of Traunstein/Laufen/Berchtesgaden; and illustrated Christmas greetings to Zisman from UNRRA personnel.

Memoranda and reports document communications among UNRRA offices, the American Joint Distribution Committee, Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the American Occupied Zone in Germany, International Relief Organization, Jewish Council, and U.S. Army offices on topics such as displaced persons, "Jewish infiltrates" (non-German Jews smuggled into the American occupation zone of Germany), statistical information about Jewish populations in the American zone, and problems of Jewish displaced persons. These files also document facilities, supplies, staffing, events, and conditions in displaced person camps as well as efforts to repatriate displaced persons. This series further includes a "Berlin log" documenting Zisman's Berlin visit in April 1947, a series of vignettes using imaginary conversation to illustrate DP problems, an invitation to the opening ceremony of the UNRRA University for Displaced Persons, and a program from an ORT exhibition.

Personal correspondence consists of personal correspondence to Zisman from UNRRA colleagues in Europe and from friends and acquaintances in the United States sharing personal news, asking for help, and giving thanks. Frequent topics include the transfer of UNRRA duties to the International Relief Organization (IRO) and the death of IRO team director Harold Rosenblatt.

Photographic materials include photographs from two dismantled photograph albums and loose photographs documenting Samuel Zisman and his UNRRA service in Germany. Photographs depict Zisman, UNRRA personnel, UNRRA staff meetings and social events, displaced persons, children, weddings, DP camps, visiting officials, train stations and trains repatriating survivors or relocating them to their new homes, and bombed out buildings. Most of the photographs are not labeled, but a few photographs of camps at Dorfen, Hochland, Feldafing, Geretsried, Altstadt, Föhrenwald, and Sonthofen are identified. This series also includes a photograph of Zisman at his post-UNRRA position helping Dr. Taylor Cole interview candidates for the Civil Administration Division's "Democracy Workshop" program. Some photograph album pages appear to be missing or to have been skipped.

Printed materials consist of articles about refugee children published in *L'Aube*, clippings about displaced persons and post-war Germany, 1946 issues of *D.P. Express* and *UNRRA Team News*, a copy of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force's *Guide to the Care of Displaced Persons in Germany*, and a copy of a brochure, *An UNRRA Assembly Center: Esslingen o/ Neckar*.

System of arrangement

The Samuel Zisman papers are arranged as seven series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1944-1947, 1996
- Series 2: United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration team records, 1945-1947
- Series 3: Drawings and maps, 1945-1946
- Series 4: Memoranda and reports, 1945-1947
- Series 5: Personal correspondence, 1944-1954
- Series 6: Photographic materials, 1945-1949
- Series 7: Printed materials, 1945-1949

Indexing terms

Zisman, Samuel B. (Samuel Bernard), 1908-1970.

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Jewish refugees--Germany.

Refugees--Germany.

Refugee camps--Germany.

Bavaria (Germany)

Architectural drawings (visual works).

Drawings (visual works)

Maps.

Photographs.

Political cartoons.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1944-1947, 1996

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Career chronology, 1996
1.2	International certificate of inoculation and vaccination and chest x-ray, 1944-1946
1.3	Permit to cross the Soviet zone of occupation, 1947
1.4	Provenance statement, 1996

Series 2: United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration team records, 1945-1947

Box/Folder	Title
1.5	Team P. 1, 1945
1.6	Team 1, 1945-1946
1.7	Team 55, 1946
1.8	Team 75, approximately 1945
1.9	Team 76, 1945-1946
1.10, 7.1	Team 78, approximately 1945-1946 (2 folders)
1.11	Team 90, 1945-1946
1.12	Team 92, 1945
1.13-1.16, 7.2	Team 106, 1945-1946 (4 folders)
1.17	Team 108, 1945-1946
1.18	Team 109, 1945-1946
1.19-1.21	Team 114, 1945-1946 (3 folders)
1.22	Team 122, 1945

1.23	Team 150, 1945-1946
1.24-1.25	Team 154, 1945-1946 (2 folders)
1.26	Team 155, 1946
2.1, 7.3	Team 159, 1945-1946
2.2, 7.4	Team 161, 1945-1946
2.3	Team 165, 1946
2.4	Team 182, approximately 1945
2.5	Team 188, 1945-1946
2.6	Team 194, approximately 1945
2.7	Team 306, approximately 1945
2.8-2.9	Team 308, 1945-1946 (2 folders)
2.10-2.11	Team 311, 1945-1946 (2 folders)
2.12	Team 538, 1945
2.13	Team 543, 1945
2.14	Team 551, 1945-1946
2.15	Team 558, 1946
2.16-2.17	Team 560, 1945-1946 (2 folders)
2.18	Team 568, 1945
2.19	Team 710, 1945
2.20	Team 1061, 1946-1947
2.21	Team 1062, 1946-1947
2.22	Team 1063, 1946-1947
2.23	Team 1065, 1946-1947
2.24	Team 1066, 1946
2.25	Team 1067, 1946
2.26	Team 1069, 1946

Series 3: Drawings and maps, 1945-1946

Box/Folder	Title
2.27	Barracks, approximately 1945
OS 1	Baywa Lagerhaus Traunstein map of Traunstein/Laufen/Berchtesgaden area with various cities circled in pencil, approximately 1945
7.5	Christmas greetings to Zisman from UNRRA personnel, 1946
2.28	Notebook of hand drawn maps of District 5, approximately 1945
OS 2	UNRRA 5 th District, Pasing, 11/13/1946, Map of Requisitioned Housing, 1946
OS 3	UNRRA Reception Center, three drawings, 1945

Series 4: Memoranda and reports, 1945-1947

Box/Folder	Title
3.1	American Joint Distribution Committee, 1946
3.2	Berlin log, April 1947
3.3	Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the American Occupied Zone in Germany, 1946

3.4-3.6	Displaced persons, 1945-1947 (3 folders)
3.7	Exhibition of the ORT-UNRRA vocational school of the 5 th district, program, 1946
3.8	Field reports, 1946-1947
3.9-3.11	Informational reports, 1945-1947 (3 folders)
3.12	International Relief Organization, 1946-1947
3.13	Jewish Council, 1946
3.14-3.17	Jewish infiltrates, 1945-1946 (4 folders)
3.18	Jewish population in the American zone, statistical reports, 1946-1947
4.1	Jewish problems, 1945-1946
4.2	Notes, approximately 1945-1946
4.3	UNRRA Central Headquarters for Germany, 1946
4.4-4.5	UNRRA District 5 Headquarters, 1946 (2 folders)
4.6-4.7	UNRRA United States Zone Headquarters, 1946-1947 (2 folders)
4.8	UNRRA University for Displaced Persons, invitation, 1946
4.9	UNRRA, miscellaneous, 1945-1946
4.10	U.S. Army, miscellaneous, 1946-1947
4.11	Vignettes, approximately 1947
4.12	XX Corps, U.S. Army, 1945
4.13	Miscellaneous, 1945-1946

Series 5: Personal correspondence, 1944-1954

Box/Folder	Title
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4.16-4.17	1947 (2 folders)
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Series 6: Photographic materials, 1945-1949

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5.2	Album 1, Page 3, Trains, press photographs of atrocities, Lithuanian dress, approximately 1945-1947
5.3	Album 1, Page 4, Zisman, Samuel, with UNRRA personnel, approximately 1945-1947
5.4	Album 1, Page 5, UNRRA personnel, approximately 1945-1947
5.5	Album 1, Page 6, Wedding, approximately 1945-1947
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5.8	Album 1, Page 9, Visiting official, approximately 1945-1947
5.9	Album 1, Page 10, Camp buildings, approximately 1945-1947
5.10	Album 1, Page 11, Camp buildings, camp children, approximately 1945-1947
5.11	Album 1, Page 12, Cocktail party, approximately 1945-1947
5.12	Album 1, Page 13, Zisman, Samuel, at cocktail party, approximately 1945-1947

5.13	Album 1, Page 14, Cocktail and dance party, approximately 1945-1947
5.14	Album 1, Page 15, Zisman, Samuel, at party, approximately 1945-1947
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5.16	Album 1, Page 17, Dinner party, approximately 1945-1947
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5.20	Album 1, Page 21, Athletic team and camp arena, approximately 1945-1947
5.21	Album 1, Page 22, Train station and trains, approximately 1945-1947
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5.25	Album 1, Page 26, Visiting official, approximately 1945-1947
5.26	Album 1, Page 27, Visiting official, approximately 1945-1947
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6.34	Zisman, Samuel, Christmas party, approximately 1945-1947
6.35	Zisman, Samuel, Dinner, approximately 1945-1947
6.36	Zisman, Samuel, Party, approximately 1945-1947
6.37	Zisman, Samuel, with Dr. Taylor Cole, 1949

Series 7: Printed materials, 1945-1949

Box/Folder	Title
6.38, OS 4	<i>L'Aube</i> articles instigated by the Child Search Team, 1946-1947 (2 folders)
6.39	Clippings, 1945-1949
7.6	<i>D.P. Express</i> , 1946 June 1
6.40	<i>Guide to the Care of Displaced Persons in Germany</i> , G5 Division, Displaced Persons Branch, 1945
6.41	<i>An UNRRA Assembly Center : Esslingen o/ Neckar</i> , 1946

7.7	<i>UNRRA Team News</i> , Vol. 1, No. 10, 1946 May 1
7.8	<i>UNRRA Team News</i> , Vol. 1, No. 17, 1946 August 15