

## **HERBERT SIPERSTEIN PAPERS, approximately 1936-1945 1999.152**

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: Herbert Siperstein papers

Dates: approximately 1936-1945

Accession number: 1999.152

Creator: Siperstein, Herbert

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (5 folders)

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

Abstract: The Herbert Siperstein papers consist of correspondence and photographs documenting the Pick family from Vienna, Josefine Siperstein and Elise Pick's unsuccessful effort to emigrate aboard the *S.S. St. Louis*, family members' efforts to help them immigrate to the United States, and efforts to locate Josefine Siperstein after her death at Auschwitz.

Languages: English, German, French

### **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), Herbert Siperstein papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Miriam Sapir donated the Herbert Siperstein papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1999 and 2002. The collection previously cataloged as 2002.367.1 has been incorporated into this collection.

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, March 2013

### **Biographical note**

Herbert Siperstein was born in Vienna in 1923 to Moszka Siperstein (1884-1951) and Josefine Pick Siperstein (1896-1942). He emigrated to Palestine in March 1939 with the Youth Aliyah, changed his name to Igal Sapir, and married Miriam Sapir. Moszka Siperstein was detained in Vienna by the Germans, and Josefine Siperstein tried to immigrate to the United States via Cuba aboard the *S.S. St. Louis* in May 1939 with her mother, Elisabeth (Elise) Pick. When the ship was returned to Europe, Siperstein and Pick disembarked in France and settled in Mirabeau. Pick's other daughter, Helen Grossman, had immigrated to the United States in 1938 or 1939 with her husband, Otto Grossman, and tried to help her mother and sister reach America. Elise Pick immigrated in 1940, but Josefine Siperstein was trapped in France, interned in 1942, and deported via Drancy to Auschwitz where she was killed. Moszka Siperstein survived the war in Austria and joined his son in Israel in 1950.

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

The Herbert Siperstein papers consist of correspondence and photographs documenting the Pick family from Vienna, Josefine Siperstein and Elise Pick's unsuccessful effort to emigrate aboard the *S.S. St. Louis*, family members' efforts to help them immigrate to the United States, and efforts to locate Josefine Siperstein after her death at Auschwitz.

Correspondence includes letters to Herbert Siperstein from his mother aboard the *S.S. St. Louis* and then settled in Mirabeau, correspondence with the U.S. State Department and refugee aid agencies, a carbon copy of a letter from Helen Grossman to President Roosevelt pleading her mother and sister's case, and notices from the French police regarding travel permission and lack of travel permits.

Photographs include Herbert Siperstein's passport photograph, a picture of Elise Pick with her daughters Josefine Siperstein and Helen Grossman in Vienna, and a picture of Josefine Siperstein in Mirabeau, France.

### **System of arrangement**

The Herbert Siperstein papers are arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: Herbert Siperstein papers, approximately 1936-1945

### **Indexing terms**

St. Louis (Ship)

Jewish refugees – Austria – Vienna.

Jewish refugees – France – Mirabeau.

United States – Emigration and immigration – Government policy – 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Mirabeau (Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, France)

Photographs

### CONTAINER LIST

#### Series 1: Herbert Siperstein papers, approximately 1936-1945

Box	Folder	
1	1	Efforts to help Elise Pick and Josefine Siperstein immigrate, 1939
1	2	Efforts to locate Josefine Siperstein, 1943-1945
1	3	Letters from Josefine Siperstein to Herbert Siperstein, 1939
1	4	Notices from the French police to Elise Pick and Josefine Siperstein, 1939
1	5	Photographs, approximately 1936-1940