

## **MELANIA FOGELBAUM PAPERS, approximately 1938-1946 1999.330**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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### **Descriptive summary**

Title: Melania Fogelbaum papers

Dates: approximately 1938-1946

Accession number: 1999.330

Creator: Fogelbaum, Melania, 1911-1944

Extent: 0.2 linear feet (4 folders and 1 book enclosure)

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

Abstract: The Melania Fogelbaum papers consist of writings and correspondence documenting Melania Fogelbaum's experiences in the Łódź ghetto between 1941 and 1944. The collection includes a notebook of poems and several loose pages from a journal of poems, drawings, and journal entries written by Melania while in the ghetto. Correspondence includes postcards between Melania and friends and family including Hala Frumkowska, Szymon Gliksman, Hipolit Fogelbaum, Cyla Fogelbaum, Jozef Fogelbaum, and a letter from the Jewish Council notifying Melania that due to her illness, she will receive additional rations for one week. The collection also includes photographs of Helena Zymler's family and the Łódź ghetto.

Languages: Polish, German, 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), Melania Fogelbaum papers (1999.330), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Helena Zymler-Svantesson donated the Melania Fogelbaum papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1999.

Custodial history: In 1950 Helena Zymler-Svantesson received the documents from Nachman Zonabend, who rescued the Łódź ghetto chronicle and many other documents. Helena was a friend of Melania Fogelbaum in the Łódź ghetto.

Separated material: The Museum's library holds a copy of *Drzwi otwarte na nicość* and *Och skuggorna blir längre: en antologi från krigets Polen*, both donated by Helena Zymler-Svantesson.

Related material: Helena Zymler-Svantesson donated a 1946 photograph of herself in 2005 (2005.197.1). The Museum conducted an oral history interview with Leon Kowner, a friend of Melania, (2005.603.2) and the Shoah Foundation conducted an interview with Helena Zymler-Svantesson.

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: Morgan Voth, January 2019.

### **Biographical note**

Melania Fogelbaum (1911-1944) was a poet and painter born to Cyla Fogelbaum (b. 1874) in Łódź, Poland. In 1940 Melania and her mother were forced into the Łódź ghetto where Cyla died on February 25, 1942. Melania served as a spiritual and cultural leader to a group of youths in the ghetto. They gathered in a small room in her attic where they listened to music and recited poems. Melania became afflicted with tuberculosis and was unable to work. Others shared their own rations with her for more than two years. On August 1, 1944 Melania was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau where she was killed.

During her time in the ghetto, Melania became very close friends with Helena Zymler-Svantesson (b.1924 in Będzin, Poland). Helena's father, Wolf Zemler (b. 1889) worked in an office and her mother, Balbina Zemler (née Sztatler, b. 1892) took care of Helena and her brother, Bernard (b.1921). The family moved to Łódź in 1929 and were forced into the Łódź ghetto in April 1940. In October 1944 Helena was transferred to the Halbstadt labor camp in Czechoslovakia, a sub-camp of Gross-Rosen, and was liberated on May 8, 1945 by the Soviet Army.

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

The Melania Fogelbaum papers consist of writings and correspondence documenting Melania Fogelbaum's experiences in the Łódź ghetto between 1941 and 1944. The collection includes a notebook of poems and several loose pages from a journal of poems, drawings, and journal entries written by Melania while in the ghetto. Correspondence includes postcards between Melania and friends and family including Hala Frumkowska, Szymon Gliksman, Hipolit Fogelbaum, Cyla Fogelbaum, Jozef Fogelbaum, and a letter from the Jewish Council notifying Melania that due to her illness, she will receive additional rations for one week. The collection also includes photographs of Helena Zymler's family and the Łódź ghetto.

### **System of arrangement**

The Melania Fogelbaum papers are arranged as a single series.

### **Indexing terms**

Fogelbaum, Melania.  
Zymler-Svantesson, Helena.

Jewish ghettos--Poland--Łódź.  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Poetry.  
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives.

Łódź (Poland)

Diaries.  
Photographs.  
Poetry.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Series 1: Melania Fogelbaum papers, approximately 1938-1946

Folder	Title
1 of 4	Correspondence, 1940-1942
2 of 4	Journal, approximately 1941-01944
BE 1	Notebook, approximately 1941-1944
3 of 4	Photographs, approximately 1938-1946
4 of 4	Poems, approximately 1941-1944