

**BELLA AND HERMANN ZUCKER PAPERS, 1942-1963
1999.46**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Bella and Hermann Zucker papers

Dates: 1942-1963

Accession number: 1999.46

Creator: Zucker, Bella and Hermann

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (11 folders)

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

Abstract: The Bella and Hermann Zucker papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, a Piaski property file, and restitution files documenting the lives of a Polish couple from Serock and Piaski, Bella Zucker's experiences hiding under a false identity in Germany, and the couple's experiences as displaced persons in Germany after the war, abandoned plans to open a bakery in Israel, and unsuccessful attempts to receive restitution.

Languages: German, Polish, English, 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), Bella and Hermann Zucker papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Bella Zucker donated the Bella and Hermann Zucker papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1999.

Related archival materials: An oral history interview with Bella Zucker dated May 8, 1995, which forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive, can be accessed onsite at the Museum.

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, March 2013

Biographical note

Bella Zucker (1925-2007) was born Bella Kuligowska in Serock (near Warsaw) to bicycle mechanic Bezakel Kuligowski and Chaya Kuligowska (née Cohen). She had five brothers: Abraham, Israel, Joseph, Benjamin, and Vigdor. After the German invasion, the family was forcibly moved to the Biała Podlaska ghetto. Benjamin was in Russia at the time, and Bella never saw him again. In 1940, she hid as a Catholic with a farmer and his wife until her brother Abraham asked her to return to the ghetto in 1941. By that time her brother Israel had died from heart problems and her parents and brother Vigdor had been transferred to Treblinka or Majdanek, where they perished. Bella last saw Abraham at Biała Podlaska and was transferred that fall to the ghetto at Brześć nad Bugiem (now Brest, Belarus), which was the last place she saw her brother Joseph. She escaped Brześć nad Bugiem and hid in a nearby farm, again pretending to be Catholic. She eventually obtained papers under a false identity, moved to Warsaw in the fall of 1942, applied for farm work in Germany, and moved to Langenwolschendorf (in Greiz) in 1943. After the village was liberated by the Americans in April 1945, she was evacuated to the displaced persons camp at Landsberg. In 1947 she married Hermann Zucker (1916-1992), born in Piaski (near Lublin). The couple immigrated to the United States in 1950 with their young daughter and settled in Chicago.

Scope and content of collection

The Bella and Hermann Zucker papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, a Piaski property file, and restitution files documenting the lives of a Polish couple from Serock and Piaski, Bella Zucker's experiences hiding under a false identity in Germany, and the couple's experiences as displaced persons in Germany after the war, abandoned plans to open a bakery in Israel, and unsuccessful attempts to receive restitution.

Biographical materials include identification and registration papers for Bella and Hermann Zucker, including the papers Bella Zucker used under her false identity, Sabina Mazurek.

Correspondence files include letters and postcards to Bella and Hermann Zucker during and after the war. Letters addressed to Bella Zucker, under the name Sabina Mazurek, from her Polish friend Bella Laska, under her assumed name Krystyna Karmann, describing Laska's experience following the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Additional correspondence to Bella Zucker is from a mutual Polish friend of Bella Laska, the Scheibe family, with whom Bella had lived in Langenwolschendorf, and from another friend in that village. Correspondence with Hermann Zucker consists primarily of letters from his brother, Mosze Cukier, after the war, addressed to Hermann as Hersz Cukier, and describing their ultimately abandoned plans to open a bakery in Israel. The correspondence files also contain a letter to Hermann Zucker from friends in Stuttgart written on stationery from a sweet shop bearing Hermann Zucker's name.

The Piaski property file contains English, German, and Polish translations of a document describing property Hermann Zucker's uncle Gerszon Hejnoch Kestelman had purchased in Piaski, Kestelman's death following the German occupation of Poland, and Hermann Zucker's sale of that property as his uncle's surviving heir (under the name Hersz Cukier).

The restitutions files include correspondence with two lawyers who unsuccessfully tried to help Bella and Hermann Zucker receive restitution for their Holocaust experiences as well as affidavits listing the ghettos and concentration camps where the Zuckers claimed to have been held during the Holocaust, having been told by somebody that embellishing their stories would bolster their chances of receiving compensation.

System of arrangement

The Bella and Hermann Zucker papers are arranged as a four series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1942-1947
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1944-1960
- Series 3: Piaski property, 1947
- Series 4: Restitution files, 1949-1963

Indexing terms

Holocaust survivors.

Jewish refugees – Poland.

Jewish refugees – Germany.

Hiding places – Germany – Greiz (Landkreis).

Jews – Germany – History – 1933-1945.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Reparations

Jewish property – Poland – Piaski (Lublin).

Piaski (Poland)

Serock (Poland)

Greiz (Germany : Landkreis)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1942-1949

Folder	Item	
1	1	Zucker, Bella, 1942-1947
1	2	Zucker, Hermann, 1945-1949

Series 2: Correspondence, 1944-1960

Folder	Item	
1	3	Cukier, Mosze, 1949-1950
1	4	Laska, Bella, approximately 1944-1945
1	5	Scheibe family, approximately 1946-1960
1	6	Miscellaneous, 1943-1946, 1951

Series 3: Piaski property, 1947

Folder	Item	
1	7	Piaski property, 1947

Series 4: Restitution files, 1949-1963

Folder	Item	
1	8	Göckerlitz, Der. Hermann, 1962-1963
1	9	Kunert, Gottfried, 1952-1953
1	10	Zucker, Bella, 1949, 1962
1	11	Zucker, Hermann, 1949, 1962