

**PAWLOWICZ FAMILY PAPERS, circa 1920s-1950s  
1999.49**

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

Title: Pawlowicz family papers

Dates: circa 1920s-1950s (bulk dates: 1945-1949)

Accession number: 1999.49

Creator: Pawlowicz family

Extent: 0.1 linear foot (3 folders)

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

Abstract: The Pawlowicz family papers, circa 1920s-1950s, focus on the postwar experiences of Max and Rose Pohl. The papers include their displaced persons identification documents from Zeilsheim, Germany, two marriage certificates, and family photographs which include images of survivors and family members that did not survive the Holocaust.

Languages: German, Aramaic, 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), Pawlowicz family papers (1999.49), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Max and Rose Pohl donated the Pawlowicz family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1999.

Related materials: Oral histories conducted in New York as part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute with Max Pohl on May 17, 1996 and Rose Pohl on May 18, 1996 can be viewed onsite at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. A photograph of Max Pohl can be found in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Holocaust Survivors and Victims Database.

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: Katelynn Vance, January 2019

### **Biographical note**

Max Pohl (born Mordka Pawlowicz) was born on October 5, 1922 in Wieluń, Poland to Aron and Ruchla (née Gelbert) Pawlowicz. A Polish Jew, Max moved to Pabianice, Poland in 1937. He met his future wife, Rose Pohl (born Ruchla Tosk) in 1940. Max worked on the railroads under forced labor conditions until 1943 when he was sent to Auschwitz concentration camp. After three weeks, he was sent to the Warsaw concentration camp, then on to Dachau concentration camp. On May 31, 1945, he was liberated by the United States armed forces from the Ampfing-Waldlager V and VI concentration camp in Germany. Max's brother Herschl was deported from the Łódź ghetto and perished, and his mother perished at the Chełmno concentration camp in Poland. Max's sisters Mania Pawlowicz and Bronia Shani (née Pawlowicz) survived imprisonment in concentration camps. After liberation, Max spent a year in Paris, France with assistance from the Jewish Federation. While in Paris he was informed that Rose and her family survived and were located at the displaced persons camp in Zeilsheim, Germany. While traveling to find the Tosk family, Max met Isaac Tosk, Rose's brother, on the French border and together they traveled to Zeilsheim.

Rose Pohl (born Ruchla Tosk) was born on July 26, 1925 in Pabianice, Poland to Fiszal and Hinda (née Sieradzka) Tosk. Rose was imprisoned in the Łódź ghetto, then at the concentration camps of Salzwedel and Bergen-Belsen in Germany and Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland. In April 1945, Rose was liberated by the United States armed forces at Salzwedel concentration camp. While her father perished during the war, Rose, her mother, her sisters Fajga, Nacha, and Golda, and her brother Isaac all survived the war.

By 1946, Max and Rose were both at the displaced persons camp in Zeilsheim, Germany. According to a marriage certificate, Max and Rose Pohl married in Frankfurt, Germany, on July 2, 1947. However, Rose's American Expeditionary Forces (A.E.F.) Displaced Persons Registration Record shows her using Max's Polish name as early as 1945. Max's aunt who lived in Buffalo, New York agreed to serve as their sponsor, and on February 17, 1949 Max and Rose Pohl immigrated to the United States.

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

The Pawlowicz family papers, circa 1920s-1950s, focus on the postwar experiences of Max and Rose Pohl. Included in the collection are their displaced persons identification documents from Zeilsheim, Germany, two marriage certificates, and family photographs. The photographs include images of survivors taken after the war and family members that did not survive the Holocaust.

The collection includes identification documents for both Max and Rose Pohl. These documents include a temporary identification for Ruchla Tosk from Bergen-Belsen, 1945 and a A.E.F. D.P. Registration Record issued to Jewish displaced persons Ruchla Pawlowiec, August 25, 1945. Identification cards for Mordka Pawlowicz include a card issued at the Displaced Persons Assembly Center at Zeilsheim, Germany, August 29, 1946; an identification card issued at the Zeilsheim Assembly Center by UNRRA Team 503, circa 1945-1949; an A.E.F. D.P. Registration Record issued on November 12, 1945; and a driver's license with photograph issued in Pegnitz, Germany, June 24, 1946.

Biographical materials also includes a marriage certificate for Mordka Pawlowicz and Ruchla Tosk in Frankfurt, Germany, dated July 2, 1947, and a ketubah handwritten in Aramaic and Hebrew certifying the marriage of Yaakov Mordechai ben Aaron and Rachel bat Efraim, May 19, 1946.

The collection also includes thirteen black and white photographs of Max and Rose Pohl, as well as identified and unidentified friends and family, some of whom did not survive the war. Identified photographs include:

- Family of Max Pohl, group photograph taken in Wieluń including (left to right) an unidentified girl, Rivka Bukla (Pohl's mother's younger sister), Ishak Shulkowicz (Pohl's uncle), Isaac (Pohl's maternal cousin), Yiscah Gilbert (Pohl's grandmother) holding Dvora's baby, unnamed cousin (Pohl's mother's brother's son), Dvora Gilbert, and Bronia Shani, prewar, undated. Pictured are both victims and survivors of the Holocaust.
- Dvora Gilbert, Max Pohl's maternal aunt and her husband Ishak Shulkowicz holding posing with an unidentified baby in Wieluń, post 1937. Both Dvora and Ishak perished in the Holocaust.
- Max Pohl (third from left) and a group of unidentified survivors wearing stripped prisoner uniforms reenacting forced physical labor, Paris, France, 1945.
- Jack Jacobs and his wife Rose, Bronia Shani, Max Pohl, Rose Pohl, Monia (Mary) and her husband Morris Shani standing in front of a memorial in Zeilsheim, Germany, circa 1945-1949.
- Yaakov Mordechai ben Aaron and Rachel bat Efraim, the bride and groom, toasting each other at a dinner in the Zeilsheim displaced persons camp, 1946.

Various spellings of the Max Pohl's original Polish last name are used throughout the collection, including Pawlowicz, Pawlowiec, and Pawtowiez.

### **System of arrangement**

The Pawlowicz family papers are arranged in two series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1945-1949
- Series 2: Photographs, circa 1920s-1950s

### **Indexing terms**

#### **People:**

Bukla, Rivka

Gilbert, Dvora

Gilbert, Yiscah

Jacobs, Jack.

Jacobs, Rose.

Pohl, Max, 1922- .

Pohl, Rose, 1925- .

Shani, Bronia.  
Shani, Moia.  
Shani, Morris.  
Shulkowicz, Ishak

**Corporate Name:**

Zeilsheim (Displaced persons camp)  
Bergen-Belsen (Concentration camp)

**Subject:**

Concentration camp inmates.  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)  
Holocaust survivors.  
Holocaust victims.  
Marriage.  
World War, 1939-1945.  
World War, 1939-1945--Civilian relief--Europe.  
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees.

**Geography:**

Frankfurt (Germany)  
Pegnitz (Germany)  
Wieluń (Poland)  
Zeilsheim (Frankfurt am Main, Germany)

**Gene/Form:**

Identification cards.  
Photographs.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Series 1: Biographical materials, 1945-1949**

Box / Folder	Title
1 of 3	Identification documents, 1945-1949
2 of 3	Marriage Certificates, 1946-1947

**Series 2: Photographs, circa 1920s-1950s**

3 of 3	Pawlowicz family photographs, circa 1920s-1950s
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