

**LILI WRONKER COLLECTION ABOUT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
IN SOSÚA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 1960-1990
2000.220**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Lili Wronker collection about the Jewish community in Sosúa, Dominican Republic

Dates: 1960-1990

Accession number: 2000.220

Creator: Wronker, Lili, 1924-2019

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (14 folders)

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

Abstract: The Lili Wronker collection about the Jewish community in Sosúa, Dominican Republic contains commemorative stamps, food packaging, photographic materials, printed materials, and reports documenting the establishment of the Sosúa Jewish community in the Dominican Republic and the town's development into a tourist destination.

Languages: English, Spanish, German

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), Lili Wronker collection about the Jewish community in Sosúa, Dominican Republic, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Lili Wronker donated the Lili Wronker collection about the Jewish community in Sosúa, Dominican Republic to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2000.

Related materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum library holds a copy of the book *Joseph and Me: In the Days of the Holocaust*, by Judy Hoffman, with illustrations by Lili Cassel-Wronker. The Lili Cassel-Wronker papers are held by the University of Minnesota, and the Lili Wronker family papers are held by the Leo Baeck Institute.

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, December 2012, revised February 2019

Biographical note

Lilli Wronker (1924-2019) was born Lili Cassel in Berlin to dermatologist Josef Cassel and Edith Basch Cassel. Following Kristallnacht, her parents sent her and her sister Eve to England, where they attended a boarding school in Haslemere, Surrey. They reunited with their parents and immigrated to the United States in 1940, and settled in New York. She married Erich Wronker (1921-1997) in 1943 and worked as a calligrapher, illustrator, and graphic designer. Her father's sister died in Theresienstadt and her husband's grandparents died in Auschwitz.

Wronker's interest in Sosúa developed when she met some of the original Jewish settlers while visiting her daughter, Rona, who lived there for several years. The Jewish community in Sosúa was established following the Evian Conference in 1938, when Dominican leader Rafael Trujillo agreed to bring 100,000 Jewish refugees from Europe to the Dominican Republic, although fewer than 650 ultimately arrived. The first Jewish settlers in 1940 began farming before discovering they could be more successful with meat and dairy products, leading to the development of dairy, meat, and supermarket cooperatives.

Scope and content of collection

The Lili Wronker collection about the Jewish community in Sosúa, Dominican Republic contains commemorative stamps, food packaging, photographic materials, printed materials, and reports documenting the establishment of the Sosúa Jewish community in the Dominican Republic and the town's development into a tourist destination.

The commemorative stamps were created in 1960. Three depict an aerial view of the Sosúa coastline and two depict four of the original Jewish refugee children, Naomi Neumann, Caroline Papernik, Susanna Tauber, and Teresa Hirschfeld.

Food packaging includes a salami wrapper from Embutidos Exquisito and a milk wrapper for Sosúa Leche and chocolate milk container from Chocolatina Sosúa by Productos Sosúa.

Photographic materials include prints and slide depicting Sosúa and its synagogue, cemetery, and community house, aerial views of the town and coastline, a group of some of the original Jewish refugees who formed the community, and the commemorative stamps.

Printed materials include newsletters from the planning committee for the 50th anniversary reunion, clippings describing Sosúa's settlement and development into a tourist destination, and a visitor's guide annotated to show the residences of some of the original Jewish settlers.

Reports include a photocopy of a 1949 report on the Sosúa settlement by the Dominican Republic Settlement Association and a partial photocopy of Hyman Kisch's "Sosúa: The Golden Cage."

System of arrangement

The Lili Wronker collection about the Jewish community in Sosúa, Dominican Republic is arranged as five series:

- Series 1: Commemorative stamps, 1960
- Series 2: Food packaging, approximately 1980s
- Series 3: Photographic materials, 1969-1989
- Series 4: Printed materials, 1981-1990
- Series 5: Reports, approximately 1990

Indexing terms

Jews – Dominican Republic – Sosúa.

Jewish refugees – Dominican Republic – Sosúa.

Land settlement – Dominican Republic – Sosúa.

Agricultural colonies – Dominican Republic – Sosúa.

Dominican Republic – Emigration and immigration – 20th century.

Sosúa (Dominican Republic)

Photographs.

Containers for storing or transporting food.

Postage stamps.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Commemorative stamps, 1960

Box	Folder	
1	1	Commemorative stamps, 1960

Series 2: Food packaging, approximately 1980s

Box	Folder	
1	2	Food Packaging, approximately 1980s

Series 3: Photographic materials, 1969-1989

Box	Folder	
1	3	Aerial Views of Sosúa and Coastline, approximately 1980s

1	4	Reunion of Original Settlers, approximately 1980s
1	5	Commemorative Stamps, approximately 1980s
1	6	Slides, 1969 (Not Digitized)
1	7	Sosúa, Synagogue, Cemetery, and Community House, approximately 1986-1989

Series4: Printed materials, 1981-1990

Box	Folder	
1	8	"Sosúa L'Chaim" Newsletters, 1990
1	9	Clippings, 1981-1990
1	10	"Guía de Sosúa Foco del Centro del Barrio El Batey: Notas Historicas y Vistas del Futuro," 1985

Series 5: Reports, approximately 1990

Box	Folder	
1	11	Report on Sosúa Settlement for the Year 1949, approximately 1990
1	12-14	"Sosúa: The Golden Cage," approximately 1990 (3 folders)