

**JACOB BIRNBAUM PAPERS, 1944-1945**  
**2000.255**

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: Jacob Birnbaum papers

Dates: 1944-1945

Accession number: 2000.255

Creator: Birnbaum, Jacob, 1922-2007

Extent: 0.1 linear foot (1 folder)

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

Abstract: The Jacob Birnbaum papers consist of an identification card documenting Jacob Birnbaum's status as a concentration camp survivor and letters Jacob wrote to Rose (Róża) Strzegowska (later Rose Rothschild), an inmate at the women's camp, while both were imprisoned at Langenbielau concentration camp, a sub-camp of Gross-Rosen, during the Holocaust. Birnbaum had been exchanging letters with Rose's twin sister, Eve (Ewa), until Eve became too sick to write. Jacob's letters describe the terrible living and working conditions at Langenbielau, insufficient food and his efforts to obtain more food, and the laundry that he sends to Rose for cleaning, and they encourage Rose to stay strong and to visit him during a coffee delivery her camp would make to his camp. The letters are written on scraps of paper and the backs of factory reports or receipts. Four of the letters are accompanied by English translations.

Languages: Polish, English

**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), Jacob Birnbaum papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Dr. Jacob Birnbaum donated his papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2000.

Related archival materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds an oral history interview conducted with Jacob Birnbaum on October 16, 1990 (RG-50.243\*0003). An oral history conducted with him on December 19, 1995 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum. The Museum's library holds a copy of Birnbaum's memoir, *I Kept My Promise*, as well as a copy of Rose Rothschild's memoir, *A Rose Blooms Again*, in which she describes her exchange of letters with Jacob Birnbaum.

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, April 2016

### **Biographical note / Administrative history**

Jacob Birnbaum (1922-2007) was born in Piotrków Trybunalski to Fajtel Nathan Birnbaum (d. 1942) and Ruda Freida Jurkiewicz Birnbaum (d. 1942). He survived the Dabrowa Górnicza ghetto and the concentration and labor camps at Anhalt bei Auschwitz, Markstadt bei Breslau, Ludwigsdorf, Graditz, and Langenbielau. He was liberated in May 1945, married fellow Holocaust survivor Mira Laudon (1925-2008) in August 1945, relocated to Germany in 1946, and immigrated to the United States in 1949. His parents and sister Chana (1925-1943) were murdered in the Holocaust.

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

The Jacob Birnbaum papers consist of an identification card documenting Jacob Birnbaum's status as a concentration camp survivor and letters Jacob wrote to Rose (Róża) Strzegowska (later Rose Rothschild), an inmate at the women's camp, while both were imprisoned at Langenbielau concentration camp, a sub-camp of Gross-Rosen, during the Holocaust. Birnbaum had been exchanging letters with Rose's twin sister, Eve (Ewa), until Eve became too sick to write. Jacob's letters describe the terrible living and working conditions at Langenbielau, insufficient food and his efforts to obtain more food, and the laundry that he sends to Rose for cleaning, and they encourage Rose to stay strong and to visit him during a coffee delivery her camp would make to his camp. The letters are written on scraps of paper and the backs of factory reports or forms. Four of the letters are accompanied by English translations.

### **System of arrangement**

The Jacob Birnbaum papers are arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: Jacob Birnbaum papers, 1944-1945

### **Indexing terms**

Rothschild, Rose, 1925-

Langenbielau (Concentration camp)

Jews--Poland--Piotrków Trybunalski.  
Concentration camp inmates--Correspondence.  
World War, 1939-1945--Conscript labor--Germany.

Piotrków Trybunalski (Poland)  
Bielawa (Wałbrzych, Poland)

### CONTAINER LIST

#### Series 1: Jacob Birnbaum papers, 1944-1945

Folder	
1	Jacob Birnbaum papers, 1944-1945