

## **WŁADYSŁAW AND FELICJA HOLCMAN COLLECTION, 1940-1941**

### **2001.195.1**

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)

#### **Władysław and Felicja Holcman Collection Inventory**

##### **1. Postcard, written by Sara Holcman, Mojżesz Holcman and Jerzyk Holcman in Łódź, Poland, to Władysław Holcman in Stavropol, Soviet Union, February 18, 1940; in German and Polish.**

Translation of the postcard:

"My beloved son, after waiting for three months, your postcard finally arrived yesterday. I know that you were in Maniewicze, but I see that you took care of yourself and found a job in Voroshilov (Stavropol). There is nothing good that I can report to you about us. We hope that this will not last forever and the war will end. Yesterday I visited Fela's mother (Hinda Laja Krepel), she wasn't home, but her sister (Chana Hanka Krepel) came today and copied your address. Love, mother.

My dear son, I wonder what this town that you are in now, was called before. I know Caucus well. There is nothing good about us here; we might need to move, but write to the old address. The bank doesn't exist anymore. Do you have a radio and newspapers? We do not. Many people feel envious that you are there and they are here. Love, Dad.

Dear Władek, I do not attend school anymore, because there are no teachers. We will have to move to the area where Perkal lived. It is very cold here. Love to you and Fela, Jerzyk."

##### **2. Postcard, written by Sara Holcman, Mojżesz Holcman and Jerzyk Holcman in Łódź, Poland, to Władysław Holcman in Stavropol, Soviet Union, March 1, 1940; in German, Russian, and Polish.**

Synopsis of the postcard: Sara Holcman reports that they are unemployed and that they will have to move to a ghetto. She sends best wishes to her son, Władysław, on his birthday and hopes that next birthday they will celebrate all together. Mojżesz Holcman, Władysław's father, wishes him all the best, complains about severe cold, and inquires if Władysław received letters and sends his love. Władysław's brother, Jerzyk, sends his best wishes and promises that he will buy a birthday cake in their favorite bakery when they meet. He reports that all Polish names of streets in Łódź have been changed to German names.

##### **3. Postcard, written by Chana Krepel and Hinda Laja Krepel in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Fela Krepel Holcman in the Soviet Union, November 11, 1940; in Russian and German.**

Synopsis of the postcard: Chana Krepel and Hinda Laja Krepel write that they are doing well, Chana works in a hospital and earns enough for herself and mother. She asks her sister, Fela Krepel Holcman, not to worry and sends her love. Includes a stamp of "Der Alteste der Juden in Litzmanstadt, Ch. Rumkowski" (Jewish council in the Łódź ghetto).

**4. Postcard, Sara Holcman, Mojżesz Holcman and Jerzyk Holcman in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Władysław Holcman in Stavropol, Soviet Union, April 15, 1940; in German, Polish, and Russian.**

Synopsis of the postcard: Sara Holcman writes that they have no opportunities for employment, that the family moved to ghetto, that there are no news from Kazik, Władysław's brother, but Hanka, Władysław's sister, sends postcard every two weeks. Hanka studies in France and would like to help but she has no means. Sara hopes that family will celebrate Władysław's next birthday together. She relates that they live now in apartment building without running water with 350 people crowded in 78 apartments. Jerzyk, Władysław's youngest brother, adds that he doesn't attend school.

**5. Postcard, Sara Holcman, Mojżesz Holcman, Jerzyk Holcman, and Renia Golkowa in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Władysław Holcman in Stavropol, Soviet Union, May 19, 1940; in Polish, German, and Russian.**

Synopsis of the postcard: Sara Holcman describes their living conditions in a quarter surrounded by barbed wire fence, without possibility of contact with outside world. She relates news about family members and friends, tells that they will get their coal ration soon, which will be 25 kg for whole winter. Mojżesz Holcman describes how isolated they are from the world and that there are queues for food. Jerzyk Holcman thanks him for sending stamps. Renia Golkowa, Władysław's aunt, is happy that he is not there as her husband and son relates that the only jobs available are with the Jewish Council and complains that wrong people are heading it.

**6. Postcard, Sara Holcman, Mojżesz Holcman, Jerzyk Holcman, and Renia Golkowa in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Władysław Holcman in Stavropol, Soviet Union, July 9, 1940; in German and Russian.**

Synopsis of the postcard: Sara Holcman describes how food is rationed and distributed by house committee. Mojżesz Holcman is head of this committee. Sara estimates that there are some 15,800 Jews in the Łódź ghetto and only small part of them work. She writes that Fela Holcman's mother and sister (Hinda Laja Krepel and Chana Hanka Krepel) live nearby. Mojżesz Holcman reports that he is busy with his work for the house committee and complains about isolation. Aunt Renia Golkowa writes that postcards are safer than letters, and Jerzyk thanks Władysław for the stamps.

**7. Postcard, written by Chana Hanka Krepel in the Łódź ghett, Poland, to Hala in Białystok, Soviet Union, September 23, 1940; in German and Russian.**

Synopsis of the postcard: Chana Hanka Krepel reports that she works in hospital as a nurse and sends her best wishes. Includes the stamp of "Der Alteste der Juden in Litzmanstadt, Ch. Rumkowski" (Jewish council in the Łódź ghetto).

**8. Postcard, written by Chana Hanka Krepel in the Łódź ghett, Poland, to her father, Lajb Krepel, in Maniewiczze, Soviet Union (now Manevychi, Ukraine), September 23, 1940; in German and Russian.**

Synopsis of the postcard: Chana Hanka Krepel reports that she has a job and that she and her mother await parcel from him. Chana promises that she will send what he asks for when she has more money and sends regards from

Hinda Laja Krepel, Lajb's wife. Includes a stamp "Der Alteste der Juden in Litzmanstadt, Ch. Rumkowski" (Jewish council in the Łódź ghetto).

**9. Postcard, written by a Holcman, Mojżesz Holcman, and Jerzyk Holcman in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Władysław Holcman in Kuybyshev, Soviet Union (now Samara, Russia), October 30, 1940; in German and Russian.**

Synopsis of postcard: Sara Holcman reports that Kazik, Władysław's brother, finally arrived in Uruguay after a five months journey. She asks about uncle Oleś and mentions that not knowing is worse than bad news. (Uncle Oleś was Sara's brother-in-law who was arrested and shot during the purge in Moscow). Mojżesz Holcman complains of cold and tells his son that he is busy with food distribution. Jerzyk reports that he enrolled in high school.

**10. Postcard, written by Chana Hanka Krepel in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Fela Holcman in Kuybyshev, Soviet Union (now Samara, Russia), November 17, 1940; in German and Russian.**

Synopsis of postcard: Chana Hanka Krepel reports that she writes for her mother, who has vision problems. She asks her sister Fela not to cry and urges her to join her husband in Kuybyshev.

**11. Postcard, written by Sara Holcman, Mojżesz Holcman, and Jerzyk Holcman in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Władysław Holcman in Kuybyshev, Soviet Union (now Samara, Russia), November 25, 1940.**

Synopsis of postcard: Sara Holcman expresses her satisfaction that Władysław is studying, reports that Jerzyk is back in school but has to repeat a grade. Jerzyk reports that studying math is easy but Latin, Hebrew, and Yiddish is difficult. Mojżesz father worries if Władysław has enough money, and sends kisses, and regards. Includes stamp of "Der Alteste der Juden in Litzmanstadt, Ch. Rumkowski" (Jewish council in the Łódź ghetto).

**12. Postcard, written by Sara Holcman, Mojżesz Holcman, Jerzyk Holcman, and Renia Golkowa in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Władysław Holcman in Kuybyshev, Soviet Union (now Samara, Russia), December 25, 1940; in German and Russian.**

Synopsis of postcard: Sara Holcman writes thanks for birthday wishes, reports that her daughter, Hanka, studies in Grenoble, France, and that they wait for end of the war. Mojżesz Holcman expresses his happiness that Władysław is studying, but worries about his finances. Jerzyk reports that it is -7C. Aunt Renia Golkowa is astonished that Władysław sends registered letters and urges him to write more. Includes a stamp "Der Alteste der Juden in Litzmanstadt, Ch. Rumkowski" (Jewish council in the Łódź ghetto).

**13. Postcard, written by Chana Hanka Krepel, in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Władysław Holcman and Fela Holcman in Kuybyshev, Soviet Union (now Samara, Russia), December 17, 1940; in German and Russian.**

Synopsis of postcard: Chana thanks her sister and brother-in-law for parcel containing fat which is necessary for her mother. She is pleased that Władysław and Fela are together and sends regards. Includes the stamp "Der Alteste der Juden in Litzmanstadt, Ch. Rumkowski" (Jewish council in the Łódź ghetto).

**14. Postcard, written by Sara Holcman, Mojżesz Holcman, Jerzyk Holcman, and Renia Golkowa in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Władysław Holcman in Kuybyshev, Soviet Union (now Samara, Russia), January 17, 1941; in German and Russian.**

Synopsis of postcard: Sara Holcman explains that she does not expect Władysław to send any packages and regrets that she cannot help him. She reports that his friend, Eisenberg, is a policeman. Mojżesz Holcman writes about his joy when he receives letters from Władysław and worries if it is too cold. Jerzyk Holcman reports that it is very cold in Łódź and assures his brother that he is doing well in school. Aunt Renia Golkowa sends her regards. Includes the stamp "Der Alteste der Juden in Litzmanstadt, Ch. Rumkowski" (Jewish council in the Łódź ghetto).

**15. Postcard, written by Sara Holcman, Mojżesz Holcman, Jerzyk Holcman, and Renia Golkowa in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Władysław Holcman in Kuybyshev, Soviet Union (now Samara, Russia), March 1, 1941; in German and Russian.**

Synopsis of postcard: Sara Holcman reports that the family had to move to 15/20 Gnieznianska Street, and tells him that sending parcels is not allowed. She worries because of lack of correspondence with her daughter, Hanka, in France. She also sends best wishes to Władysław for his birthday. Mojżesz Holcman writes that all of Władysław's clothes are ready but it is impossible to send it. He worries if Władysław has enough money. Jerzyk asks how did the exams go, and sends birthday wishes. Includes the stamp "Der Alteste der Juden in Litzmanstadt, Ch. Rumkowski" (Jewish council in the Łódź ghetto).

**16. Postcard, written by Hania Krepel, in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Fela Holcman in Kuybyshev, Soviet Union (now Samara, Russia), April 15, 1941; in German and Russian.**

Synopsis of postcard: She describes difficult work conditions, reports that she and their mother are well, but mother's vision is worse and sends regards. Includes the stamp "Der Alteste der Juden in Litzmanstadt, Ch. Rumkowski" (Jewish council in the Łódź ghetto).

**17. Postcard, written by Sara Holcman, Mojżesz Holcman, Jerzyk Holcman, and Renia Golkowa in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Władysław Holcman in Kuybyshev, Soviet Union (now Samara, Russia), April 28, 1941; in German and Russian.**

Synopsis of postcard: Sara Holcman complains that there are no letters from Władysław and Fela, but she sends her best wishes. **Mojżesz Holcman** asks if Władysław needs money, and asks if he got letters from his siblings, Kazik and Hanka. Jerzyk asks how the exams went and reports that it is cold in Łódź, and that policeman Ajzenberg sends regards, wishes all the best. Includes the stamp "Der Alteste der Juden in Litzmanstadt, Ch. Rumkowski" (Jewish council in the Łódź ghetto).

**18. Postcard, written by Renia Golkowa, in the Łódź ghetto, Poland, to Pola Wiener, in Sarny, Soviet Union (now Sarny, Ukraine), May 16, 1941; in German and Russian.**

Synopsis of postcard: Renia Golkowa reports on several relatives and acquaintances, describes her days as monotonous and mentions that sometimes she doesn't know what day of the week it is. Includes the stamp "Der Alteste der Juden in Litzmanstadt, Ch. Rumkowski" (Jewish council in the Łódź ghetto).