

**ANITA EPSTEIN PAPERS, 1940-1985 [BULK 1943-1949]
2001.321.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Anita Epstein papers

Dates: 1940-1985 [bulk 1943-1949]

Accession number: 2001.321.1

Creators: Anita Kuentler Epstein (1942-)

Extent: 8 folders

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

Abstract: The Anita Epstein papers contain photographs and documents concerning Salek and Eda Kuentler's efforts to place Anita, their infant daughter born in the Kraków ghetto in 1942, in hiding during the Holocaust. Documents include letters from Eda and Salek begging the Zendlers, a Polish Catholic family, to hide Anita as their own child for the duration of the war. Also included are notes promising payment for her safety. Photographs in this collection depict Anita as an infant and toddler while living with the Zandler family, as a child in a displaced persons camp near Selb, Germany, and images of Salek and Eda before the war.

Language: 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 if item), Anita Epstein papers (2001.321.1) United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Anita Kuentler Epstein donated her papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2001.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Colleen Benoit, May 2016

Biographical note

Anita Kuentler (later Anita Epstein) is the daughter of Salek and Eda Kuentler. Her parents married in Kraków on August 30, 1939. Anita was born on November 18, 1942 in the Kraków ghetto. When she was three months old, her parents smuggled her out of the ghetto, persuading a Catholic family named Zendler to hide her. The Zendlers, who had three children of their own, baptized Anita and raised her as a Catholic. Salek was killed in Mauthausen, but Eda survived two labor camps and incarceration in Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen from which she was liberated in April 1945. After hospital treatment for typhus she returned to Kraków and found Anita. Eda and Anita went with other Jews to a displaced persons' camp in Selb, Germany near the Czechoslovakian border. They lived in Selb until 1949 and then came to the United States on a troop ship, the *USS Taylor*.

Scope and content of collection

The Anita Epstein papers contain photographs and documents concerning Salek and Eda Kuentler's efforts to place Anita, their infant daughter, in hiding during the Holocaust. Documents include letters from Eda and Salek begging the Zendler family to hide Anita as their own child for the duration of the war and notes promising payment for her safety. Also included is a tag worn by Anita while aboard the *USS Taylor* and a note to Anita from a member of the Zendler family after a reunion visit in 1985. Many of the photographs in this collection depict Anita while she was in hiding with the Zendler family as a baby and toddler. One image shows Anita with Sophia Zendler on the day of her baptism as a Catholic in a baptismal gown and with a cross around her neck. Images of Anita reunited with her mother and at the displaced persons camp in Selb are also included in this collection, as is a photograph of Anita, Eda, and Sophia in 1985.

System of arrangement

The Anita Epstein papers are arranged as two series:

- Series 1: Papers, 1943-1985
- Series 2: Photographs, 1940-1985

Indexing terms

Epstein, Anita (1942-).

Kuentler, Eda.

Kuentler, Salek.

Zendler, Sophia.

Hiding places--Poland--Kraków.

Jewish ghettos--Poland-- Kraków.

Jewish children in the Holocaust.

Jewish refugees--Germany--Selb.

Refugee children--Germany--Selb.

Kraków (Poland).

Selb (Germany).

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Documents, 1943-1985

Folder	Title
1	Letters from Eda and Salek to the Zendler family, 1943
2	Letter to Anita from Zendler family, 1985
3	Promises of payment, 1943-1945
4	Tag worn on USS <i>Taylor</i> , 1949

Series 2: Photographs, 1940-1985

Folder	Title
5	Anita while in hiding, 1943-1945
6	Displaced persons camp, 1945-1949
7	Eda and Salek in Kraków, approximately 1940
8	Eda, Anita, and Sophia in Kraków, 1985