

LAJBMAN FAMILY PAPERS, CIRCA 1930-2007
2002.304.2

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Lajbman family papers

Dates: circa 1930-2007 (bulk 1939-1953)

Accession number: 2002.304.2

Creator: Lajbman (Family : Brussels, Belgium)

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box)

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

Abstract: The collection documents the Holocaust-era experiences of Abram and Chaja Lajbman and their sons Isaac (later Jacques Leibman) and Bernard in Belgium. Included are biographical material, immigration papers, and photographs that document Isaac and Bernard's survival in German-occupied Belgium as hidden children, Abram and Chaja's false identities, and their immigration to the United States in 1953.

Languages: German, English, French

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), Lajbman family papers (2002.304.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Jacques Leibman in 2002. His wife Rosie Ajlkichen Leibman donated an accretion in 2016.

Related materials: Rosie Leibman also donated a copy of *Missel et Vespéral*, 1937 given to Isaac Lajbman (Jacques Leibman) by Philippe Laurent Cleeremans in 1944 while Isaac was a hidden child in Tourinnes-Saint-Lambert. Cleeremans inscribed the book using Isaac's real surname.

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

Processing history: Adam Fielding, December 2017

Biographical note

Isaac Lajbman (later Jacques Leibman, 1931-2011) was born on 1931 June 22 in Brussels, Belgium to Abram (later Abe Leibman, 1904-1990) and Chaja Sura (née Radziejewski, later Helen Leibman, 1907-1991) Lajbman. Abram and Chaja moved from Poland to Belgium in the interwar period, and Abram worked as a leather goods manufacturer. Isaac had two brothers, Bernard (b. 1938) and Raymond (b. 1946).

The Lajbman family remained in Brussels after the German invasion. In the spring of 1942 Isaac's parents secured false papers for themselves and found hiding places for the children. Abram lived under the assumed name of Franz Joseph Dupont and Chaja under the name Helene Yvonne Duviansant. Isaac and Bernard were first hidden in Wilrijk (near Antwerp) and then in Marcinelle (near Charleroi). In both places food and sanitation were very poor, so in September 1942 they were moved to the village of Tourinnes-Saint-Lambert. There they lived with two separate families: Isaac with Alphonse and Marie Quintin, and Bernard with the Ravet family. Both families treated the children as one of their own until liberation. Isaac's mother, who paid for their upkeep, was able to visit them once a month.

After the war the Lajbman family was reunited and moved to Ixelles, where they remained until immigrating to the United States. Abram, Chaja, and Bernard immigrated in 1953, and were sponsored by Chaja's relatives Philip and Al Rothstein. Isaac immigrated to the United States separately after he finished his Belgian military service.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the Holocaust-era experiences of Abram and Chaja Lajbman and their sons Isaac (later Jacques Leibman) and Bernard in Belgium. Included are biographical material, immigration papers, and photographs that document Isaac and Bernard's survival in German-occupied Belgium as hidden children, Abram and Chaja's false identities, and their immigration to the United States in 1953.

Biographical materials include Abram and Chaja's false identification cards, receipts for care packages of food sent to Chaja's family in Belgium, Isaac's Belgian military documents and a memoir, and restitution documents.

Immigration papers document Chaja's relatives Philip and Al Rothstein's sponsorship of their immigration to the United States, Isaac's ticket and travel documents for his immigration via the *SS Ile de France*, and letter to the American Embassy in Israel by Chaja on behalf of her sister Szyfra Grosman.

Photographs include depictions of the pre-war Lajbman and Radziejewski families, Isaac and Bernard as hidden children, Isaac's grandfather Jonah Lajbman in the Łódź ghetto (copyprint), Jewish soldiers in the Polish Army (Abram's brother is second from right), the Quintin family, and the death notice for Philippe Laurent Cleeremans, whom Isaac befriended while hidden at Tourinnes-Saint-Lambert.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as three series:

Series 1: Biographical material, 1939-2007

Series 2: Immigration, 1950-1959

Series 3: Photographs, circa 1930-1979

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Some photographs are copyprints.

Indexing terms

Person:

Leibman, Jacques, 1931-2011.

Lajbman, Abram, 1904-1990.

Lajbman, Chaja, 1907-1991.

Lajbman, Bernard.

Corporate:

Belgium. Armée.

Topical Subject:

Hidden children (Holocaust)--Belgium.

Identification cards--Forgeries--Belgium.

Jewish families--Belgium.

Holocaust survivors--Belgium.

Geography:

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Belgium.

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical material, 1939-2007

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	False identification papers, 1939
1.2	Food care package receipts, 1947 and undated
1.3	Lajbman, Abram: Bank withdrawal receipt, 1944
1.4	Lajbman, Isaac: Belgian military service, 1949-1953

1.5	Lajbman, Isaac (Jacques Leibman): Memoir "Hidden Childhood in Wartime Belgium", 1991
1.6	Restitution, 1960-2007

Series 2: Immigration, 1950-1959

Box/Folder	Title
1.7	Grosman, Szyfra, 1959
1.8	Lajbman, Abram and Chaja, 1950-1953
1.9	Lajbman, Isaac, 1953

Series 3: Photographs, circa 1930-1979

Box/Folder	Title
1.10	Cleeremans, Philippe Laurent: Death notice, 1944
1.11	Lajbman, Abram, circa 1930-1937
1.12	Lajbman, Abram, Isaac, and Bernard: Wilrijk, Belgium, 1942
1.13	Lajbman, Isaac, circa 1946-1951
1.14	Lajbman, Isaac and Bernard: Tourinnes-Saint-Lambert, 1943
1.15	Lajbman, Jonah: Łódź ghetto, 1941
1.16	Polish Army, 1937
1.17	Quintin family, 1956-1979
1.18	Radziejewski family, 1934 and undated
1.19	Rothstein, Philip and Robert, undated