

AGNES FEHER PAPERS, 1939-1951
2002.411.1

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

Title: Agnes Feher collection

Dates: 1939-1951

Accession number: 2002.411.1

Creator: Feher, Agnes.

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 folder)

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 Agnes Feher, originally of Miskolc, Hungary, who survived the German occupation of Budapest under a false identity. The collection consists eight pre-war and war-time photographs taken in Miskolc and Budapest, Hungary; postwar photographs in the Pocking, Germany, displaced persons camp and in Belgium; as well as identity and travel documents relating to Agnes Feher's immigration to Israel. Also includes a certificate of her journeyman level status.

Languages: Hungarian, Hebrew, French

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use.

Physical access note: Collection is unprocessed

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), Agnes Feher papers (2002.411.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Agnes Feher in 2002.

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

Processing history: Updated by Adam Fielding, September 2020

Biographical note

Agnes Feher was born on October 24, 1925 in Miskolc, Hungary. Her father, Andor, was a tailor and her mother, Ilona Klein Feher, was a hairdresser. Andor and Ilona also had a son, György (George) born in 1928. On April 1, 1944, Agnes married Endre Erdos, who was from Budapest and was serving in a forced-labor camp in Miskolc. Shortly after the wedding he was transported to Budapest. In May 1944, Agnes received a permit from the Gestapo that enabled her to move to Budapest where she lived with the Erdos family. Shortly thereafter, Endre was transported to Germany. Left alone, Agnes was wandering the streets. One day, a man approached her and told her to take off the Star of David that she was wearing. He was a member of the Jewish underground. She assumed the name Elizabeth Kovacs and was given a false workbook and identification papers. For a while, she was in a different location every night and she rented a room where she worked as a hairdresser. Her workplace was close to the Swiss Embassy and Agnes went there every day on her lunch hour hoping to see someone from Miskolc. One day, a young boy her brother's age told her that he escaped from a train that was still in a rail yard in the outskirts of Budapest and that her brother was on that train. Agnes managed to sneak near the wagons and get her brother off the transport.

In December 1944, the Russian Army reached the street where they were living in a basement shelter, and they were liberated. It took them two weeks to get back to Miskolc from Budapest. In the summer, Endre returned from Mauthausen concentration camp. In October 1945, they returned to Budapest and eventually traveled to Vienna, Salzburg, settling in the Pocking DP Camp in Austria. On March 10, 1947, Agnes and Endre's son George Erdos was born in Pocking. In May, the new family traveled to Belgium where Endre was working in the coal mine. In August 1948, they departed from Marseille aboard the SS Zion for Israel.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the Holocaust-era experiences of Agnes Feher, originally of Miskolc, Hungary, who survived the German occupation of Budapest under a false identity. The collection consists eight pre-war and war-time photographs taken in Miskolc and Budapest, Hungary; postwar photographs in the Pocking, Germany, displaced persons camp and in Belgium; as well as identity and travel documents relating to Agnes Feher's immigration to Israel. Also includes a certificate of her journeyman level status.

System of arrangement

Collection is unprocessed.

Indexing terms

Person:

Feher, Agnes.

Corporate:

Pocking (Displaced persons camp)

Topical Subject:

Jews--Hungary--Miskolc.
Jews--Hungary--Budapest.
Holocaust survivors.
Displaced persons.
Displaced persons camps.

Geography:

Pocking (Passau, Germany)
Miskolc (Hungary)

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY

- .1 **Photographic postcard:** black and white image of woman wearing jacket and shirt standing outside with hands crossed in front of her, buildings in background; verso: graphite inscription; dated May 4, 1948; Belgium; in Hungarian; *pictured: Agnes Feher in Belgium, where her husband worked in a coal mine.*
- .2 **Photographic print:** black and white image of group of men seated and standing around table, two robes across image horizontally in foreground; dated 1946; Pocking, Germany; *pictured: men at a boxing match in Pocking, Andre Erdos is standing and wearing a hat.*
- .3 **Photographic print:** black and white image of young woman wearing print dress, standing on steps leaning with one arm against sculpture on left; verso: blue ink inscription covering entire area; dated August 1944; in Hungarian; *pictured: Agnes Feher as Elizabeth Kovacs, she states "It does not look as I am dead. I am all alone."*
- .4 **Photographic print:** black and white image of man and woman standing arm in arm on steps of building; verso: blue ink inscription covering entire area; dated April 1, 1944; Budapest, Hungary; in Hungarian; *pictured: Agnes Feher on her wedding day.*
- .5 **Photographic print:** black and white image of woman seated on couch behind table, portrait and shelf on wall behind her, flowers on table; verso: blue ink inscription; dated July 30, 1946; Pocking, Germany; in Hungarian; *pictured: Klara Polacseck, portrait of man was done by George Feher of Klara's husband.*
- .6 **Photographic print:** black and white image of woman standing outside wearing dress, hat, and carrying handbag, sign for store behind her; Miskolc, Hungary; dated 1941-1942; *pictured: Agnes Feher standing at the entrance to the family's home and business.*
- .7 **Identification card:** issued to "Aviva Erdos" (donor) by the State of Israel; black and white photograph of bearer on page 4; issued May 28, 1951; in Hebrew and Arabic
- .8 **Photographic print:** black and white image of fourteen girls, standing and kneeling in two rows, all wearing matching dresses and hats, and holding small bouquets of flowers; verso: black oval ink stamp of photographer in center; dated 1939; Miskolc, Hungary; in Hungarian; *pictured: students at the Jewish school, girls in the front row wearing pink dresses, girls in second row wearing blue dresses; donor pictured second from right in first row; pictured third from left in first row is Marika Rökk.*

- .9 **Copy print:** black and white image of four rows of school girls and their teachers; dated June 1940; Miskolc, Hungary; *pictured: the graduating class from the Jewish middle school of which only 5 survived; pictured second from right in the last row is Agnes Feher, Judith Wertheim is seventh from right in the last row, Ewa Klein (who survived) is third from right in the last row, Erika Wertheimer is eighth from right in the last row (she perished).*
- .10 **Document:** "Intergovernment Committee on Refugees" printed across top, black and white image of bearer stapled top center; preprinted form in black ink with typed entries; issued for "Endrene Erdos" (donor); not dated; in English
- .11 **Certificate:** "Segédlevél" issue for Agnes Edit Feher; printed border in black and red ink; entries typed in black ink; issued July 6, 1943; Miskolc, Hungary; in Hungarian
- .12 **Identity document:** issued in lieu of passport to Agnes Feher, black and white image of bearer stapled in upper right corner; printed in black ink on pink paper, entries handwritten in black ink ; three circular black ink stamps of the "Gouvernement Provincial du Brabant/Bureau des Passeports"; verso: blue and black ink stamps of visa for France and entry into Marseille; issued July 13, 1949; Brussels, Belgium; in French and Flemish