

**ALTENBERG FAMILY PAPERS, 1901-1981**  
**2003.360.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Altenberg family papers

Dates: 1901-1981

Accession number: 2003.360.1

Creator: Altenberg family

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (7 folders, 8 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The Altenberg family papers include photographs, cultural programs and posters, and printed material documenting the Altenberg family of Antwerp, the work of Bernard Altenberg's photo studio, and the educational and cultural work of the Jewish Artisan Association and Jewish Zugob school at 115 Lange Kievitstraat before and after the Holocaust. The programs and posters feature Marcel Pfeffer Patin and Annie Rutzky among other performers.

Language: Yiddish, Dutch, Hebrew

**Administrative Information**

Access: There are no known restrictions on access to this material.

Reproduction and use: Material(s) in this collection may be protected by copyright and/or related rights. You do not require further permission from the Museum to use this material. The user is solely responsible for making a determination as to if and how the material may be used.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Altenberg family papers (2003.360.1) United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Anna Altenberg-Burshtain donated the Altenberg family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2003.

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, March 2023

### **Biographical note**

Anna Altenberg-Burshtain (born Anna Altenberg) was the daughter of Necha (Markowicz) and Bernard (Berek) Altenberg, both of whom immigrated to Belgium from Poland in the interwar period. Anna was born in 1932 in Antwerp, where her father was a photographer and the owner of a large photo studio called Bernard Studios. He was also the inventor of the first electric copier, which he displayed at the 1930 World's Fair. Anna had three sisters: Rebecca (b. 1931), Frederica (Frieda, b. 1936) and Micheline (Mieneke, b. 1939).

After receiving an order to Aryanize his business, Bernard sold his studio to a non-Jewish friend, Mr. Lontie, who returned it after the war. In June 1942 when the large-scale round-ups of Jews began, the Altenbergs decided to go into hiding. The four girls were placed with a non-Jewish family, while Bernard and Necha hid separately and moved frequently to avoid capture. Their last hiding place was with the Van Gaal family. While in hiding Bernard assisted the Belgian resistance by drawing stamps for false papers. After the four girls had been in hiding for a few months, their rescuers, fearing arrest, sent the girls back to their parents. Lacking other alternatives, Bernard and Necha placed the girls in the Jewish orphanage in Antwerp that was run by the AJB (Association des Juifs de Belgique), the official Jewish administration. In November 1943, the orphanage was forced to relocate to Lasne. Immediately after the liberation, Bernard and Necha retrieved their daughters. Though all of their immediate relatives survived the war, many of their extended family perished, including Bernard's brother and two sisters and their families.

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

The Altenberg family papers include photographs, cultural programs and posters, and printed material documenting the Altenberg family of Antwerp, the work of Bernard Altenberg's photo studio, and the educational and cultural work of the Jewish Artisan Association and Jewish Zugob school at 115 Lange Kievitstraat before and after the Holocaust. The programs and posters feature Marcel Pfeffer Patin and Annie Rutzky among other performers.

### **System of arrangement**

The Altenberg family papers are arranged by subject.

### **Indexing terms**

Jews--Belgium--Antwerp.

Belgium--History--German occupation, 1940-1945.

Photographs.

Posters.

Advertising fliers.

Concert programs.

## CONTAINER LIST

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Photographs, Altenberg family, 1933-1946
1.2	Photographs, Bernard Studios, 1931-1946
1.3, OS 1-OS 6	Jewish Artisan Association and Zugob school, 1932-1934
1.4	Theater Bondsgebouw, 1933, 1939
1.5	Copies of identification papers, stamped "Bernard Studios," 1940-1942
1.6	The Altenberg family during the Holocaust in Belgium, circa 2000
1.7	Milk regulations, 1933
OS 7	<i>Van der machtsgreep naar den strop: Historische documenten over het roemloos einde der nazi-bonzen</i> [Extra-Nummer ABC], January 1, 1946
OS 8	<i>Forward</i> , Art Section, August 17, 1930 and April 12, 1931