

**NORMAN SALSITZ PAPERS, approximately 1889-2000
2003.425.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Norman Salsitz papers

Dates: approximately 1889-2000

Accession number: 2003.425.1

Creator: Salsitz, Norman, 1920-2006

Extent: 1.5 linear feet (2 boxes, 1 book enclosure)

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

Abstract: The collection consists of two notebooks and one loose notebook containing songs and poems hand copied by Norman Salsitz around 1935 and hundreds of photographs of Norman Salsitz and his family before, during, and after World War II in and around Kolbuszowa, Poland, and including the Kolbuszowa and Rzeszów ghettos. Most of the photographs date from the 1930s and 1940s and were hidden by Salsitz when the Jewish population of the Kolbuszowa ghetto was deported to Belzec. The collection also includes photographs of educational, religious, and social groups before the war; compulsory prewar labor brigades; German wartime atrocities; Amalie Petranker and her family in and around Stanisławów and Kraków, Poland; Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz after liberation; and the Zeilsheim displaced persons camp.

Languages: Polish, Hebrew, Yiddish.

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), Norman Salsitz papers (2003.425.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Norman Salsitz donated the Norman Salsitz papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2003.

Related materials: Norman Salsitz also donated reproductions of a letter from Sachsenhausen and a letter from Siberia to the Museum (1995.A.0801).

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, November 2018

Biographical note

Norman Salsitz (1920-2006) was born Naftali Saleschutz in Zabrze, Poland, to Isak and Esther Saleschutz. He grew up in Kolbuszowa and had eight older siblings: Avrum (b. 1901), Bluma (Gela, b. 1903), Leibush (b. 1904), Malcia (b. 1907), Liba (b. 1908), Matla (b. 1911), David (b. 1913), and Rachel (b. 1917). Avrum immigrated to the United States in 1919, and David immigrated to Palestine in 1933. The rest of the Saleschutz family was forced into the Rzeszów and Kolbuszowa ghettos following the German occupation, and Norman was forced to perform slave labor. His father was murdered during an action, and the rest of his family in the ghettos was deported to the Belzec death camp. In October 1942, Norman escaped Kolbuszowa to the surrounding forest and joined a group of resistance fighters. These fighters fought to dismantle and damage German railroads, mills, and police stations. In 1944, Norman joined the Armia Krajowa (Home Army) Polish underground, despite the strong presence of antisemitism. Norman worked with the underground to defeat their common foes until the command was given to seek out and kill Jews being hidden on a farm. Norman volunteered for the mission, killing the Poles who had been sent with him instead and rescuing the Jews in hiding. He then fled the Home Army and returned to his original partisan unit where he remained until liberation by the Russians. He married Amalie Petranker (1922-2003) in 1945 and relocated to Germany. Amalie was raised in Stanisławów, Poland (Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine), had two sisters named Celia and Pepka, and survived the Holocaust in Kraków under the assumed identity of Felicia Milaszewska, a Catholic Pole. The couple immigrated to the United States in 1947. Norman honored his mother's dying wish for her son to keep their stories alive by speaking about his war experiences and writing books including *Against All Odds, A Jewish Boyhood in Poland*, and *Three Homelands*.

Scope and content of collection

The collection consists of two notebooks and one loose notebook containing songs and poems hand copied by Norman Salsitz around 1935 and hundreds of photographs of Norman Salsitz and his family taken before, during, and after World War II in and around Kolbuszowa, Poland, and including the Kolbuszowa and Rzeszów ghettos. Most of the photographs date from the 1930s and 1940s and were hidden by Salsitz when the Jewish population of the Kolbuszowa ghetto was deported to Belzec. The collection also includes photographs of educational, religious, and social groups before the war; compulsory prewar labor brigades ("szarwark"); German wartime atrocities; Amalie Petranker and her family in and around Stanisławów and Kraków, Poland; Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz after liberation; and the Zeilsheim displaced persons camp.

System of arrangement

The Norman Salsitz papers are arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Notebooks, approximately 1935
- Series 2: Photographs, approximately 1889-2000
- Series 3: Printed materials, approximately 1945-2000

Indexing terms

Salsitz, Amalie Petranker, 1922-2003.

Salsitz, Norman, 1920-2006.

Auschwitz (Concentration camp)

Bergen-Belsen (Concentration camp)

Zeilsheim (Displaced persons camp)

Jews--Poland--Kolbuszowa.

Jews--Ukraine--Ivano-Frankivs'k.

Jewish ghettos--Poland--Kolbuszowa.

Jewish ghettos--Poland--Rzeszów.

World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities.

Kolbuszowa (Poland)

Kraków (Poland)

Rzeszów (Poland)

Wrocław (Poland)

Ivano-Frankivs'k (Ukraine)

Israel.

Photographs.

Poems.

Songbooks.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Notebooks with songs and poems, approximately 1935

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Notebook with songs and poems 1 (loose), approximately 1935
BE 1	Notebook with songs and poems 2, approximately 1935
1.2	Notebook with songs and poems 3, approximately 1935

Series 2: Photographs, approximately 1889-2000

Box/Folder	Title
1.3	Auschwitz, Kraków, and the English Committee, 1945
1.4	Beit Yaakov school, 1936-1938
1.5	Betar, approximately 1932-1934
1.6	Educational, social, and religious groups, 1930-1936
1.7	Hanoar Hatzioni, 1932-1935
1.8	Hazamir, 1929-1935
1.9	Individual portraits, approximately 1900-1953
1.10	Israel, approximately 1933-1949
1.11	Kolbuszowa, 1912-1930
1.12	Kolbuszowa, 1933-1937
1.13	Kolbuszowa, 1938
1.14	Kolbuszowa, 1939
1.15	Kolbuszowa, 1940
1.16	Kolbuszowa, 1941
1.17	Kolbuszowa, 1942, 1948
1.18	Kolbuszowa, undated, approximately 1930-1945
1.19	Kornfeld, Moses, Leibe, and Henoch, 1937-1942
1.20	Lische, Szaja David, 1935-1939
1.21	Nazi occupation and atrocities, approximately 1939-1945
1.22-1.24	Petranker, Amalie, and her family, 1889-1946 (3 folders)
1.25	Ruth, Sabrina, in Strzyzow, approximately 1940
1.26	Rzeszów, 1938-1942
1.27	Saleschutz family, 1934
1.28	Saleschutz niece and nephews, 1935, 1941
1.29	Saleschutz siblings, 1920-1938
1.30	Saleschutz, David, 1934, 1937
1.31	Saleschutz, Isak and Esther, 1934-1938
1.32	Saleschutz, Leibush, 1927, 1941
1.33	Saleschutz, Liba, 1936-1937
1.34	Saleschutz, Malcia, 1925, 1935-1941
1.35	Saleschutz, Matla, 1932-1937
1.36	Saleschutz, Meilech, approximately 1930s
2.1	Saleschutz, Rachel, 1933-1941
2.2	Salsitz, Albert, 1926, 1934
2.3	Salsitz, Norman, 1929-1942
2.4	Susskind, Rozia, 1940-1941
2.5	Szarwark (compulsory labor), 1938
2.6	Weinstein, Gela, Rubin, and Szandla, 1917-1941
2.7	Wrocław, 1945
2.8	Zeilsheim, 1946
2.9	Miscellaneous, approximately 1900-1946
2.10	Miscellaneous, undated
2.11	Reproductions, approximately 1900-2000

Series 3: Printed materials, approximately 1945-2000

Box/Folder	Title
2.12	Printed materials, approximately 1945-2000