

RABBI DR. JECHESKIEL LEWIN COLLECTION, 1922-2005
2004.365

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
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Descriptive summary

Title: Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin collection

Dates: 1922-2005

Accession number: 2004.365

Creator: Lewin, Jecheskiel, 1897-1941.

Extent: 1 box, 2 microfilm reels

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

Abstract: Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin collection consists of copies of articles, documents, and correspondence written by and about Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin, the last chief rabbi of Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine). Also included are two rolls of microfilm containing issues of "Nasza Opinia," 1936-1938.

Languages: Ukrainian, Polish, Hebrew, English

Administrative information

Access: Collection is open for use.

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), Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin collection (2004.365), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Dr. Nathan Lewin and Kurt Lewin donated the Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2004.

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

Related materials: Kurt I. Lewin collection (1997.A.0076); Kurt I. Lewin Israeli War of Independence collection (2006.83); Metropolitan Andrew Graf Szeptycki collection (2004.609)

Processing history: Finding aid updated by Katelynn Vance, May 2020.

Biographical note

Jecheskiel Lewin (1897-1941) was born in Rohatyn in 1897. His father was Rabbi Natan Lewin, rabbi of Rohatyn and Rzeszów. His brother was Aaron Lewin (1879-1941). Jecheskiel Lewin was a doctor of philosophy and served as rabbi in Katowice (1925-28) and Lviv (1928-1941). He married twice, and had three sons, Kurt I. Lewin, Natan Lewin, and Leib Lewin. Jecheskiel Lewin was murdered by the Germans in the vicinity of the Brygidki prison in July 1941. His son, Leib Lewin perished in the Lviv ghetto in January 1943. His second wife, Rachel Lewin (nee Reiss, 1906-1943) perished at the Janów concentration camp in September 1943, following the liquidation of the ghetto. Kurt and Natan Lewin survived the Holocaust in hiding at a catholic monastery.

Scope and content of collection

Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin collection consists of copies of articles, documents, and correspondence written by and about Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin, the last chief rabbi of Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine). Rabbi Lewin was killed in 1941 after refusing the shelter offered to him by Metropolitan Andrew Szeptycki (Sheptytsky), whom he asked for assistance in protecting the Jews of Lwów. Also contains two rolls of microfilm containing issues of "Nasza Opinia," from 1936-1938. Rabbi Lewin was the last editor of this publication, and wrote many articles dealing with scholarly, sociological, political, and religious matters under the initial "L."

The reels include the following:

- "Sluzyl Prawdzie (Pamieci Dra Abrahama Inslera)"—October 2, 1938
- "150 Lat Wielkiej Rewolucji Francuskiej"—July 1939
- "Rosja"—July 13, 1939
- "Anglia Przed Komisja Mandatowa"—June 1939
- "Bilans Szeszioletniej Wojny"—June 1939
- "Gdansk"—March 12, 1939
- "Gaweda Purimowa"—March 5, 1939
- "Wspolczesny Jozef Flawiusz"—February 26, 1939
- "Uczczenie Konstytuanty"—February 19, 1939
- "Kto Pomaga Bundowi do Zwyciestawa"—January 1, 1939
- Odpowiedzialnosc Zbiorowa"—November 28, 1938
- "Monachium"—October 9, 1938
- "Odpejsowanie"—July 30, 1939
- "6-Sierpnia"—July 13, 1939
- "Musolini w Pulapce"—August 20, 1939
- "Maz z Egiptu"—July 30, 1939

System of arrangement

The Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin collection is arranged in three series.

- Series 1. "Nasza Opinia" microfilm reels, 1936-1939
- Series 2. Documents related to Jecheskiel Lewin, 1922-1941
- Series 3. Articles and Publications, 1929-2005

Indexing terms

People:

Bussgang, Julian.
Einstein, Karol.
Finkelstein, Ludwik.
Gutman, Samuel Wolf.
Kovba, Zhanna.
Lewin, Jecheskiel, 1897-1941.
Lewin, Kurt I.
Lewin, Natan.
Szeptycki, Metropolitan.

Geography:

Ukraine.
Poland.
Lviv (Ukraine)

Genre / Form:

Correspondence.
Financial materials.
Publications.

Container List

Series 1. "Nasza Opinia" microfilm reels, 1936-1939

Folder:	Title:
2 reels	"Nasza Opinia," 1936-1939

Series 2. Documents related to Jecheskiel Lewin, 1922-1941

Folder:	Title:
1 of 4	Personal letter of condolence, personal character reference
1 of 4	Letter by the congregation to Metropolitan Szeptycki; note from Metropolitan
1 of 4	Autobiographical note by Rabbi Jecheskiel Lewin; correspondence regarding Rabbi Lewin's dissertation
1 of 4	Two letters of condolence from the congregation to Rabbi Jecheskiel Lewin regarding the death of family members
1 of 4	Five personal letters to the Lwow congregation about his appointment as Rabbi; a fundraising letter to France
1 of 4	"Protokol" five documents pertaining to rabbinical functions and responsibilities
1 of 4	Ten financial documents
1 of 4	Documents regarding the nomination of Rabbi Jecheskiel Lewin for the rabbinical position in Lwow, installation invitations to prominent individuals
1 of 4	Correspondence with the City of Godek regarding a controversial eulogy for Karol Einstein and a copy of the eulogy
1 of 4	Curriculum vitae by Rabbi Jecheskiel Lewin, 1922

Series 3. Articles and Publications, 1929-2005

Folder:	Title:
2 of 4	"Od Przypadku do Opatrzności" from "Jednodniówka," November 30, 1929
2 of 4	"Narod i Ziemia," from "Jednodniówka," September 16, 1936
2 of 4	"Nosmy Pochodni," undated, circa 1939
2 of 4	"Żydzi małopolscy jako rabin i ich zasługi dla żydostwa," from "Almanach Żydowski; includes bibliographic entries for Rabbi Jecheskiel Lewin and his father Rabbi Natan Lewin (4 copies, with translation)
2 of 4	"Bibliotece Narodowej w darze," from "Alma Mater Hebraica", 1933 (2 copies)
2 of 4	"Nie pozbawiaj nas ducha Twego," from "Jednodniówka," 1937 (2 copies)
2 of 4	"Moje Wspomnienia Śląskie," undated
2 of 4	Eight Hebrew documents
2 of 4	Bibliographic entry for Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin from "Żydzi Bojownicy o Niepodległość Polski," 1939
2 of 4	"Andreas Count Sheptycki, Archbishop of Lviv, Metropolitan of Halych, and the Jewish community in Galicia during the Second World War," by Kurt I. Lewin 3 copies, published in "The Annals of the Ukrainian Academy," 1959 2 copies and "Unitas," 1960
2 of 4	"Almanach Żydowski, Wydany przez Hermana Stachla, 1937 "Biographies of Scholars: Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin," in English
2 of 4	"Jednodniówka wydan ku uczeniu 60-lecia instnienia Towarzystwa"
2 of 4	Rygoryzantów i 20-lecia instnienia Żydowskiego Domu Akademickiego
2 of 4	"We Lwowie 1869-1929," by Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin "From Chance to Providence," in English
2 of 4	"Nasza Opinia," from Biblical Tractates, Sept 1939, unsigned "Wheel of Fortune"—Rabbi Jecheskiel Lewin as editor. in English
2 of 4	"Nasza Opinia," July 30, 1939 by Rabbi Jecheskiel Lewin, "Man of Egypt," in English, 2 copies, different edits
2 of 4	"Nasza Opinia," July 30, 1939 by "L." "Odpejsowanie," in English
2 of 4	"Ejszyski," September 16, 1936, unsigned, "The Land and the Nation," in English
2 of 4	"Żydowski Uniwersytet Ludowy we Lwowie Jednodniówka 1937," by Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin "Do not Deny us your Spirit," in English
2 of 4	Żydzi Bojownicy o Niepodległość Polski, 1939, bibliographic entry for Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin
2 of 4	"The Progressive Synagogue in Lwów," by Julian Busgang, 1998 as printed in "Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry, 1998," 2 copies
2 of 4	"Posmiertny Zbiór Kazan" (set of eulogies for Rabbi Dr. Samuel Wolf Gutman)
3 of 4	"Ostatni Rabin Lwowa," by Kurt I. Lewin, "Zeszyty Literackie" 1999 nr 2
3 of 4	"Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin—the Last Rabbi of the Jewish Community in Lwów," by Kurt I. Lewin, 2 copies, 1 edited
3 of 4	Holocaust Contemporary Research #1 2005, published in Ukraine. On pages 49-62 is biography of Jecheskiel Lewin, by Prof. Zhanna Kovba
3 of 4	Yitzkor epitaph for Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin
3 of 4	Correspondence discussing life and death of Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin, as well as a historical reflection of the time, written by Kurt I. Lewin: April 18, 2003; May 6, 2003; June 9, 2003; July 31, 2003; August 3, 2003; November 20, 2003; November 27, 2003; January 6, 2004; January 14, 2004; May 1, 2004

3 of 4 4 of 4	Biography of Jecheskiel Lewin entitled "Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin—A Life" by Kurt Lewin, February 28, 2007
4 of 4	Draft article entitled "Three Rabbis and a Soldier," by Ludwik Finkelstein, including information about Rabbi Lewin
4 of 4	Published article entitled "Hidden Tales from Polish History," by Ludwik Finkelstein, originally published in "Manna" in Autumn 2007, including information about Rabbi Lewin (seems to be the final product of above)
4 of 4	Manuscript, in Ukrainian, entitled "A Return from Oblivion: Rabbi of Lviv Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin," by Zhanna Kovba (2 copies, one draft and one draft with incorporated corrections)