

HENRY ZGUDA PAPERS, 1937-2003

2004.374.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Henry Zguda papers

Dates: 1937-2003

Accession number: 2004.374.1

Creator: Zguda, Henry (Henryk) (1917-2003)

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Henry Zguda papers include biographical material, correspondence, publications, subject files, and photographs relating to Henry's experience in Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Flossenbergl, and Dachau concentration camps as well as material relating to his immigration to the United States through Poland and Belgium, and attempts to establish a life in New York. This collection also includes restitution files for damages and medical claims.

Languages: Polish, French, German, English

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: Henry Zguda papers (2004.374.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Nancy Zguda donated the Henry Zguda papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2004.

Related archival materials: Nancy Zguda donated a Polish Union of Swimming badge (2004.374.2) a Polish political prisoner badge (2004.374.3) and a letter opener (2004.374.4) 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.

Processing history: Morgan Voth, January 2018

Biographical note

Henry (Henryk) Zguda (1917-2003) was born in Krakow, Poland, to Wincenty and Karolina Zguda. In 1942, Henry was stopped by the German Security Police and taken to Auschwitz as a Polish political prisoner until 1943 when he was deported to Buchenwald. After Buchenwald was evacuated, Henry was sent on a death march to Dachau where he stayed until it was liberated by US forces in 1945. Henry was transferred to a displaced persons camp, diagnosed with paratyphoid fever, and went to St. Lazarus hospital in Poland. In 1947, Henry became a sports trainer and coach for the Polish Army and took the Polish water polo team to the 1952 Olympics. On December 31, 1958, Henry immigrated to the United States and lived in New York City where he trained as a physical therapist. He later moved to California and married Nancy Conforti (b. 1921) in 1960.

Scope and content of collection

The Henry Zguda papers include biographical material, correspondence, publications, subject files, and photographs relating to Henry's experience in Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Flossenbergl, and Dachau concentration camps as well as material relating to his immigration to the United States through Poland and Belgium, and attempts to establish a life in New York. This collection also includes restitution files for damages and medical claims.

Biographical materials include Henry's United Nations refugee card, Polish ID card, Polish military ID card, Committee of Physical Culture instructor card, and memorial program.

Correspondence includes letters from Henry to his mother, Karoline Zguda, during his time in Auschwitz and Buchenwald about life and conditions in the concentration camps and the liberation of Dachau.

Emigration and immigration materials include documentation of employment, application to change his Polish citizenship, congratulatory letters from Congressmen on his U.S. citizenship, and material relating to establishing a life in the United States.

Restitution files include correspondence and claims for compensation for his internment in four concentration camps as well as medical documentation and correspondence for medical claims.

Publications include newspaper and magazine articles about Henry's life and the treatment of Polish political prisoners.

Subject files include material relating to Henry's career as a water polo coach including correspondence, newsletters, and a membership card.

Photographic materials include Zguda family photographs, a photograph from the Buchenwald concentration camp, and Henry's Auschwitz prisoner photographs.

System of arrangement

The Henry Zguda papers are arranged as seven series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1939-2003
- Series 2: Correspondence, approximately 1942-2003
- Series 3: Emigration and immigration material, approximately 1957-1963
- Series 4: Restitution files, approximately 1945-2000
- Series 5: Publications, approximately 1990-2004
- Series 6: Subject files, approximately 1937-1957
- Series 7: Photographs, approximately 1940s-1960s

Indexing terms

Zguda, Henry (Henryk)

Zguda, Karoline

Auschwitz (Concentration camp)

Buchenwald (Concentration camp)

Flossenberg (Concentration camp)

Dachau (Concentration camp)

Political prisoners -- Poland.

World War, 1939-1945 -- claims.

Water polo coaches -- Poland.

Belgium.

Germany.

New York (N.Y.)

Poland.

United States--Emigration and immigration--History.

Correspondence.

Photographs.

Publications.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1939-2003

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Zguda, Henry, 1939-2003

Series 2: Correspondence, approximately 1942-2003

Box/Folder	Title
1.2	Zguda, Henry, approximately 1942-2003 (bulk 1942-1945)
1.3	Miscellaneous, approximately 1957-1970

Series 3: Emigration and immigration material, approximately 1957-1963

Box/Folder	Title
1.4	Zguda, Henry, approximately 1957-1963

Series 4: Restitution files, approximately 1945-2000

Box/Folder	Title
1.5-1.6	Zguda, Henry, 1957-1970 (2 folders)
1.7	United Nations, 1957-1968
1.8	The International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, 2000
1.9-1.11	Medical claims, approximately 1945-1973 (3 folders)

Series 5: Publications, approximately 1990-2004

Box/Folder	Title
1.12	Newspaper and magazine articles, approximately 1990-2004

Series 5: Subject files, approximately 1937-1957

Box/Folder	Title
1.13	Walter polo team, approximately 1937-1957

Series 7: Photographs, approximately 1940s-1960s

Box/Folder	Title
1.14	Family photographs, approximately 1940s-1960s
1.15	Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps, approximately 1940s