

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives Finding Aid

Accession Number: 2004.609

Title: Metropolitan Andrew Graf Szeptycki collection, 1941-2010

Extent: 5 folders

Provenance: Dr. Nathan Lewin, with his brother, Kurt Lewin, donated this collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on Nov. 10, 2004. Please also see 1997.A.0076, the Kurt I. Lewin collection, and 2004.365, the Rabbi Dr. Jecheskiel Lewin collection

Restrictions on access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on use: Restrictions on use. Authors retain copyright.

Language: Ukrainian, English, Hebrew

Preferred citation: Standard citation for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collections Department, Archives.

Scope and Content: Consists of copies of documents (many with English translations) written by Metropolitan Andrew Graf Szeptycki (Sheptytsky), the Metropolitan of Halicz and Archbishop of Lwow (Lviv). Includes two pastoral letters: the first was issued on July 1, 1941, the day of the German occupation of Lwow, while the second, entitled "Thou Shalt Not Kill," was issued in Nov. 1942. Also included are signed and notarized depositions from witnesses attesting to the efforts of the Metropolitan to save Jews during the Holocaust, articles written about the Metropolitan and his brother, Ihumen Clement Szeptycki, copyprints, and correspondence related to attempts to have the Metropolitan named as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem.

Inventory:

Folder 1: Documents written by Metropolitan Szeptycki

1. A pastoral letter prepared by Metropolitan Andrew Szeptycki in 1902 reflecting his ideas and responsibilities as he has perceived them.
2. Copy of handwritten letter written by the Metropolitan, dated 1916 from Suzdal, Russia, where he was imprisoned under the Tsar (with English translation)
3. Copy of pastoral letter, dated 7/1/1941, addressed to the Ukrainian people upon the German occupation of Lwow (Ukrainian, 3 copies, with English translation of the same)
4. Copy of pastoral letter dated 10/9/1941, no. 22(Ukrainian)
5. Published copy of a letter, dated 3/28/42, from the Metropolitan to Pope Pius XII , describing the situation in southeastern Poland under the Nazis. A Studite Hieromonk,

Johannes Peters, a German subject, before his arrest by the Gestapo handed the letter report to Msgr. Orsenigo Papal Nunzio in Berlin for transmission to Rome.

6. Published copy of a letter, dated 8/29-31/42, from the Metropolitan to Pope Pius XII , describing the situation in southeastern Poland under the Nazis. A Studite Hieromonk, Johannes Peters, a German subject, before his arrest by the Gestapo handed the letter report to Msgr. Orsenigo Papal Nunzio in Berlin for transmission to Rome.
7. Notarized statement written by Kurt Lewin, dated 10/22/09, regarding the letters from the Metropolitan to Pope Pius XII
8. Copy of pastoral letter entitled “Thou Shalt Not Kill”, issued Nov. 1942 (Ukrainian, with English translation of the same)

Folder 2: Sworn statements regarding the Metropolitan’s rescue work

1. Sworn deposition of Oded Amarant recalling his experiences during the Holocaust and the role of the Metropolitan, 5/2/96
2. Sworn deposition of Zwi Barnea (Herbert Chameides) recalling his experiences during the Holocaust and the role of the Metropolitan, 3/5/96
3. Sworn deposition of Leon Chameides recalling his experiences during the Holocaust and the role of the Metropolitan, 2/21/96
4. Sworn deposition of Edward Harvitt (Adolf Horowitz) recalling his experiences during the Holocaust and the role of the Metropolitan, 5/9/96
5. Sworn deposition of Ruth Kahana-Geyer recalling her experiences during the Holocaust and the role of the Metropolitan, 10/10/05
6. Sworn deposition of Yael Kahana recalling his family’s experiences during the Holocaust and the role of the Metropolitan, 12/10/06
7. Sworn deposition of Kurt I. Lewin recalling his experiences during the Holocaust and the role of the Metropolitan, 8/8/94
8. Sworn deposition of Kurt I. Lewin recalling his experiences during the Holocaust and the role of the Metropolitan, 10/28/04
9. Sworn deposition of Nathan Lewin recalling his experiences during the Holocaust and the role of the Metropolitan, 8/12/94
10. Sworn deposition of Nathan Lewin recalling his experiences during the Holocaust and the role of the Metropolitan, 1/2/96
11. Sworn deposition of Lil Stern Pohlmann recalling her experiences during the Holocaust and the role of the Metropolitan, 3/4/96
12. Sworn deposition of Adam Daniel Rotfeld (Rothfeld) recalling his experiences during the Holocaust and the role of the Metropolitan, 3/28/96
13. Sworn deposition of Father Marko Stek recalling his memories of Kurt Lewin and attesting to the role of Metropolitan Szeptycki and Ihumen Szeptycki in saving Jews during the Holocaust, 8/28/74

Folder 3: Photographs

1. A photo of the orphanage in Uniw with the Studite Father Daniel who managed it. The enclosed letter of the Studite Hieromonk Sebastian in Ukrainian describes the photo and identifies three Jewish boys. Daniel (Rotfeld), Dorko (Amarent), Levko (Chameides). The Studites risked their lives because only Jewish boys were circumcised, and therefore

easily identifiable by other children or by lay workers helping the monks take care of the children

2. A copyprint of the photograph of the plaque outside the Metropolitan's home in Krakow, where he lived from 1880-1888
3. A copyprint of a photograph of Lili Stern-Pohlmann with Queen Elizabeth II upon the opening of the Holocaust Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum, London
4. Copyprints of additional photographs from 1997.A.0076 (the Kurt I. Lewin collection)

Folder 4: Dr. Julian Bussgang's work related to the Metropolitan

1. Published and bound article, in Polish, by Dr. Julian Bussgang entitled "Ponowna ocena Metropolity Szeptyckiego"
2. Published and bound article, in Ukrainian, by Dr. Julian Bussgang, copy of above
3. Letter from Kurt Lewin to Msgr. Hrynchyshyn, dated 7/14/09 regarding Dr. Bussgang's article and the Metropolitan's 1941 proclamations

Folder 5:

1. Letter of Oded Amarant (Dorko) to Yad Vashem in Hebrew and its translation into English.
2. Notorized statement by Kurt Lewin explaining the role of Johannes Peters, a Studite priest and collaborator to the Szeptycki brothers
3. Copy of letter written by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Adam Daniel Rotfeld
4. Article from "Haaretz", a newspaper in Israel, entitled "Righteous Indignation"
5. Letter from Dr. Leon Chameides to Dr. Shevach Weiss, Chairman of Yad Vashem regarding the Metropolitan
6. Letter from Kurt Lewin to Professor Maria Szeptycka (Hula) regarding the history of the Metropolitan
7. Email from Kurt Lewin to Father Onufry of the Studite Order in Lviv
8. Email from Myroslav Marynovych to Kurt Lewin regarding the Metropolitan
9. Letter from Prof. Zwi Barnea to Dr. Shevach Weiss, Chairman of Yad Vashem regarding the "Ukrainian Schindler" article
10. Letter from Zwi Barnea to Shimon Redlich regarding the Metropolitan's involvement with the SS
11. Attachment to the above letter further detailing the Metropolitan's involvement with the SS
12. Emails from Kurt Lewin to "Herbert" and to "Hula" regarding Yad Vashem and the Metropolitan
13. Letter from Kurt Lewin to Msgr. M. Hrynchyshyn enclosing an overview of the controversy over the Metropolitan's role during the Holocaust
14. Email from Kurt Lewin to Adam Daniel Rotfeld describing the evolution of the process of beatification of the Metropolitan, 12/5/06
15. Email, 12/9/05, constituting a petition organized by Professor Shimon Redlich and submitted to Yad Vashem asking them to reexamine the deeds of the Metropolitan
16. Copy of a letter, 12/12/06, from Avner Shalev of Yad Vashem, to Dr. Julian Bussgang, stating that the Metropolitan's status remains unchanged and is likely to remain so

17. Email between Kurt Lewin and Prof. Shimon Redlich regarding the petition as well as Shalev's 12/12/06 letter to Dr. Bussgang, 1/15/07
18. Letter from Kurt Lewin to Avner Shalev regarding Mr. Lewin's history and credentials regarding the Metropolitan, 11/24/07
19. Letter from Kurt Lewin to Myroslav Marynovych of the Ukrainian Catholic University regarding the Szeptycki brothers, 11/20/07
20. Letter from Kurt Lewin to Avner Shalev protesting the refusal of Yad Vashem to acknowledge the Metropolitan, 1/6/08
21. Affidavit by Kurt Lewin written in response to Mordechai Paldiel's book, which refers to Szeptycki as a collaborator; point by point rebuttal
22. Packet of email correspondence between Kurt Lewin, Nathan Lewin, Leo Chameides, and Zwi Barnea, including copies of correspondence with Shimon Redlich and Rabbi Israel Lau about the role of the Metropolitan during the war
23. Notarized statement by Nathan Lewin, dated 8/7/09, about the role of Father Johannes Peters during the Holocaust
24. Letter from Msgr. Hrychyshyn to Kurt Lewin wishing him a happy birthday and commemorating their long friendship based on their mutual work commemorating the Metropolitan
25. Emails from Kurt Lewin to Maria Szeptycka reflecting on the life and work on the Metropolitan and discussing the upcoming conference on the Metropolitan in Krakow in November 2009
26. Letter from Kurt Lewin to Ms. Iryna Korpan of Ikor Film Production, dated 1/2/10 regarding the SS Division Galizein
27. Article, in English (with Ukrainian translation) by Kurt I. Lewin entitled "Andrew and Clement Szeptycki," regarding the history of the brothers and their efforts (2011)