

JOSHUA (SZYJA) FELDMAN PAPERS, 1912-2000 (bulk 1945-1968) 2004.614.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Joshua (Szyja) Feldman papers

Dates: 1912-2000 (bulk 1945-1968)

Accession number: 2004.614.1

Creator: Joshua (Szyja) Feldman

Extent: 5.2 linear feet (5 boxes, 3 oversize boxes, 3 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The Joshua (Szyja) Feldman papers consist of restitution files, immigration materials, biographical materials, and study notebooks primarily relating to the post-war experiences of Szyja (Joshua) and his wife Fela Winter Feldman. The papers include letters to Feldman's family in the United States, official papers regarding restitution and emigration applications, photograph albums depicting Szyja and Fela Feldman, documentation of Szyja's experience at the Davos-Platz hospital in Switzerland, his postwar life with Fela Feldman in Sweden, and study notebooks in which he practiced German stenography, French, Hebrew, English, and engineering. The collection also includes a copy of "Letters to Salek," a biography of Mr. Feldman written by a writer hired by Mr. Feldman's niece, Renée Roll (the donor). The collection also includes Roll's research notes that contributed to the biography.

Languages: English, Swedish, German, Hebrew, French

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), Szyja (Joshua) Feldman papers (2004.614.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Renée Roll donated this collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives on July 1, 2004.

Separated materials: See Joshua and Fela Feldman collection 2014.614.2-30 for related objects.

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

Processing history: Jennifer Wachtel, October 2018.

Biographical note

Joshua (Szyja) Feldman (1912-1969) was born in Częstochowa, Poland. His parents were Aron-Szymon Feldman (1869-1942) and Golda Feldman nee Blady (1874-1936). He had six siblings: Leon (Leo) Feldman (circa 1897-1982), Estera Grynsztaja nee Feldman (1901-1942), Mendel Feldman (b. 1904), Carka Sztajafeld nee Feldman (1907-1942), Adela Opoczynski nee Feldman (1910-1942), and Gittla Rywka Feldman (1914-1942). All except Leo Feldman were murdered with their spouses and children at the Treblinka extermination camp. While Joshua lost all his siblings, nieces, and nephews in Europe, his brother Leon Feldman had left Poland for the United States in 1920 and attempted to bring Joshua to the United States after World War II.

A survivor of the Buchenwald, Dora-Mittelbau, and Bergen-Belsen concentration camps, he spent the five years after the war recovering from a myriad of illnesses contracted as a concentration camp prisoner, including tuberculosis, in the Davos-Plata hospital in Switzerland. When the aid organizations (including the Yudische Fluchtlingshilfe) paying for his care were unable to continue to support him, he and another patient, Fela Winter (circa 1912-1989), moved to Sweden and were married. Szyja, also known as Salek, changed his name to Joshua soon after their marriage.

In 1946, Roll urged her father to search for surviving relatives, leading to the discovery that her uncle had survived. Roll began corresponding with her uncle in 1947. Between 1947 and 1955 Renée's father and mother (Joshua's brother and sister-in-law) Leo and Helen Feldman (circa 1903-1982) submitted multiple affidavits in the hopes of bringing Joshua and his wife Fela to the United States, but they were unsuccessful largely due to Joshua's past illnesses. Joshua and Fela lived in Sweden for the rest of their lives. Joshua Feldman passed away in Stockholm in 1969.

Scope and content of collection

The Joshua (Szyja) Feldman papers consist of restitution files, immigration materials, biographical materials, and study notebooks primarily relating to the post-war experiences of Szyja (Joshua) and his wife Fela Winter Feldman. The papers include letters to Feldman's family in the United States, official papers regarding restitution and emigration applications, photograph albums and papers from the Davos-Platz hospital in Switzerland, and a copy of "Letters to Salek," a biography of Mr. Feldman. "Letters from Salek" was written by a writer hired by Mr. Feldman's niece, Renée Roll [donor]; the writer used Mr. Feldman's letters and papers to write his experiences as if it were his autobiography. The collection is also interspersed with Renée Roll's research notes and translations corresponding to specific documents; these notes are typically on lined paper or post-its and written in Roll's handwriting.

Restitution files include Joshua Feldman's restitution applications and supporting documents.

Immigration files include Joshua and Fela Feldman's unsuccessful application for U.S. visas and immigration application. This series also contains proof of sponsorship by Leo and Helen Feldman and their supporting documents.

Biographical materials document Joshua and Fela Feldman's life in Switzerland and Sweden and include correspondence with family. Materials are arranged by topic and date. In Folder 3.2, postcards are arranged by date and undated postcards follow 1951.

Study notebooks document Joshua (Szyja) Feldman's study of languages and mathematics.

This collection includes an unpublished biographical manuscript entitled "Letters from Salek" and Renée Roll's corresponding research notes.

Photographs depict Joshua (Szyja) and Fela Feldman and their family and friends.

System of arrangement

The Joshua (Szyja) Feldman papers are arranged as 6 series. Papers are arranged by date and topic.

Series 1: Restitution, circa 1954-1965

Series 2: Rejected U.S. Immigration Application, 1947-1967 and undated

Series 3: Biographical Material, 1912-1989 (bulk 1945-1963)

Series 4: Study Notebooks, circa 1946-1950 and undated

Series 5: Biographical Manuscript, circa 1988-2000

Series 6: Photographs, circa 1945-1955 and undated

Indexing terms

Subject:

Jews--Poland--Częstochowa.

Holocaust survivors--Switzerland.

Holocaust survivors--Sweden.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) -- Reparations.

Names:

Feldman, Joshua (Szyja)

Feldman, Fela Winter

Feldman, Leon

Geographic:

Poland (Territory under German occupation, 1939-1945).

Sweden.

Switzerland.

Genre:

Photographs.

Postcards.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Restitution, circa 1954-1965

Box/Folder	Title
1.1-1.2	Application documents, circa 1954-1958 (2 folders)
1.3	Claims applications and corresponding personal notes, circa 1954-1968 and 2000s
1.4-1.5	Forms and testimony submitted to the German embassy in Stockholm, Sweden, 1951-1955 and 1961 (2 folders)
1.6-1.7, OS 1	Forms and testimony submitted from Stockholm, Sweden to Berlin, Germany, 1955-1965 (2 folders and 1 oversize folder)
1.8-1.10	Documents received from Berlin, Germany, 1960-1965 (3 folders)
1.11-1.12	German legislation and corresponding personal notes, 1960-1965 (2 folders)

Series 2: Rejected U.S. Immigration Application, 1947-1967 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
2.1-2.2	Sponsorship by Leo and Helen Feldman and Renée and Irving Roll, 1947-1950 (2 folders)
2.3-2.5	Sponsorship by Leo and Helen Feldman and Renée and Irving Roll, 1951-1960; 1967-1989 (3 folders)
2.6	Renée Roll's Notes and correspondence on Joshua Feldman's application, 1967 and undated

Series 3: Biographical Material, 1912-1989 (bulk 1945-1963)

Box/Folder	Title
2.7	Switzerland, 1945-1951
2.8-2.9	Sweden, 1950-1963 (2 folders)
2.10	Document copies, 1944-1988 and undated
2.11	Diploma, 1912
2.12	General, undated
3.1-3.2	Transcribed letters from Salek (Szyja/Joshua) Feldman to Renée Roll, circa 1947-1957 (2 folders)
3.3	Postcards, 1943-1951 and undated
3.4	General correspondence, 1989

Series 4: Study Notebooks, circa 1946-1950 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
3.5-3.12	Engineering notebooks, 1948 and undated (8 folders)
3.13-3.21	French notebooks, 1950 and undated (9 folders)
4.1-4.10	English notebooks, 1946-1947 and undated (10 folders)

4.11-4.16	German stenography, undated (6 folders)
4.17-4.24	Hebrew notebooks, undated (8 folders)

Series 5: Biographical Manuscript, circa 1988-2000

Box/Folder	Title
4.25-4.28, OS 2	Research notes, undated, circa 1988-2000 (4 folders and 1 oversize folder)
4.29-4.30, OS 3	Manuscript drafts undated, circa 1988-2000 (2 folders and 1 oversize folder)
4.31-4.33	Manuscript, "Letters from Salek" by Renée Roll, undated, circa 1988-2000 (3 folders)

Series 6: Photographs, circa 1945-1955 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
5.1	Photographs of Joshua and Fela Feldman and family and friends, undated, circa 1945-1955
5.2	Empty photo holders, undated, circa 1945-1955
7	Green photo album, undated, circa 1945-1955
5.3	Green photo album -- loose photos, undated, circa 1945-1955
8	White photo album, undated, circa 1945-1955
5.4	White photo album -- loose photos and enclosures, undated, circa 1945-1955
6	Red photo album, undated, circa 1945-1955
5.5	Red photo album -- loose photos, undated, circa 1945-1955
5.6	Photo envelope and photos, undated, circa 1945-1955