

**SZYFRA MAJRANC PAPERS, approximately 1910-1947  
2005.218.1**

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

**Descriptive summary**

Title: Szyfra Majranc papers

Dates: approximately 1910-1947

Accession number: 2005.218.1

Creator: Majranc, Szyfra, 1921-2013

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Szyfra Majranc papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, diaries and other personal writings, photographs, and printed materials documenting Szyfra and Nechemia Majranc, their Horowitz and Majranc relatives, their prewar lives in Łódź and Sanok, and hiding and living under false identities in Rzeszów.

Languages: Polish, Hebrew, Yiddish, Italian

**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), Szyfra Majranc papers (2005.218.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Ita Mond and Theodore T. Mairanz donated the Szyfra Majranc papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in September 2005.

Separated material: *Zycie i smierc ghetta Warszawskiego* (2005.218.3) and Lodz ghetto scrip, 20 mark note (2005.218.2) have been catalogued separately.

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, September 2014; revised by Morgan Voth, February 2019.

### **Biographical note**

Szyfra Majranc (Steffa Mairanz) (1921-2013) was born in Rzeszów to Rabbi Tuvia Horowitz and Ita (Spira) Horowitz. She had three younger siblings, Menachem Mendel, Malka, and Rivka (b. 1936). Around 1932, the Horowitz family moved to Sanok, Szyfra married Nechemia (Tadek, Theodore) Majranc (Mairanz), and the couple moved to Łódź in 1938. Nechemia (1908-1973) was a rabbinical student born in Łódź to Tzvi (Hersz) Majranc and Bracha Tova (Tauba) Cohen Majranc. He had three younger brothers Levi, Yisroel, and Mordechai. Their daughter Marylka (Miriam) was born in 1941, and the family moved to Sanok. The deteriorating situation convinced Szyfra not to follow ghettoization orders. With the help of a friend and a member of the Polish underground called "Władek," she secured false papers for her family as well as housing where they could hide in Rzeszów. She tried to bring her parents and siblings to Rzeszow, but they were all captured or killed except for her youngest sister, Rivka, whom Szyfra smuggled out of the Rzeszów ghetto in 1943. She also brought Bracha, Levi, and Mordechai Majranc from the Łódź ghetto to Rzeszów, but Tzvi had died in the ghetto, and Yisroel was captured and killed. Nechemia's appearance was considered too Jewish to allow him to circulate freely, but the others were able to come and go. After Rzeszów was liberated by the Red Army in 1944, the family was smuggled out of Poland and arrived in Rome in 1945. Bracha, Levi, and Mordechai moved to Palestine, and Szyfra, Nechemia, Rivka, and Marylka immigrated to America in 1947. In the United States, they changed the spelling of their name to Mairanz, and the couple had two more children: Ita (Mairanz) Mond and Tuvia (Theodore) Mairanz.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The Szyfra Majranc papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, diaries and other personal writings, photographs, and printed materials documenting Szyfra and Nechemia Majranc, their Horowitz and Majranc relatives, their prewar lives in Łódź and Sanok, and hiding and living under false identities in Rzeszów.

Biographical materials include an invitation to Szyfra and Nechemia Majranc's wedding annotated by Szyfra Majranc and Rabbi Tuvia Horowitz as well as certificates issued by the Polish Embassy in Rome stating that Szyfra and Nechemia Majranc's Polish citizenship was being verified.

Correspondence includes letters and postcards from Szyfra Majranc, Rabbi Tuvia Horowitz, and a member of the Polish underground called "Władek" who helped the Majranc family obtain false papers. One of Rabbi Horowitz's letters is addressed to his friend Dr. Jung asking him to arrange for immigration papers to the United States for his family and describes deteriorating circumstances in L'viv. Władek's letter offers help to the Majranc family, relates the deportation of Jews from Sanok, and describes the situation in L'viv.

Diaries and other personal writings document Szyfra and Nechemia Majranc's experiences hiding under false identities with their daughter and Szyfra's sister in Rzeszów. Writings include emotional and intimate diary entries, short stories, allegories, poems, and notes.

Photographs depict Hersz Tzvi, Bracha Tauba, Israel, Mordechai, Levi, Nechemia, Szyfra, and Marylka Majranc; Tuvia, Ita, Mendel, and Rivka Horowitz; Rabbi Abraham Mordechai Alter; Szyfra's friend Minka Spira; and Rabbi Horowitz's friend Dr. Jung. The photographs were taken in Kolumna, Krakow, Łódź, Rome, Rzeszów, Sanok, Szczawnica, and Wisniowa. Additional photographs depict an Agudat Israel convention and a military parade of the Podhale Brigade.

Printed materials include a newspaper clipping containing a poem by Menachem Riger titled "The Last Three" and the Hymn of the Jewish Partisans and an announcement about a memorial ceremony in New York City for Holocaust victims from Majdan, Poland, at which Szyfra Majranc was scheduled to speak.

### **System of arrangement**

The Szyfra Majranc papers are arranged as five series:

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1938, 1945

Series 2: Correspondence, 1934-1943

Series 3: Diaries and other personal writings, approximately 1943

Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1910-1945

Series 5: Printed materials, approximately 1943-1947

### **Indexing terms**

Topical Subject:

Jews--Poland--Łódź.

Jews--Poland--Sanok.

Jews--Poland--Rzeszów--Diaries.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Poland--Personal narratives.

Hiding places.

Geography:

Sanok (Poland)

Rzeszów (Poland)

Łódź (Poland)

Genre/Form:

Correspondence.

Diaries.

Photographs.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### Series 1: Biographical materials, 1938, 1945

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Majranc, Nechemia and Szyfra, 1938, 1945

### Series 2: Correspondence, 1934-1943

Box/Folder	Title
1.2	Horowitz, Rabbi Tuvia, 1934-1941
1.3	Majranc, Szyfra, approximately 1938
1.4	"Władek," 1943

### Series 3: Diaries and other personal writings, approximately 1941-1945

Box	Title
1.5-1.9	Diary, approximately 1943 (5 folders)
1.10	"Anetki's diary," approximately 1941-1945
1.11	"The Last Castle," approximately 1941-1945
1.12	"Liane," approximately 1941-1945
1.13	"Marylka," approximately 1941-1945
1.14	"My brother Israel. . .," approximately 1941-1945
1.15	Notes, excerpts, and fragments, approximately 1941-1945
1.16	"On the occasion of discussing the case of Levi. . .," approximately 1941-1945
1.17	Poetry, approximately 1941-1945
1.18	"Rzeszów. . .," 1944
1.19	"There is a proverb. . .," approximately 1941-1945
1.20	Timeline, approximately 1941-1945
1.21	"When the Germans entered Łódź. . .," approximately 1941-1945

### Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1910-1945

Box	Title
1.22	Alter, Rabbi Abraham Mordechai and Agudat Israel, approximately 1937-1938
1.23	Horowitz, Rabbi Tuwia, Ita, and Mendel, approximately 1910-1943
1.24	Jewish men and unknown Jewish scholar, approximately 1936
1.25	Majranc, Hersz Tzvi, approximately 1930s
1.26	Majranc, Marylka and Horowitz, Rivka, 1944-1945
1.27	Majranc, Mordechai, Levi, their grandmother, and the building where they lived in Łódź, approximately 1936-1943
1.28	Majranc, Szyfra, Nechemia, and Marylka, 1925, 1931, 1936-1945
1.29	Spira, Minka and Dr. Jung, approximately 1938

**Series 5: Printed materials, approximately 1943-1947**

Box	Title
1.30	Printed materials, approximately 1943-1947