

**LOUIS DAVIS PAPERS, 1942-1968 [bulk: 1942-1948]  
2005.303.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Louis Davis papers

Dates: 1942-1968 [bulk: 1942-1948]

Accession number: 2005.303.1

Creator: Louis Davis (Ladislav Davidovic)

Extent: 9 folders, 2 oversized

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

Abstract: The Louis Davis papers contain records related to Louis Davis (Ladislav Davidovic), a Jewish man who was drafted into the Hungarian army, put into forced labor on the front lines against the Soviet Army, and after the war enrolled into university. The papers document mainly his time post-war, and contain diplomas, course listings, and other material from his time at University of Cluj and Charles University. Other items include his birth certificate, passports, and other forms of identification. Also included are photographs of Ladislav and his family.

Languages: English, Czech, Hebrew, French, Hungarian

**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: Louis Davis papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives,  
Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Louis Davis papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2005 by Louis Davis' granddaughter, Deborah Kronenberger.

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

Processing history: Michael Folkerts, May 2015

### **Biographical note**

Ladislav Davidovic (Louis Davis) was born on May 27, 1923, in Bilky, Czechoslovakia (Ukraine). His mother, Malvina Maizlik, was born on January 28, 1900, in Osry and was the daughter of a wealthy innkeeper. His father, Yehuda-Yitzhak (Izák) Davidovic, was born on April 1, 1898, in Bilky. Yehuda was a prosperous banker, and also a biblical scholar with a Yeshiva education. When Ladislav was 14, he was sent to the Hebrew Gymnasium in Munkács (Mukachevo, Ukraine), where he became fluent in Hebrew and English. Soon after, the area was annexed by Germany, and anti-Jewish laws were enforced. When Ladislav graduated in 1943, he was drafted into the Hungarian army and was made an officer. His title was short lived, however, as he was soon stripped of his position. He was made leader of a forced labor squad of Jewish boys near the front lines of the war. Their responsibility was to repair broken railroad lines.

Ladislav led the labor squad until the Soviet Army began advancing into the country, throwing the area into chaos. At one point, he suddenly encountered his paternal uncle, Herschel. But as the Russian soldiers stormed through, his uncle was hit by a piece of shrapnel and died in Ladislav's arms. Ladislav was almost shot by one soldier, but he screamed *Jid! Jid!* [Jew Jew] and showed his Star of David badge, and the soldier took him to an officer who told him to leave. Ladislav fled, and though wounded by shrapnel in his back, made his way to Bilky. He found his home occupied by his neighbors, who were surprised he was not dead before slamming the door and leaving him on his own. He left the village and was picked up by the Soviets for forced induction into the Army, but escaped and continued to Prague. He went to the American Embassy and registered to immigrate to the United States. He was able to contact his paternal aunt, to tell them he was alive, but he was convinced his family had died.

Ladislav decided to enroll in the University of Cluj (Babes-Bolyai University) before enrolling in medical school at Charles University with relief funds from the Joint Distribution Committee. One day at school, students came running to tell him that his father was there looking for him. In March 1944, Yehudah and Malvina had been sent to the Berehove ghetto. By May, the Germans had begun systematic deportations of the Jewish population to concentration camps, and Ladislav's parents were sent to Auschwitz and separated. Yehudah had still been at Auschwitz when it was liberated in January 1945. After liberation, Yehudah set out looking for his family and learned that Ladislav was at school in Prague. Once they were reunited, Ladislav and Yehudah searched for Malvina, but were unable to learn her fate. One day, while waiting at a crowded railway station, Ladislav felt a tug on his sleeve and heard: "Loici, you are so beautiful." It was his mother, emaciated, filthy, and very sick with pneumonia. After a month in the hospital, she began to recover her health. In 1946, the family immigrated to the United States where Ladislav continued his studies and became a naturalized citizen in 1952. Yehudah and Malvina Davidovic changed their names to Joe and May Davis, while Ladislav changed his name to Louis. He died on March 3, 1994.

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

The Louis Davis papers contain material related primarily to Louis' time at university after World War II. Included in the records are a lesson book and letter of acceptance to University of Cluj, confirmation of enrollment, registration, and list of courses from Charles University, and in an oversized folder are his diplomas from the Munkacs Hebrew Gymnasium. Also included are passports for his family, his birth certificate, and a repatriation certificate. The correspondence are from Rosh Pinna and Lord Byron Rotherwer. There are also photographs of Louis and his family, though many are not labeled.

### **System of arrangement**

The Louis Davis papers are arranged as a single series.

### **Indexing terms**

Davidovic, Ladislav.  
Davidovic, Malka  
Davidovic, Yehudah-Yitzhak  
Davidovic, Klara.

Univerzita Karlova.  
Universitatea "Babeş-Bolyai."

Jews--Hungary--History--20th century.  
Jews--Czechoslovakia--History--20th century.  
Jewish refugees--Czechoslovakia.  
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees--Czechoslovakia.

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.  
Mukachevo (Ukraine)  
Prague (Czech Republic)  
Cluj-Napoca (Romania)  
Bilky (Ukraine)

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Louis Davis papers, 1942-1968**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	<a href="#">American universities, 1946-1948</a>
2	<a href="#">Charles University, 1945-1946 [see also oversized folder 1]</a>
3	<a href="#">Correspondence, 1941-1946</a>
4	<a href="#">Identification, 1940-1945</a>
5	<a href="#">Invoices, 1946</a>
6	<a href="#">Munkács Hebrew Gymnasium diplomas, 1942 [see oversized folder 2]</a>

7	<a href="#">Passports, 1946</a>
8	<a href="#">Photographs, 1940-1968</a>
9	<a href="#">University of Cluj, 1945</a>

**Oversized folders**

Folder	Title
1	<a href="#">Charles University, 1945-1946</a>
2	<a href="#">Munkács Hebrew Gymnasium diplomas, 1942</a>