

**HERLINGER FAMILY PAPERS, 1923-1988 [bulk: 1923-1956]  
2005.331.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Herlinger family papers

Dates: 1923-1988

Accession number: 2005.331.1

Creator: Herlinger family

Extent: 11 folders

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

Abstract: The Herlinger family papers consist primarily of identification documents for Ivo and Elsa Herlinger, who lived as refugees from the Nazis in Italy during World War II, and later immigrated to the United States. The majority of the documents are items such as identification cards, passports, a birth certificate, and a marriage certificate. Other items of identification include verification of employment for Ivo, and his declaration of intent to the United States.

Languages: English, Croatian, Italian, German, Slovenian, Bosnian, Serbian

**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: Herlinger family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2005 by Allan and Lea Kaluzna.

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**

Ivek (Ivo) Herlinger was born in 1902 in Zagreb, Croatia. He worked as a representative for Remington Office Machines. While working there, he met and later married Elsa Spitzer, who worked for the company as a legal secretary. The couple gave birth to their daughter, Lea, in 1938. In 1941, as axis powers invaded Yugoslavia and the independent state of Croatia was formed, the Herlinger family was told to report to a labor camp. Instead, they fled Zagreb and split up, with Lea being sent to live with Ivo's sister, Zlata and Elsa staying with friends. Ivo posed as a train conductor, traveled to Trieste, Italy, and then paid a man to bring his family to join him. From there, the family stayed in Castel Guiliano, Italy for 18 months living in an attic above a store with 21 other people. When they were warned that Germans were approaching, the family fled to Rome. Elsa, Lea, and Zlata lived in a convent, while Ivo, and his brothers Arthur and Otto, lived in a monastery. Ivo and Elsa eventually moved to an apartment under false identities: Giovanni and Lena Fabiani. After liberation, the family lived as stateless refugees in Italy, until they were granted visas to immigrate to the United States. With assistance from the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), the Herlingers traveled aboard the General Harry Taylor, arrived in New York, and eventually settled in Chicago.

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

The Herlinger family papers consist primarily of identification documents for Ivo and Elsa Herlinger, who lived as refugees from the Nazis in Italy during World War II, and later immigrated to the United States. The majority of the documents are items such as identification cards, passports, a birth certificates, and a marriage certificate. Other items of identification include records needed for immigration to the United States, such as a verification of employment for Ivo, and his declaration of intent. The naturalization papers of both Elsa and Ivo are in this collection. Also included are photographs of the Herlinger family, some correspondence regarding taxes to a cemetery in Zagreb, and identification papers for a Xene West, whose relation could not be identified.

### **System of arrangement**

The Herlinger family papers are arranged as a single series.

### **Indexing terms**

Herlinger, Otto  
Herlinger, Arthur  
Herlinger, Zlata  
Herlinger, Ivo  
Herlinger, Elsa  
Kaluzna, Lea Herlinger  
West, Xene

General Harry Taylor (Ship)  
HIAS (Agency)

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Croatia.  
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees--Italy.  
Jewish Refugees--Italy.

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.  
Zagreb (Croatia)  
Rome (Italy)  
Trieste (Italy)

## CONTAINER LIST

### Series 1: Herlinger family papers, 1923-1988 [bulk: 1923-1956]

Folder	Title
1	Birth certificate, 1949
2	Certificate of naturalization, 1956
3	Control book for displaced persons and refugees, 1949
4	Correspondence, 1988
5	Declaration of intent, 1951
6	Identity cards, 1934-1943
7	Marriage certificate, 1938
8	Passports, 1931-1976
9	Photographs, 1923-1947
10	Verification of employment, 1950-1967
11	Xene West, 1938-1939