

ADAM AND ROMA ZANDEL PAPERS, 1906-1985 [bulk 1920-1946]
2005.545.1

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

Title: Adam and Roma Zandel papers

Dates: 1906-1985 [bulk 1937-1946]

Accession number: 2005.545.1

Creator: Adolf Adam Zandel and Roma Kleczewska Zandel

Extent: 27 folders, 1 oversized folder

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

Abstract: The Adam and Roma Zandel papers contain documents and correspondence related to Adolf Adam Zandel and Roma Kleczewska, as they attempted to immigrate to the United States. Adam worked as an engineer in France before being granted visas to Brazil and later the United States. Roma escaped the Nazis by fleeing into Romania, before being granted visas to Brazil, then Cuba and ultimately the United States. The collection contains a number of documents related to the immigration of both Roma and Adam, such as visa applications, identity cards, passports, certificates of good conduct, and other related material. The correspondence comes from Roma's parents and grandparents living in Warsaw under Nazi rule. Also included are publications regarding the ghetto of Warsaw, the surviving Jews of Warsaw, and pages from a book from a gift to Adam and Roma's daughter, Susan.

Languages: English, Polish, French, Portuguese, Romanian

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: Adam and Roma Zandel papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Adam and Roma Zandel papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2005 by their daughter, Susan Zandel Chandler.

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

Processing history: Michael Folkerts, May 2015

Biographical note / Administrative history

Adolf Adam Zandel (1906-2002) was born in Kutno, Poland to Markus and Jacheta Zandel. He had two older sisters, Estera and Salomea. In 1923, Adam attended Warsaw University, where he studied mechanical engineering. After trying to find steady employment, Adam finally found a job working as a tool designer in a factory that produced artillery fuses. Later, he convinced the owner to open another facility in France, and in 1939 Adam immigrated to France to help establish the new factory. As war loomed, Adam applied for visas to leave the country. Along with several friends, Adam was able to procure a visa to Brazil, and traveled there in 1941. In March, 1943, he was able to immigrate to the United States and settled in New York. He soon met and married Roma Kleczewska, and had their daughter Susan in 1945.

Roma Kleczewska (1911-2002) was born in Niechcice, Poland to Maurycy and Karola Kleczewska. She had two brothers: Ludwik and Alfred. Her parents owned a factory complex where yeast for breweries were produced. Roma grew up in an affluent and assimilated Jewish family, and later studied archeology at Warsaw University. In September 1939, at the time of the German invasion of Poland, the Kleczewska's and their extended family drove in several cars to the Polish-Romanian border. One car broke down, and it was decided that Roma's parents and grandparents (Teofila and Salomon Kupczyk) would stay behind as the rest went on to Bucharest. Roma's parents and grandparents settled in Lwow, Poland (L'viv, Ukraine) before being forced to move to Warsaw, where they lived just near the ghetto. The last contact Roma had with them was dated May 18, 1942. Roma lived in Bucharest with her aunt and uncle Eda and Henryk Ruziewicz until she received papers to go to Brazil in August, 1940. Her two brothers, meanwhile, traveled to Palestine. Roma, Eda, and Henryk finally reached the United States, by way of Indonesia and Cuba. She soon met and married Adam Zandel, and gave birth to their daughter Susan in 1945.

Scope and content of collection

The Adam and Roma Zandel papers contain personal items and documents relating to the immigration of Adolf Adam Zandel and Roma Kleczewska to the United States. Adam's documents contain documents such as his birth certificate, visa information, documentation of health, travel permits, proof of identity, and his diplomas. Also included are two photographs of his parents, and a memoir he wrote for his daughter, Susan. The papers of Roma Kleczewska contain primarily correspondence, written from Roma's parents (Maurycy and Karola) and grandparents (Teofila and Salomon Kupczyk) while they lived in Lwow and later Warsaw. Other material includes visa application documents, a savings book, and a bill of health. The publications series contains pages from a book that was gifted to Susan, a book entitled *Battle of Warsaw Ghetto*, and a publication listing the surviving Jews in Warsaw.

System of arrangement

The Adam and Roma Zandel papers are arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Adolf Adam Zandel, 1906-1985
- Series 2: Roma Kleczewska, 1937-1946
- Series 3: Publications, 1944-1945

Indexing terms

Zandel, Adolf Adam
Zandel, Roma Kleczewska
Chandler, Susan Zandel
Zandel, Markus
Zandel, Jacheta
Kleczewska, Maurycy
Kleczewska, Karola
Kleczewska, Ludwik
Kleczewska, Alfred
Kleczewska, Zygmunt
Kupczyk, Teofila
Kupczyk, Salomon
Ruziewicz, Eda
Ruziewicz, Henryk

Uniwersytet Warszawski.

Jewish refugees--Brazil.
Jewish refugees--France.
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees--Brazil.
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees--France.
Jews--Poland--History--20th century.

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.
Brazil--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.
France--Emigration and immigration.
Romania--Emigration and immigration.
Niechcice (Poland)
Kutno (Poland)
Warsaw (Poland)
L'viv (Ukraine)
Bucharest (Romania)
Brazil.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Adolf Adam Zandel, 1906-1985

Folder	Title
1	Birth certificate, 1906
2	Diplomas, 1926-1930 [see oversized folder]
3	Health documentation, 1939-1942
4	Immigration receipts, 1943-1946
5	Memoir, 1985
6	Military exemption, 1940
7	Passenger tickets to the United States, 1944
8	Photographs, approximately 1920
9	Proof of identity, 1938-1942
10	Religious verification documents, 1939-1940
11	Travel permits to Brazil, 1941-1943
12	Travel permits to France, 1939-1941
13	Visa application, 1945

Series 2: Roma Kleczewska, 1937-1946

Folder	Title
14	Bill of health, 1940
15	Certificates of good conduct, 1940-1941
16	Correspondence, 1938-1939
17	Correspondence, 1940
18	Correspondence, 1941
19	Correspondence, 1942-1946
20	Correspondence, undated
21	Family tree, undated
22	Immigration, 1940-1946
23	Postcards, approximately 1945
24	Savings book, 1937-1939

Series 3: Publications, 1944-1945

Folder	Title
25	<i>Battle of Warsaw Ghetto</i> , 1944
26	Illustrated book pages signed by Arthur Syzk , 1945
27	<i>Surviving Jews in Warsaw</i> , 1945

Oversized folder

Folder	Title
1	Diplomas, 1926-1930 [oversized folder]