

SAMUEL AND FRANKA BARAL PAPERS, approximately 1940-1966 2008.117.4

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

Title: Samuel and Franka Baral papers

Dates: approximately 1940-1966

Accession number: 2008.117.4

Creator: Baral (Family: Kraków, Poland)

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (3 folders and 2 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The Samuel and Franka Baral papers consist of biographical information, correspondence, immigration documents, and testimony relating to Samuel Baral and Franka Baral's experiences fleeing Kraków, internment in a ghetto, going into hiding, and immigrating to Palestine and Australia. The collection includes a certificate of naturalization and a certificate of registration for Australia issued to Franka and travel documents for Samuel to return home as well as a letter from Samuel's mother, Juda, to the German Compensation Collection Agency and a copy of Jakob Baral's birth certificate. The collection also includes letters to Franka from Ilonka Nemes, recognized as Righteous Among the Nations, who hid Franka and six children in Hungary.

Languages: Polish, Czech, Romanian, English

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), Samuel and Franka Baral papers (2008.117.4), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The children and grandchildren of Samuel and Franciska Baral, Jim Baral, Martin Baral, Steven Baral, and Aneta Weinreich, donated their parents' and grandparents' papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2008. The accessions previously numbered 2008.117.1 and 2008.310.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Related Material: The children and grandchildren of Samuel and Franciska Baral also donated a Pope Pius XI medal, ribbon, and case (2008.117.2 a-c) and a Macramé bag (2008.117.3) in 2008. The museum has an oral history interviews conducted with Martin Baral (1995.A.0679).

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

Processing history: Morgan Voth, July 2018

Biographical note

Samuel Baral (b. 1904) was born in Kraków, Poland and married Franciska (Franka) Baral (b. 1906 in Kraków, Poland). They had three children, Aneta (b. 1929), Martin (b. 1932), and Jacob (b. 1935). Samuel ran a fur import business with his father and Franka kept a traditional Jewish home. After the German invasion of Poland in 1939, the family fled and sought refuge with relatives in Rzeszów, Poland and Lviv, Ukraine, but they returned to Kraków without Samuel because they thought that Franka and the children might be safer on their own.

In 1941, Franka and the children were forced into a ghetto where Samuel joined them. Franka worked outside the ghetto in a factory and was able to help Martin and Jacob escape under the barbed wire fence. They went to the home of their former housekeeper where they stayed for a few months before going to their aunt's home in the Bochnia ghetto. Franka, Samuel, and Aneta hid in an attic in a different section of the ghetto, until Franka and Aneta escaped to Tarnów, while Samuel went to Płaszów. Samuel survived the Holocaust by being placed on Oskar Schindler's list. In Tarnów, Franka worked as a seamstress. She made dresses for Aneta and herself and they convinced the guards they were Germans and walked out of Tarnów. They returned to Kraków, looking for Martin and Jacob, and joined them in Bochnia where they hid on the outskirts of town and posed as Catholics.

In 1943, the Germans turned Bochnia into a labor camp and Franka and the children fled to Hungary. The family was smuggled out in a truck with a false bottom and abandoned in the forest. Franka decided they should separate and walk to Slovakia. She arrived at the border in a day and a half and learned that the children had been arrested. They were held for several weeks awaiting deportation but were ransomed by an underground Jewish organization that arranged for their transportation to Hungary. In July 1943, they arrive in Budapest. Franka obtained lodging at a hotel, but was warned that the Gestapo was searching for them and they fled once again.

Around this time, Franka arranged to rescue three more children, two of them cousins, from Kraków, where they were in danger of being deported. Franka met Ilona Nemes who agreed to hide her and the six children in her home. This soon become unsafe and Ilona took them to her family's farm in Nyiregyhaza, Hungary where they lived for the rest of the war.

After the war Franka obtained an emergency certificate from the British Mission in Romania, granting permission to travel to Istanbul. She and the six children left by train for Bucharest. On June 5, she received permission from the British to leave Romania. With the help of the Red Cross, Samuel located

his family and they were reunited in Romania. In 1946, the family immigrated to Palestine where Aneta served in the army during the War for Independence. Around 1948, Martin immigrated to Australia to live with an uncle and the rest of the family joined him in 1953.

Scope and content of collection

The Samuel and Franka Baral papers consist of biographical information, correspondence, immigration documents, and testimony relating to Samuel Baral and Franka Baral's experiences fleeing Kraków, internment in a ghetto, going into hiding, and immigrating to Palestine and Australia. The collection includes a certificate of naturalization and a certificate of registration for Australia issued to Franka and travel documents for Samuel to return home as well as a letter from Samuel's mother, Juda, to the German Compensation Collection Agency and a copy of Jakob Baral's birth certificate. The collection also includes letters to Franka from Ilonka Nemes, recognized as Righteous Among the Nations, who hid Franka and six children in Hungary.

System of arrangement

The Samuel and Franka Baral papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Baral, Franka.

Baral, Samuel.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

Jewish refugees--Hungary.

Jewish ghettos--Poland--Bochnia.

Kraków (Poland)

Ukraine.

Hungary.

Palestine--Emigration and immigration--History--1933-1945.

Correspondence.

CONTAINER LIST

Samuel and Franka Baral papers, approximately 1940-1966

Box/Folder	Title
1 of 3, OS 1-OS 2	Baral, Franka, approximately 1945-1966 (3 folders)
2 of 3	Baral, Samuel, 1945
3 of 3	Baral family, approximately 1940-1943