

## **MEIR AND PAULA STEIN DIARIES AND PHOTOGRAPHS, 1943-1945** **2008.300.2**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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### **Descriptive summary**

Title: Meir and Paula Stein diaries and photographs

Dates: 1943-1945

Accession number: 2008.300.2

Creator: Stein (Family: Warsaw, Poland)

Extent: .4 linear feet (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Meir and Paula Stein diaries and photographs consist of three diaries written by Meir Stein and five diaries written by Paula Stein while in hiding in Białystok, Poland describing their experiences from 1941-1944. Also included in the collection are photographs from the Białystok Central Committee and pictures of Meir and Israel, Meir and Paula's son.

Languages: Polish and German

### **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), Meir and Paula Stein diaries and photographs (2008.300.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Israel Stein, son of Meir and Paula Stein, donated the Meir and Paula Stein diaries and photographs to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2008. The accessions previously numbered 2008.300.1 and 2008.345.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

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: Morgan Voth, April 2018

### **Biographical note**

Meir Stein (1909-1970) was born in Bielsko, Poland and married Paula (b. Pola Znamierowska in Prezdborz, Poland, 1909-1988). They had one son, Israel, born in 1934 in Warsaw, Poland. After the outbreak of the war in 1939, they fled from Warsaw to Vilna (Vilnius, Lithuania) which was under Soviet rule. Meir attempted to obtain paperwork to immigrate to Palestine, but they were interned in the Vilna ghetto before the papers were approved. In 1941, the family fled to the Białystok ghetto where Paula worked as an operator for the Organisation Todt. Meir temporarily went to the Warsaw ghetto to look for other family members, but he returned after he witnessed the deteriorating conditions. While working as an operator, Paula became friends with a German soldier, Herbert Coehn, who agreed to help her family go into hiding. With the help of Stefania Dobrowolska, Meir, Paula, Israel, and Mata Klein, Israel's aunt, went into hiding from 1943 until 1944. During this time, Meir and Paula began writing about their experiences. After the war, Meir, Paula, and Israel went to Belgium before immigrating to Israel in 1949.

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

The Meir and Paula Stein diaries and photographs consists of three diaries written by Meir Stein and five diaries written by Paula Stein while in hiding in Białystok, Poland describing their experiences from 1941-1944. Also included in the collection are photographs from the Białystok Central Committee and pictures of Meir and Israel, Meir and Paula's son.

Meir Stein wrote four diaries while in hiding in 1944, but the first diary was lost after the war. The diaries are written in German and describe his experiences in the Warsaw and Białystok ghettos and the time his family spent in hiding from 1943-1944. This series also includes transcripts of the diaries in German.

Paula Stein began writing her diaries in 1944 while in hiding in Białystok, Poland. There are five diaries and four loose pages. The diaries are written in Polish and describe her family's experiences from 1941-1943 while they were in the Vilna and Białystok ghettos as well as her efforts to find hiding places for relative after they fled the Białystok ghetto. This series also includes transcripts of Paula's diaries and typed testimonies recorded by Paula after the war from Jewish survivors in Poland.

Photographs depict members of the Białystok Central Committee and pictures of Meir and Israel Stein in the 1940s.

### **System of arrangement**

The Meir and Paula Stein diaries and photographs are arranged as three series.

- Series 1: Meir's diaries, 1943-1944 and undated
- Series 2: Paula's diaries, 1943-1945 and undated
- Series 3: Photographs, 1940s

### **Indexing terms**

Stein, Meir

Stein, Paula  
Stein, Israel

Jewish ghettos--Poland--Białystok.  
Jewish ghettos--Poland--Vilna.  
Jewish ghettos--Poland--Warsaw.  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Personal narratives.  
World War, 1939-1945.

Białystok (Poland)  
Vilnius (Lithuania)  
Warsaw (Poland)  
Israel--Emigration and immigration--History.

Diaries.  
Photographs.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Series 1: Meir Stein's diaries, 1943-1944 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Diary II, 1943-1944
1.2	Diary III, 1943-1944
1.3	Diary IV, 1943-1944
1.4	Transcripts, undated

### Series 1: Paula Stein's diaries, 1943-1945 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
1.5	Diary I, 1944
1.6	Diary II, 1944
1.7	Diary III, 1944
1.8	Diary IV, 1944
1.9	Diary V, 1944
1.10	Paula's diary loose pages, approximately 1943-1944
1.11	Typed testimony, approximately 1945
1.12-1.14	Transcripts, undated (3 folders)

### Series 3: Photographs, 1940s

Box/Folder	Title
1.15	Białystok Central Committee, 1940s