MIKHAIL LEV COLLECTION, 1940-2008 2011.12

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW Washington, DC 20024-2126 Tel. (202) 479-9717

e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Mikhail Lev collection

Dates: 1940-2008

Accession number: 2011.12

Creator: Lev, Mikhail, 1917-2013.

Extent: 7 boxes; 19 oversize folders

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,

Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: The Mikhail Lev collection consists of the writings, research materials, and correspondence of the Yiddish language author Mikhail Lev. The collection also includes items from the personal archives of Josef Rabin, Yaakov Shternberg, Moini Shulman, and Aharon Yeyman, as well as the diary of Mendel Rosengauz; literary works by Girsch Dobin (1905-2001), a survivor of the Minsk ghetto; and photocopies of drawings from the Ravensbrück concentration camp.

Languages: English, Hebrew, Polish, Russian, Yiddish

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), Mikhail Lev (2011.12), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Mikhail Lev donated the Mikhail Lev collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2011.

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

Separated materials: 11 videocassette tapes (2011.12.2 / RG-90.088.0001)

Related materials: Library materials: Dlinnye teni: roman by Mikhail Lev (PJ5129.L443 D55 1989); Collection of articles and stories by Mikhail Lev (PJ5129.L443 A6 1967); Esli by ne druz'ia moi--: dve povesti by Mikhail Lev (PJ5129.L443 V4617 1968); Parțizanishe vegn by Mikhail Lev (D802.S75 L48 1948); Lange shoţns: roman by Mikhail Lew (PJ5129.L443 L36 1988); Partizanskie tropy: povest' (D802.S75 L4816 1958); Sobibor: a documentary novel of the Sobibor uprising by Michael Lev (PJ5129.L443 S6313 2007); Sobivor: roman doķumenţari by Mikhail Lev (PJ5129.L443 S6316 2004); Sobibor; Ven niţ di fraynd mayne--: dertseylungen by Mikhail Lev (PJ5129.L443 S63 2002); Ilmale yedidai--: sipur doķumenţari by Mikhail Lev (PJ5129.L443 S6315 2005)

Oral history: USC Shoah Foundation Institute Testimony of Mikhail Lev (VHA interview code: 32307)

Archival collections: Masha Rolnikaite papers, circa 1930-2015 (2006.436.3); Eli Shechtman papers, 1948-1995 (2016.549.1); Personal archives of the Yiddish writer, Yiehiel (Ikhil) Shraybman, 1950-1990 (2007.6)

Processing history: Archives staff, 2011; Aleksandra B. Borecka, November 2017; Alla Dvorkin 2018 and January 2018; and updated by Katelynn Vance, January 2020.

Biographical note

Mikhail (Michael) Lev was born on July 3, 1917 in the town of Pogrebichshe, Kiev Oblast, Ukraine. His family moved to Krivoy Rog (now Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine) where they joined the newly established Jewish agricultural colony in 1926. In 1935, Lev entered a Jewish teacher's college in Moscow and started working at the Jewish Central Library of the Jewish publishing house, Der Emes (Truth). In 1941, Mikhail Lev joined the Red Army. He was wounded, captured by the Germans, and survived for a year in a prisoner of war camp before escaping. After his escape, he joined the partisans in Belarus where he served as a commander of the intelligence unit and then as a chief of staff of a partisan brigade. After the war, Lev returned to Moscow and continued his work at Der Emes. He also wrote articles for *Eynikayt* a newspaper published by the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee. Following the establishment of the monthly Yiddish journal *Sovietishe Geymland* (Soviet Motherland), Lev became one of its major contributors and a member of its editorial board. Mikhail Lev published 11 books in Yiddish and Russian, as well as articles and essays. In 1996, Lev immigrated to Israel and died there on May 23, 2013.

Scope and content of collection

The Mikhail Lev collection consists of the writings, research materials, and correspondence of the Yiddish language author Mikhail Lev. The collection also includes items from the personal archives of Josef Rabin, Yaakov Shternberg, Moini Shulman, and Aharon Yeyman, as well as the diary of Mendel Rosengauz; literary works by Girsch Dobin (1905-2001), a survivor of the Minsk ghetto; and photocopies of drawings from the Ravensbrück concentration camp.

The collection consists of Mikhail Lev's correspondence with readers, colleagues, friends, Holocaust survivors, other Yiddish writers, publishing houses, and literary journals related to the research and publication of his works. Also included are manuscripts, research materials, and newspaper clippings of

Mikhail Lev's writing related to the Holocaust, the heroism of the Jewish people during World War II, the history of the Sobibór concentration camp, and the Sobibór uprising.

The collection also consists of materials relating to Alexsander Pechersky, the leader of the Sobibór uprising, and several other survivors from Sobibór concentration camp. These materials include correspondence, personal documents, and writings, both published and unpublished, relating to the Sobibór concentration camp. Also included are materials relating to Valentin Tomin, a Soviet historian and journalist, who wrote a book about Sobibór published in the Soviet Union in 1964; M. Shulman and letters from Soviet Yiddish writers; Yaakov Shterbnerg (1890 -1973), a Jewish poet; the personal diary of Mendel Rosengauz (1901-1982), a specialist in literature and culture in Yiddish; and the literary work in Yiddish of Girsch Dobin (1905-2001), a survivor of Minsk ghetto.

System of arrangement

The Mikhail Lev collection is arranged in six series.

Series 1. Correspondence, 1944-2007

Sub-series A: To/From Mikhail Lev, 1944-2007

Sub-series B: Alexander Pecherski, 1962-2007

Series 2. Manuscripts, 1974-1994, undated

Series 3. Research Materials, circa 1940s-1990s, undated

Sub-series A: General, circa 1940s-1990s, undated

Sub-series B: Materials from the archive of Josef Rabin, 1946-1978

Sub-series C: Materials from the archive of Yaakov Shternberg archive, 1956-1973, undated

Sub-series D: Materials from the archive of Moini Shulman, 1968-1981

Sub-series E: Materials from the archive of Aharon Yeyman, 1969-1993, undated

Series 4. Printed Materials, 1924-2008

Series 5. Notebooks, undated

Series 6. Photographs, circa 1930s-2008

Indexing terms

People:

Aliumini, Myeer.

Bayder, Haim.

Belenki, Moyshe, 1910-1995.

Belou, A.

Ben-Dov, Yaakov.

Ben-Zvi, Rahel Yanai.

Blatt, Thomas, 1927-2015.

Breyer, Dunja.

Burg, Josef, 1912-2009.

Demjanjuk, John, 1920-2012.

Diamant, Lev.

Dobin, Girsch, 1905-2001.

Dunec, Josef.

Edwards, Eric.

Einstein, Ruvim.

Franz Wagner, Gustav, 1911-1980.

Friedman, Lue.

Gilbert, Martin.

Gordin, Jacob, 1853-1909.

Greve, Dorothea.

Ivanova, Elena.

Kaplan, Alan.

Karsel, Gezek.

Keysweet, Curtis.

Khaikina-Shmider, Sonia.

Lev, Mikhail, 1917-2013.

Lichtenstein, Otilyia.

Lizen, Alexander.

Neuerstern, Avraham.

Novich, Miriam.

Oransky, Peter.

Ozeshkova, Aliza.

Pechersky, Alexander, 1909-1990.

Peretz, Isaac Leib, 1852-1915.

Polyanker, Hershl.

Rabin, Josef.

Rashke, Richard, 1936-

Razumniy, Mark.

Romanovich, Waldu.

Rozengaus, Mendel.

Sandler, Boris, 1950-

Senel'nikov, Aleksander.

Shlonsky, Avraham, 1900-1973.

Shreibman, Yehiel.

Shternberg, Yakov, 1890-1973.

Shulman, Moini

Soroka, Gregory.

Teyman, Aharon.

Tobin, Hirsh.

Tomin, Valentin.

Tomin, Wald.

Vaispapir, A. M.

Van Albaba, Robert.

Van Dam, Max, 1910-1943.

Vaytsin, A.

Von den Bergh, Lily.

Weinberg, Selma.

Winer, Gershon.

Yanai Ben-Zvi, Rahel, 1886-1979.

Zibukski, Boris.

Corporate:

Ravensbrück (Concentration camp)

Sobibór (Concentration camp)

Treblinka (Concentration camp)

Topics:

Concentration camp escapes--Poland--Sobibór.

Concentration camp inmates.

Concentration camps--Soviet Union.

Holocaust survivors.

Holocaust survivors--Minsk ghetto.

Holocaust survivors--Sobibor concentration camp.

Holocaust victims.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945), in literature--Ukraine.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Poland--Sobibór.

Literary work in Yiddish--Ukraine.

Ukrainian literature--Jewish authors.

World War, 1939-1945--Jewish resistance.

World War, 1939-1945--Ukraine--Personal narratives, Jewish.

Geography:

Germany.

Israel.

Minsk (Belarus)--History--20th century.

Poland.

Ravensbrück (Germany)

Sobibór (Poland)

Genre / Form:

Correspondence.

Diary.

Manuscripts.

Negatives.

Newspaper clippings.

Notebooks.

Photographs.

Poetry.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Correspondence, 1944-2007

Sub-series A: To/From Mikhail Lev, 1944-2007

Box / Folder:	Title:
1.1	Josef Burg, 1997-2001
1.2	Dorothea Greve, 2005-2007
1.3	Elena Ivanova, 1970
1.4	Sonia Khaikina-Shmider, 1991-1996
1.5	Alexander Lizen, 1986-1998

1.6	Avraham Neuerstern from Beit Shalom Alecichem, Tel Aviv, 2001-2005
1.7	Hershl (Gregory) Polyanker, Kiev, 1995-1998
1.8	Mark Razumniy (1896-1988), 1982-1983
1.9	Masha Rolinkaite, St. Petersburg, 2004-2007
1.10	Boris Sander and Haim Bayder regarding the publication of the Lexicon of Jewish
	Writers in the Soviet Union, 2002-2006
1.11	Yehiel Shreibman, 1981-2003
1.12	A. M. Vaispapir, 1988-2003
1.13	A. Vaytsin, 2000
1.14	Gershon Winer, circa 2000-2001
1.15	General correspondence, 1944-1945
1.16	Birthday cards, telegrams, and notes to Mikhail Lev; includes poetry
1.17	Cards and certificates regarding the anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany, circa
	1990s-2000s
1.18, OS 6	Invitations to events on Yiddish literature and culture in Israel
1.19	Correspondence and agreements with the Union or Soviet writers, 1948-1972
1.20	To Mikhail Lev from Yiddish writers, 1977-1995
1.21	To Mikhail Lev from readers, former partisans, and friends, 1970-2002
1.22	To Mikhail Lev from editors, colleagues, and writers in Yiddish and Russian, 1976-
	1998
1.23	To Mikhail Lev from Yiddish press editors, journalists, and Yiddish language
	scholars, 1962-2008
1.24, OS 7	To Mikhail Lev from editors, publishers, scholars, and translators, 1997-2008
2.1	Correspondence with various museums, Jewish organizations, and veterans
	organizations, 1958-2003
2.2	Correspondence with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1991-1995
2.3	Correspondence regarding the publication of the Sobibór uprising book, 1962-1965
2.4	Correspondence regarding Sobibór documentation, 1962-1965

Sub-series B: Alexander Pecherski, 1962-2007

Box / Folder:	Title:
2.5	A. Belou, 1980
2.6	Dunja Breyer and Lily von den Bergh, 1981-1986
2.7	Lev Diamant, editor of Israeli newspaper "Globus" regarding the commemoration of
	the tombstone of A. Pecherski, 2007
2.8	Curtis Keysweet, 1965-1966
2.9	Mikhail Lev, 1976-1982
2.10	Miriam Novich, Israeli historian, 1966-1980
2.11	Waldu Romanovich regarding the Sobibór uprising, 1961-1966, undated
2.12	Aleksander Senel'nikov, undated
2.13	Gregory Soroka, Polish historian, 1964-1965
2.14	Robert van Albaba, Vim Smit, Lue Friedman, Ruvim Einstein, Martin Gilbert, Eric
	Edwards, Alan Kaplan, 1966-1988
2.15	Boris Zibukski regarding the Sobibór uprising
2.16	50 th Birthday of Alexander Pecherski, 1968
2.17	Dedication of a street named after Alexander Pecherski, 2004-2007

2.18	Alexander Pecherski with survivors of Sobibór, 1962-1980
2.19	Alexander Pecherski with various individuals and organizations, 1964-1986; in
	Russian

Series 2. Manuscripts, 1974-1994, undated

Box / Folder:	Title:
2.20	Article on the Sobibór uprising by Mikhail Lev published in "Alef" magazine in Israel,
	1983
2.21, OS 8	Article and essays on Yiddish literature
2.22	Bibliography and notes for a book on Sobibór, undated
2.23	Escape from Sobibór, by Richard Rashke, fragment Russian translation
2.24	Essays on A. Teyman
2.25	Fragments and notes of lectures and essays on Yiddish literature, language, and
	Jewish resistance
2.26	List of Mikhail Lev's published books
2.27	Literary sketches for various novels
2.28	Resistance in the Nazi Concentration Camps, by Hermann Langbein, fragment,
	Russian translation
2.29	Reviews on works by Mikhail Lev, 1974-1980; in Russian and Yiddish
3.1	Reviews and essays by Mikhail Lev regarding Yiddish literature, 1974-1983; in
	Yiddish and Russian
3.2	Reviews by Mikhail Lev for Russian periodicals, 1980-1985
3.3	Reviews of Mikhail Lev's books; in Russian
3.4	Sobibór, additions to the book, notes
3.5	Various manuscripts and fragments
3.6	Voyage of the Youth, draft of a novel; in Russian
3.7	World War II Testimonies by Galina Kozminkh, 1994; includes illustrations and
	watercolors depicting battle scenes

Series 3. Research Materials, circa 1940s-1990s, undated Sub-series A: General, circa 1940s-1990s, undated

Box / Folder:	Title:
3.8	Articles regarding Boris Zibulski and the Sobibór uprising, 1963
3.9, OS 9	Articles and reports regarding the Sobibór trial, 1965-1966, 1983
3.10, OS 10-11	Articles regarding Gustav Franz Wagner, Deputy Commander of Sobibór
3.11	Detchinsky Sector and Cadets
3.12	Drawings from Ravensbrück Concentration Camp; photocopies
3.13	Interview with Thomas Blatt, published in "Stern" magazine, 1984
3.14	Josef Dunec, participant in the Sobibór uprising
3.15	Lists of Yiddish writers in the Soviet Union fallen in World War II
3.16	Nazi war crimes trial on Sobibór in Krasnodar, Russia, 1965; includes investigation
	records and witness testimonies
3.17	Notes about Sobibór by Aleksander Senel'nnkov, undated
3.18	Partisans documents and certificates, circa 1940s-1980s
3.19	Peter Oransky; includes photographs

3.20	Reference for A. Pechersky for a presentation to the Communist Party Central Committee, 1943
3.21	Reports and articles on the Sobibór trial in Hagen, Germany, 1965
4.1	Report from Russian New Agency regarding John Demjanuk, 1983
4.2, OS 12	Russian translations of American, Polish, Israeli, British and Russian newspapers
	regarding Sobibór, circa 1960s-1990s
4.3	Sobibór
4.4	Script for a documentary on Sobibór, by Lily Van Der Berg, Russian translation
4.5	Testimony of Ber Freiberg given at Sobibór trial, 1966
4.6	Testimony of Selma Weinberg regarding her experience during the Holocaust
	including Sobibór, 1944
4.7	Hirsch Tobin (1905-2001)
4.8	Max Van Dam; includes biography and brochure

Sub-series B: Materials from the archive of Josef Rabin, 1946-1978

Box / Folder:	Title:
4.9	Correspondence and writing, 1946-1978

Sub-series C: Materials from the archive of Yaakov Shternberg archive, 1956-1973, undated

Box / Folder:	Title:
4.10	Identification documents
4.11, OS 13	Newspaper clippings and printed materials
4.12-13	Yaakov Shternberg and Otilyia Lichtenstein correspondence, 1956-1973
4.14	Letters to family, undated
4.15	Correspondence with Soviet Writers Union
4.16	Literature critics articles
4.17	Manuscripts
4.18	Manuscripts about theater
4.19	Poems
4.20	"Baruch Spinoza," play by Moyshe Belenki
5.1-2	
5.3	"Meir Asefovitch," play by Aliza Ozeshkova
5.4	"Naye Presse," poem by Yaakov Shternberg

Sub-series D: Materials from the archive of Moini Shulman, 1968-1981

Box / Folder:	Title:
5.5	Biography and correspondence, 1968-1981

Sub-series E: Materials from the archive of Aharon Yeyman, 1969-1993, undated

Box / Folder:	Title:
5.6	Myeer Aliumini and Ranel Yanai Ben-Zvi correspondence
5.7	Gezek Karsel correspondence
5.8	Avraham Shlonsky correspondence
5.9	Rahel Yanai Ben-Zvi correspondence, 1969-1978
5.10, OS 14	Dov Ben Yaakov correspondence, 1993

Series 4. Printed Materials, 1924-2008

Box / Folder:	Title:
5.11	Pioneer children's magazine, Moscow, 1926; in Yiddish
5.12	Yungwald magazine, Moscow, 1924; in Yiddish
5.13, OS 15	Articles written by Mikhail Lev; newspaper clippings
5.14	Articles regarding Sobibór, Treblinka and the Holocaust; in English, Russian, Yiddish
5.15	Article by Mikail Lev published in the <i>Einheit</i> newspaper, 1947; in Yiddish
5.16	Articles by Mikhail Lev published in the <i>Foreward</i> newspaper; in Yiddish
5.17, OS 16	Articles by Mikhail Lev published in the Naye Zeitung in Israel; in Yiddish
5.18	Articles by Mikhail Lev published in Sovietishe Heimland, undated; in Yiddish
5.19	Articles by Mikhail Lev published in <i>Tafelpunkt</i> in Israel, 2001-2003; in Yiddish
5.20	Articles by Mikhail Lev published in Zukunft, 2000-2008; in Yiddish
5.21	Book acknowledgements decided to Mikhail Lev
5.22	Book excerpts and essays written by Mikhail Lev published in Russian, 1982-2008
5.23	Brochure issued in Israel to commemorate 25 years since the murder of Jewish
	Yiddish writers and poets in the Soviet Union, 1977
5.24	Bulletin No. 10, 1993 issued by Jewish school "Tehia" in Baku, Azerbajdjan
5.25	Children's Drawings from Terezin; in Russian
6.1-2	Dedications and autographs from various authors, 1974-2008
6.3	Jewish Fond certificate relating to the planting of trees in memory of the Lev family,
	certificate
6.4	Newspaper clippings regarding the Sobibór trial
OS 1	Newspaper clippings regarding the Sobibór trial
OS 2	Newspaper clippings in Yiddish, Russian, English, and Polish
OS 3, OS 5	Newspaper clippings from the Yaakov Shternberg archive
6.5	Obituaries written by Mikail Lev, 1994-2001
6.6	Remembrance Day in the Israeli army regarding Mikhail Lev's presentation on
	Sobibór
6.7	Reproductions of artwork and paintings by Jewish artists
6.8	Short story by Mikhail Lev, 2003; in Yiddish
6.9	"The Sobibór Uprising," article by Mikhail Lev published in English in Jewish
	Currents, 2007
6.10	"Unexpected Return" by Wald Tomin and Aleksander Senel'nikov, newspaper
	clippings
6.11	Various articles and essays by Mikhail Lev and others
6.12, OS 17	Various newspaper articles and reviews in Yiddish and Russian
6.13, OS 18	Yiddish newspaper clippings regarding literature award winner Mikhail Lev, 2001

Series 5. Notebooks, undated

Box / Folder:	Title:
6.14-15	Sobibór notebooks, 2 notebooks
6.16	Sobibór notebook of W. Tomin, circa 1965
6.17	Diary of Mendel Rozengaus (1905-1982)

Series 6. Photographs, circa 1930s-2008

Box / Folder:	Title:
6.18	General photographs, circa 1930s, 1940s, 1950s
6.19	General photographs, circa 1960s
6.20	General Photographs, circa 1970s
6.21	General Photographs, circa 1980s
6.22	General Photographs, circa 1990s
6.23	General photographs, circa 2000-2004
7.1	General photographs, circa 2008
7.2, OS 19	General photographs, undated
7.3	Loose captions from photographs
7.4	Shmuel Gadiner (1892-1942), Meir Weiner (1893-1941), Shmuel Rasin (1890-1941)
7.5	Peter Oransky, undated
7.6	Masha Rolinkaite, circa 2000s
7.7	Yaakov Shternberg, from the archive of Yaakov Shternberg, undated
7.8	Unidentified Jewish farmer, undated; includes book excerpt
7.9	Destroyed Jewish quarter in Amsterdam; transport of Jews to Sobibór, 1943
7.10	Nazi war crimes trial on Sobibór in Krasnodar, Russia, 1965
OS 4	Negative of photograph published in Soviet Youth, 1965
7.11	Envelope that housed the negative of photograph published in Soviet Youth, 1965