

HANNA GUTMAN PAPERS, 1945-2000 AND UNDATED 2011.274.1

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

Title: Hanna Gutman papers

Dates: 1945-2000 and undated

Accession number: 2011.274.1

Creators: Hanna Gutman (1923-2001)

Extent: 2 boxes, .8 linear feet

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

Abstract: The Hanna Gutman papers comprise documents and photographs concerning Hanna Gutman (1923-2001), a Jewish secretary originally from Zagórze, Poland and a survivor of five German concentration camps during World War II. This collection primarily documents Hanna's restitution claims and her life-long struggle with severe panic and anxiety as a result of her experiences in the Holocaust. Also included in this collection is a series of correspondence and photographs and papers collected by Gutman in the years immediately following the war and upon her arrival in the United States. Among this material is her health identification card, certificates stating she was a political prisoner, police registration forms, and a progress report for the Naturalization Council in Kansas City, among others.

Language: German, Hebrew, Polish

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 if item), Hanna Gutman papers (2011.274.1) United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Hanna Gutman papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2011 by Hanna's granddaughter, Valerie Gerstein.

Custodial history: These materials were purchased by Mr. Joshua Gibson from a flea market in Paris, France.

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

Processing history: Colleen Benoit, April 2016

Biographical note

Hanna Gutman (later Hannah Goodman Sukiennik, 1923-2001) was born to Rachela and Szymon Rydelnik in Zagórze, Poland where her father worked as a tailor. Upon graduating from high school, Hanna attended secretarial school and at the age of 16, obtained her first job as a secretary. She worked for one year before the outbreak of World War II and the German occupation of Poland, and soon after that, lost her job because she was Jewish. Sometime around 1940, Hanna was moved into the Będzin ghetto and for two years after that, she worked in a factory making pocket books and chromed bicycles. In 1943, during mass deportations of Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau, Hanna and some of her siblings hid in a bunker to evade capture by the Nazis. Eventually, Hanna and one of her sisters were arrested and taken to the Annaberg labor camp and later transferred to a women's camp at Neuengamme, where she worked in a blacksmith shop. Hanna passed through five different concentration camps until December 1944, when she was forced on a death march. During the march Hanna and her sister escaped but were recaptured. They managed to escape a second time and hid in a forest until they parted ways. Hanna went to Sommerfeld, Germany where she was taken for a German and hid with a family until the war ended. She returned home to find that her parents and two of her six siblings had perished in the concentration camps. Hanna stayed briefly and obtained work as a secretary with the local police department until she heard her brothers were in Munich and she moved to be with them. In December 1946 Hanna married her first cousin, Izak Gutman (later Isadore Goodman), in Munich and together, they had a child, Louisa. In 1949, the family immigrated to the United States, settling briefly St. Joseph, Missouri and then Kansas City. Once in the United States, Hanna worked as a sales representative and Izak opened a tailor shop. For the remainder of her adult life, Hanna struggled with severe panic and anxiety, a direct result of her experiences during the Holocaust.

Scope and content of collection

The Hanna Gutman papers consist of documents and photographs about Gutman and her life in the immediate post-war period and the years beyond. This collection primarily documents Hanna's restitution claims and her life-long struggle with severe panic and anxiety as a result of her experiences in the Holocaust. Among the paperwork detailing these claims are affidavits confirming her and her husband Izak's war-time experiences, statements from doctors regarding her mental health and medical ailments, medical bills, and lengthy correspondence with her legal counsel in Germany. A series of correspondence with friends and family is also comprised here within. Some of these letters likely detail affidavit processes and requests and the majority of them are written to Hanna from Izak's brother Simon. Also included in this collection are papers collected by Hanna in the years immediately following the war and upon her arrival in the United States. Among this material is her health identification card,

certificates stating she was a political prisoner, police registration forms, copies of Louisa's birth certificate and immunization records, correspondence from the Displaced Persons Commission in the U.S., and a progress report for the Naturalization Council in Kansas City. The photographs included in this collection depict Hanna, her husband Izak, and their daughter, Louisa in the post-war period and immediately after they immigrated to the United States. Photographs of friends and family are also held in this collection.

System of arrangement

The Hanna Gutman papers are arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Restitution claims, 1949-2000 and undated
- Series 2: Personal documents, 1945-1978 and undated
- Series 3: Photographs, 1946-1948 and undated

Indexing terms

Gutman, Izak (1910-1974).

Gutman, Hanna (1923-2001).

Gutman, Louisa (1947-2010).

Gutman, Stanley (1951-).

Rydelnik, Rachel (1884-).

Rydelnik, Szymon (1887-).

Gutman, Simon.

Annaberg (Concentration camp).

Grünberg in Schlesien (Concentration camp).

Christianstadt (Concentration camp).

Neuengamme (Concentration camp).

Holocaust survivors--Poland--Bedzin.

Death march survivors--Germany.

Escapes--Germany.

Secretaries--Poland--Bedzin.

Jewish ghettos--Poland--Będzin.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Reparations.

Będzin (Poland).

Kansas City (Mo.)

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Restitution claims, 1949-2000 and undated

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Correspondence and paperwork, 1949-1959
1	2	Correspondence and paperwork, 1961-1963

1	3	Correspondence and paperwork, 1964-1969
1	4	Correspondence and paperwork, 1970-1978
1	5	Correspondence and paperwork, 1984-1989
1	6	Correspondence and paperwork, 1991-2000
1	7	Correspondence and paperwork, undated

Series 2: Personal documents, 1945-1978 and undated

Box	Folder	Title
1	8	Birth certificate (copies) and vaccination certificates for Louisa, 1947-1949
1	9	Certificates, 1945-1948
1	10	Correspondence, 1946-1971 and undated
2	1	Correspondence – Displaced Persons Commission, 1949
2	2	Correspondence – Maria Rodin, 1955-1969
2	3	Correspondence – Simon Gutman, 1962-1978 and undated
2	4	Health card, 1948
2	5	Naturalization Council progress report, 1955
2	6	Newspaper clipping, 1969
2	7	Notes, undated
2	8	Police registration, 1945 and 1947
2	9	Professional certification for Izak, 1949
2	10	Recipes, undated
2	11	Wedding invitation, 1946

Series 3: Photographs, 1946-1948 and undated

Box	Folder	Title
2	12	Friends and family, 1947 and undated
2	13	Hanna and Louisa Gutman, approximately 1948
2	14	Hanna Gutman, 1946 and undated
2	15	Hanna and Izak Gutman 1946 and undated
2	16	Izak Gutman, undated