

**LAKHOVITZKY FAMILY COLLECTION, 1902-1995 (bulk, 1902-1942)
2012.416.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Lakhovitzky family collection

Dates: 1902-1995 (bulk, 1902-1942)

Accession number: 2012.416.1

Creator: Lakhovitzky family (Strasbourg; France)

Extent: 4 folders, 1 oversize folder

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

Abstract: The Lakhovitzky family papers contain birth certificates, marriage certificates, certificates of identity, travel documents, photographs, and similar materials documenting the family's migration from Russia to France in 1928, their internment in camps from 1941-1942, and their immigration to the United States in 1942.

Languages: French, Russian, Turkish, 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), (folder number), Lakhovitzky family collection, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Gift of Gilbert and Raymond Lachow, 2012.

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

Processing history: Brad Bauer, September 2014.

Biographical note

Natan Lakhovitzky (born, Simferapol, 17 August 1902, died 24 August 1992) and Vera Lakhovitzky, nee Strachinsky (born Odessa, 1 February 1905, died 24 May 1973) left the Soviet Union in January 1927. Since they were unable to obtain a rabbinical wedding there in Russia, they were married in Istanbul, Turkey, on 17 June 1927, and immigrated to France the following year, arriving in Strasbourg in October 1928, where Natan found employment in a hat-making company. The Lakhovitzkys had two sons during their time in France, Gilbert (born, Strasbourg, 28 May 1933) and Raymond (born 25 October 1939).

Beginning in December 1940, the family was interned in a series of camps, first at Camp d'Adge in southern France, and then Rivesaltes, where Natan was able to convince camp authorities to keep the family together, due to Mrs. Lakhovitzky's rheumatoid arthritis. During this time, Raymond contracted chicken pox, and given the poor sanitary conditions at this camp, Vera refused to place him in the infirmary and took care of him until he recovered. Natan sought to improve conditions as he could, obtaining stubs of candles from a nearby church to give some light in the dark barrack, and gaining permission to walk to nearby Perpignan, to obtain some food for his family.

In April 1941, Natan was transferred to Camp Les Milles, near Marseille. The family had sought to immigrate to the United States, hoping to obtain an affidavit from Natan's sister, who lived in New York. Vera and the two children were held at the Centre Bompard in Marseille, while awaiting their visas and authorization to emigrate, and Natan was able to persuade a guard at Camp Les Milles to let him leave once a week in order to check on the status of his immigration paperwork. In April 1942 they were granted safe-conduct passes as well as visas that permitted them to immigrate to the United States on the Soviet quota, and they departed France 12 May 1942 on the SS *Marechal Lyautey*, arriving in Lisbon and travelling from there to Morocco, where they boarded the SS *Serpa Pinto*, which was transporting 700 European Jews to the United States. After the ship was detained by the British in Bermuda, it arrived in New York on 25 June 1942. The family, who changed their last names to Lachow, settled in Brooklyn, where Gilbert subsequently went to school and eventually obtained a degree from the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy in 1955, and worked in various retail pharmacies and for the Merck Corporation until his retirement in 1993.

Scope and content of collection

The Lakhovitzky family papers contain birth certificates, marriage certificates, certificates of identity, travel documents, photographs, and similar materials documenting the family's migration from Russia to France in 1928, their internment in camps from 1941-1942, and their immigration to the United States in 1942.

Outside of birth certificates from Russia for Natan Lakhovitzky, and documents attesting to the marriage and Russian citizenship of Natan and Vera Lakhovitzky from their stay in Turkey in 1927, the majority of the documents date from the period of their residence in and around Strasbourg, France, from 1928-1941, including identification and residence permits, and photographs of the couple and their elder son,

Gilbert. Additional documents from the period of their internment following the German occupation of France and the establishment of the Vichy regime in the south include a transit permit showing Natan Lakhovitzky's transfer from Rivesaltes to Les Milles. Subsequent documentation is related largely to the family's immigration to the United States in 1942.

System of arrangement

Items are arranged by document type into three series (identity documents, marriage documents, and photographs), and then by person or chronologically within the series.

Indexing terms

Jews--France--Strasbourg.

Jews--Russia.

France--Emigration and immigration.

Rivesaltes (Concentration camp).

United States--Emigration and immigration.

CONTAINER LIST

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| 1 | 1 | Identification documents for Natan Lakhovitzky
Certificate: From rabbi, August (20?) 1902, Simferapol
Russian certificate, dated September 1912, issued by Rabbi in Simferapol, titled
"Metricheskaia vypis'," recording vital data about Lakhovitzky
Certificate of registration of residence, Strasbourg, showing that Lakhovitzky arrived in
Strasbourg in October of the same year, December 1928 (original and typescript
copy)
Certificate of identity, Republic of France, Prefecture of Bas-Rhin, Strasbourg, July 1931
Certificate of transfer (Certificat de Transitaire), showing transfer
from Rivesaltes to Les Milles, in preparation for his emigration, 30 July 1941.
Safe conduct pass (Sauf-Conduit), issued in Marseille on 24 April 1942, permitting
him to travel to United States, and document to be used in lieu of a passport, |
| 1 | 2 | Identification documents for Vera and Gilbert Lakhovitzky
Vera Lakhovitzky:
Typescript copy of certificate of registration for Vera Lakhovitzky, December 1928,
certifying that she had arrived in that city on October 1
Certificate of identity, Republic of France, Prefecture of Bas-Rhin, Strasbourg, July 1931
Certificate of residence, issued by Police d'Etat de Strasbourg, 16 December 1935
Safe conduct pass (Sauf-Conduit), issued in Marseille on 4 December 1941 for Vera
Lakhovitzky and her two sons, Gilbert (age 8) and Raymond (age 2), permitting
them to travel to United States, and document to be used in lieu of a passport,
shows that departed France in May 1942 and arrived in Morocco in 20 May
1942.

Gilbert Lakhovitzky:
Birth certificate, 1933 (replacement copy, 1995), Strasbourg, France |
| 1 | 3 | Marriage documents for Lakhovitzkys
Organization for Aid and Assistance to Russian Refugees, Istanbul: Three documents in
Russian, Turkish, and French, attesting that Natan and Vera Lakhovitzky were
Russian subjects, dated 1928.
Typescript copy of Document attesting that Vera Lakhovitzky was issued a marriage
license for Natan Lakhovitzky in Istanbul, 28 April 1927 (copy produced in Paris,
1933)
Turkish translation (from French translation of original) of wedding certificate for Natan
and Vera Lakhovitzky, translated in March 1939, Boulogne-sur-Seine |
| OS | 1 | Document in Hebrew with a Turkish stamp on it, circa 1927 |
| 1 | 4 | Lakhovitsky family photographs
Mrs. Lakhovitzky, 1926 and undated (3 prints)
Gilbert Lakhovitzky, with class mates at day school nursery, Strasbourg, France, circa
late 1930s (2 prints), and with mother (1 print)
Gilbert Lakhovitzky, as boy and young man, including one image of him with father, |

dated March 1935, with message to Vera (“Mamochka”) saying that they will meet soon (4 prints)

Family photographs. Uninscribed/unidentified, but two appear to be of Natan and Vera Lakhovitzky, one a family shot with Gilbert in foreground on right, standing in front of Vera, and one of children at lakeshore (with Gilbert on shoulders of a man). Undated (4 prints).

Portrait of Gilbert, undated.