

BETTY SIEBENSCHINOVA PAPERS, approximately 1915-1971 and undated 2012.491.1

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

Title: Betty Siebenschcinova papers

Dates: approximately 1915-1971 and undated

Accession number: 2012.491.1

Creator: Siebenschcinova, Betty, 1917-?

Extent: 2.75 linear feet (3 boxes, 1 oversize box, 2 book enclosures and 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The Betty Siebenschcinova papers include biographical material, correspondence, diaries, subject files, and photographs relating to the Holocaust experiences of Betty Siebenschcinova, originally from Prague. After escaping several concentration camps, Betty was captured and taken to the Sered' concentration camp in Slovakia. The collection includes Betty's diary and written testimony, restitution documents, identification papers, false identification papers, and wartime and post-war photographs. The collection also includes documents and photographs related to Walter Steiner, whom Betty married after the war.

Languages: Czech, German, 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. The donor retains copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Betty Siebenschcinova papers (2012.491.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Dasha Tucker, daughter of Betty, donated the Betty Siebenschcinova papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2013.

Separate material: A pencil drawing was catalogued individually as an object.

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, December 2018.

Biographical note

Betty Siebenscheinova (née Rosenbloom, b.1917) was born in Prague to Wilhelm (b. 1882) and Charlotte (née Braunstein, b. 1883) Rosenbloom and had one brother, Max (b. 1913). Betty married Jakub Siebenscheinova (1894-1945) in 1941 and they had a daughter, Desha (b.1943). In 1941, shortly after they were married, Jakub and Betty were transported to Theresienstadt. Betty and a friend escaped and went to Prague to see her family, but they decided to return because they feared for their husbands' safety in the camp. Betty and Jakub were soon taken to the Lublin ghetto where they escaped and went to Ukraine. Betty obtained false papers identifying herself as a Christian under the name Elizabeth Siebenschein (née Birknerova). After living in hiding for several months, Betty and Jakub were captured and taken to the Sered' concentration camp in late 1942 where they were interned until liberation. Dasha was born in Sered' and stayed with her mother during the war. Both of Betty's parents and her brother were killed in Treblinka in 1942 or 1943 and Jakub died soon after the war ended. After the war she applied for visas and in 1948 Betty and Dasha moved to Israel. Betty met Walter Steiner (b.1920) and they married in 1949. Walter survived the war in hiding in Bratislava, Slovakia. They immigrated to the United States in 1955.

Scope and content of collection

The Betty Siebenscheinova papers include biographical material, correspondence, diaries, subject files, and photographs relating to the Holocaust experiences of Betty Siebenscheinova, originally from Prague. After escaping several concentration camps, Betty was captured and taken to the Sered' concentration camp in Slovakia. The collection includes Betty's diary and written testimony, restitution documents, identification papers, false identification papers, and wartime and post-war photographs. The collection also includes documents and photographs related to Walter Steiner, whom Betty married after the war.

Biographical materials include originals and copies of birth verifications, a marriage certificate, medical notes, restitution material, repatriation cards, and false Christian identification cards for Betty Siebenscheinova as well as a birth certificate, border crossing ID card, and restitution applications and correspondence for Dasha Siebenscheinova. This series also includes a marriage certificate, curriculum vitae, and Czechoslovakia ID card for Walter Steiner as well as a repatriation registration card, marriage verification, and death certificate for Jakub Siebenscheinova.

Correspondence includes mostly post-war postcards and letters largely addressed to Betty, including letters from Walter to Betty.

Diaries, notebooks, and narratives include diaries, a memory book, and notebooks written by Betty in Czech and German from 1939-1944. In the notebooks, Betty tracks what she ate for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. In the diaries and memory book Betty writes about her experiences from 1939-1944 including recollections of her life before the war and her time in hiding and in the Sered' concentration camp. This series also includes partial translation of the diaries and typed and handwritten testimony provided by Betty.

Subject files include a newspaper clipping from an unknown newspaper with hand written notes.

Photographs consists of pre-war, wartime, and post-war photographs and albums relating to the Siebenscheinova family, including Jakub, Betty, and Dasha, during their time in Prague, Sered', and after the war in Israel. The series also includes photographs from Jakub's funeral and photographs relating to Walter Steiner and his family during and after the war.

System of arrangement

The Betty Siebenscheinova papers are arranged as five series.

Series 1: Biographical material, approximately 1920-1971

Series 2: Correspondence, approximately 1915-1963

Series 3: Diaries, notebooks, and narratives, 1939-1949 and undated

Series 4: Subject files, undated

Series 5: Photographs, approximately 1940s-1950s

Indexing terms

Siebenscheinova, Betty.

Siebenscheinova, Dasha.

Steiner, Walter.

Sered (Concentration camp)

Forced labor--Slovakia--Sered'

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Personal narratives.

Slovakia.

Israel.

United States--Emigration and immigration--History.

Diaries.

Photographs.

Correspondence.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical material, approximately 1920-1971

Box/Folder	Title
1.1-1.3	Siebenscheinova, Betty, 1940-1963 (3 folders)
1.4-1.5	Siebenscheinova, Dasha 1943-1971 (2 folders)
1.6	Siebenscheinova, Jakub, 1945-1949
1.7-1.8	Steiner, Walter, approximately 1920-1948 (2 folders)

Series 2: Correspondence, approximately 1915-1963

Box/Folder	Title
1.9-1.11	Correspondence, approximately 1943-1963 (3 folders)
1.12	Postcards, approximately 1915-1952

Series 3: Diaries, notebooks, and narratives, 1939-1949 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
1.13	Diary, 1939
1.14	Translation, undated
2.1 BE 1	Diary and translation, 1941-1944 (2 folders)
2.2	Translation, undated
2.3	Memory book, 1946-1949
2.4	Narratives, undated
2.5	Notebook, 1949
2.6	Notebook, undated

Series 4: Subject files, undated

Box/Folder	Title
OS 1	Newspaper clipping, undated

Series 5: Photographs, approximately 1940s-1950s

Box/Folder	Title
2.7 BE 2	Album 1, 1940s-1950s (2 folders)
2.8-2.9 4.1	Album 2, 1940s-1950s (3 folders)
2.10	Album 3, 1955
2.11-2.12	Siebenscheinova, Betty, 1940s-1950s (2 folders)
2.13	Siebenscheinova, Dasha, 1940s-1950s
3.1-3.3	Siebenscheinova, Betty and Desha, 1940s-1950s (3 folders)
3.4	Siebenscheinova, Jakub, 1945
3.5-3.6	Steiner, Walter, approximately 1940s-1950s (2 folders)
3.7-3.8	Miscellaneous, 1940s (2 folders)