

**GLEITMAN FAMILY COLLECTION, 1936-1957**  
**2015.220.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Gleitman family collection

Dates: 1936-1957

Accession number: 2015.220.1

Creator: Gleitman family.

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 folder, 1 oversize box)

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

Abstract: Collection of documents, copy prints, photographs and correspondence documenting the experiences of Joseph Gleitman, his wife Sura (Sally) Lazega, and their friends before, during, and after the Holocaust. Includes pre-war, wartime, and post-war family photographs; a large pre-war school photograph of Polish and Jewish students in Sławków; post-war documentation relating to the marriage of survivors Joseph Gleitman and Sally Lazega, and Joseph Gleitman's work managing a mill after the war; a pre-war letter written to Joseph Gleitman; documentation acquired prior to Joseph Gleitman's immigration to Israel in 1957; and a two-page autobiographical testimony of his experiences. The Gleitman family lived in Slawkow, Poland. Joseph and Sally are both survivors of Auschwitz who met after liberation.

Languages: Polish, English

**Administrative Information**

Access: Collection is open for use.

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), Gleitman family collection (2015.220.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Joseph Gleitman in 2015.

Custodial history: Some of the materials were saved for the Gleitmans by a non-Jewish neighbor and given to Sally Lazega and Joseph Gleitman after the war.

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: Finding aid updated by Adam Fielding, July 2020

### **Biographical note**

Joseph Gleitman was born in Boleslaw, Poland on November 10, 1920. He was the third child of seven to parents David and Lilly Gleitman. His siblings were: Smuel, Simon, Henry, Leibish, Feigl, and Rusza. The Gleitmans originally owned a grocery store, and a lot of their business was done on credit. When the local factory closed and many local workers lost their job, the grocery went bankrupt and everything was confiscated to cover due taxes. The Gleitmans then moved to Sławków, which was a resort town.

The family observed Shabbat, and spoke Yiddish at home. Joseph did not consider himself a good student, and the Jewish students would sit together in the back of the room. They would be harassed regularly for being Jewish. Joseph did not have a formal Jewish education, but he did belong to Gordonia, a Zionist youth organization, and hopes of getting to Palestine. Joseph did not finish school because he had to work to help support the family.

After the German invasion of Poland, the bridge going in to Sławków was blown up. Evacuating refugees were checked to see if they were Jewish. The Jewish Committee appointed young men (including Joseph) to dig out the corpses of Jews who were shot and thrown in the river and rebury them in the Jewish cemetery. In 1941, the Gleitmans were forced into the Sławków ghetto, placed under curfew, and wore forced markings on their clothes. People were sent from the ghetto to camps or as forced laborers. Henry was sent to Gapestof in 1940.

The other Gleitmans remained together in Sławków, until the ghetto was liquidated on June 10, 1942. Many of the residents were sent to the nearby towns of Bedzin and Sosnowiec, and others were deported. The family was separated – Joseph was sent to Sosnowiec for a few days before being sent to Königshütte where he had to move heavy barrels. His parents were likely sent to Auschwitz and killed upon arrival – he never saw them again.

Joseph was then transferred to Gross Sarnes, another slave labor camp where he worked road construction. Because of what he saw in the camp, he became less religious even though he participated in the Jewish holidays. After a year he was sent to Gross Rosen and then Dyhernfurth I, a sub camp of Gross-Rosen, making bricks for a private company for 10 hours a day, 6 days a week. Joseph was then sent to Dyhernfurth II, where he also worked in road construction building a road from Breslau to Berlin, and then after a few months he was sent to Langenbielau I concentration camp. Where he worked in a machine shop and made ammunition parts. After a year in the camp, they were liberated by the Russians on May 8, 1945, and Joseph weighed only about 100lbs.

After liberation, Joseph went to Reichenbach, where the survivors occupied the German houses because the Germans fled. He was sent to a flour factory to help manage it and also worked for the local government.

Joseph met fellow survivor Sura (Sally) Lazega from Bedzin. She survived Auschwitz (prisoner number 53469). After her liberation from Auschwitz, she was sent to Czechoslovakia, and then Reichenbach, where she met Joseph. They were married in Langbilau in July 1945. Joseph and his brother Henry were reunited after Joseph met the Hochberger brothers who had survived and were liberated with Henry.

Joseph later testified in the war crimes trials. Sally and Joseph remained in Poland until 1957. They first settled in Tel Aviv, and then immigrated to the United States in March 1958, settling in Brooklyn, NY.

Biography by Kyra Schuster

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

Collection of documents, copy prints, photographs and correspondence documenting the experiences of Joseph Gleitman, his wife Sura (Sally) Lazega, and their friends before, during, and after the Holocaust. Includes pre-war, wartime, and post-war family photographs; a large pre-war school photograph of Polish and Jewish students in Sławków; post-war documentation relating to the marriage of survivors Joseph Gleitman and Sally Lazega, and Joseph Gleitman's work managing a mill after the war; a pre-war letter written to Joseph Gleitman; documentation acquired prior to Joseph Gleitman's immigration to Israel in 1957; and a two-page autobiographical testimony of his experiences. The Gleitman family lived in Sławków, Poland. Joseph and Sally are both survivors of Auschwitz who met after liberation.

### **System of arrangement**

The collection is arranged as three series.

Series 1. Biographical material, 1945-1957

Series. 2. Correspondence, 1939-1951

Series 3. Photographs, 1936-1945

### **Indexing terms**

Person:

Gleitman, Joseph.

Gleitman, Sally.

Corporate:

Gross-Rosen (Concentration camp)

Topical Subject:

Jews--Poland--Sławków.

Geography:

Sławków (Poland).

Genre/Form:

Personal narratives.

Photographs.

Correspondence.

## PRELIMINARY INVENTORY

### Series 1. Biographical material, 1945-1957

Marriage certificate: official copy of marriage certificate issued to Glajtman Josek and Lazega Sali; dated March 14, 1951; Wroclaw, Poland; in Polish

Birth certificate: official copy of birth certificate issued for Glajtman Josek; dated September 16, 1949; Olkusz, Poland; in Polish

Letter: authorizing Jozefa Gleitmana to take over a flour factory; dated August 1, 1945; Bielawa, Poland; in Polish and Russian

Certificate: issued by Zwiasek b Wiezniow Ideowo-Politycznych stating that Jozef Glajtman was a prisoner in Gross-Rosen as part of the Sportschulle Commando Langenbielau I; dated May 18, 1946; in Polish

Certificate: issued by the Municipal Administration in Slawkow for Jozef Glajtman of good conduct; dated July 25, 1946; Slawkow, Poland; in Polish

Certificate: issued by the Municipal Administraton in Slawkow stating that Salomon Glajtman was the owner and operator of a property in Slawkow, that he and his family along with other Jews from Slawkow were deported to Auschwitz in 1942, and that Jozef Glajtman is his sole surviving heir; dated August 21, 1947; Slawkow, Poland; in Polish

Birth Certificate: official copy of abridged birth certificate for Sura Lazenga; typed and handwritten on verso of letterhead for a real estate company in Dombrowa; not dated; in Polish

Document: "Karta Rzemieślnicza" issued to Josef Gleitman stating he is allowed to work in a mill; dated February 26, 1946; Rychbach, Poland; in Polish

Certificate: issued to Josef Glajtman regarding his employment history; dated February 15, 1957; Wroclaw, Poland; in Polish

Document: regarding salary for Josef Gleitman; dated October 5, 1948; Wroclaw, Poland; in Polish

Certificate: regarding the export of materials from Josef Gleitman to Israel; dated March 20, 1957; Wroclaw, Poland; in Polish

Statement: for Josef Glajtman from the Polish Union of Political Prisoners, that he is a member in good standing; dated December 16, 1946; Bielawa, Poland; in Polish

Nomination: stating that Josef Glajtman is appointed interim manager of the mill in Bielawie; dated October 23, 1945; Zabkowice, Poland; in Polish

Document: giving Josef Glejtman one month of leave; dated July 31, 1946; Wroclaw, Poland; in Polish

Document: terminating business relationship; dated November 18, 1948; Wroclaw, Poland; in Polish

Identification paper: issued to Josef Glaitmann; dated September 15, 1945; Lignica, Poland; in Polish

Letter of recommendation: for Josef Gleitman; dated September 15, 1945; Lignica, Poland; in Polish

Nomination: for Josef Glajtman as interim manager of the mill in Bielawie; dated December 4, 1945; Wroclaw, Poland; in Polish

Document: regarding Josef Glajtman's appointment as manager; dated December 4, 1945; Wroclaw, Poland; in Polish

Document: regarding Josef Glajtman's salary; dated August 12, 1947; Warsaw, Poland; in Polish

Document: relating to the purchase of grain; dated November 11, 1945; Zabkowice, Poland; in Polish

Two (2) pieces of letterhead: from "Zwiazek b. Wieźniów Ideowo-Politycznych"; with inscription and red ink stamp at bottom recto and verso; in Polish

Typed official copies: 4 pieces clipped together regarding Josef Glajtman's whereabouts during WWII; dated 1946-1948; in Polish

Authorization to transport: issued to Josef Glajtman for the transport of property; dated December 2, 1948; Wroclaw, Poland; in Polish

Two (2) bond certificates: dated April 15, 1946; Warsaw, Poland; in Polish

Copy print: black and white image of Smuel Gleitman (donor's brother)

Testimony: two pages typed; Joseph Gleitman's summary of his and his family's experiences during the Holocaust; in English

## **Series 2. Correspondence, 1939-1951**

Letter: written to Josku (Joe Gleitman) from Jasza Baoumovna of Bedzin; dated April 17, 1939; in Polish

Thank you letter: to Joe Glajtman from the Żydowska Kongregacja Wyznaniowa; dated April 8, 1947; in Polish

Correspondence: regarding Josef Gleitman and his employment by the mill; dated April 3, 1951; Wroclaw, Poland; in Polish

Postcard: to Josef Glajtman from Dr. Roman Gross; dated April 10, 1946; Sosnowiec, Poland; in Polish

Postcard: to Josef Glajtman from Dr. Roman Gross; dated April 10, 1946; Sosnowiec, Poland; in Polish

Postcard: to Josef Glajtman from Dr. Roman Gross; dated October 5, 1946; Sosnowiec, Poland; in Polish

Postcard: to Josef Glajtman from Dr. Roman Gross; dated January 3, 1947; Sosnowiec, Poland; in Polish

Letter: to Josef Glajtman from Dr. Roman Gross; dated February 6, 1947; Sosnowiec, Poland; in Polish

Postcard: to Josef Glajtman from Dr. Roman Gross; dated February 19, 1947; Sosnowiec, Poland; in Polish

Letter: to Josef Glajman from Dr. Roman Gross; dated March 1, 1947; Sosnowiec, Poland; in Polish

Letter: to Josef Glajtman from Dr. Roman Gross; dated March 18, 1948; Sosnowiec, Poland; in Polish

Letter: to Josef Glajman from Dr. Roman Gross; dated April 9, 1948; Sosnowiec, Poland; in Polish

### **Series 3. Photographs, 1936-1945**

Photographic print: black and white image of group of young men and women standing together outside of a building with three windows

Photographic print: black and white image of Jewish New Years card with portrait of couple holding their child on the right and drawing on the left; not dated; in Hebrew and Polish; pictured is Eva and Henry Jacob with their son Natha. Eva is Joe Gleitman's first cousin

Photographic print: black and white image of woman standing behind man seated in chair, with her hand on one shoulder, and holding his hand with the other; not dated; pictured is Smuel Gleitman (donor's brother) and his wife Pola. They were married in 1938. He was hanged in 1942 and she was killed in Auschwitz.

Photographic print: black and white image of man (Joe Gleitman) wearing cap standing outside with one hand on his waist and the other on an empty chair, behind him is another man seated behind a chain link fence; dated 1945

Copy print: enlarged black and white image portrait of young girl; not dated; pictured is Faye (Feigl), Joe Gleitman's sister

Photographic print: black and white image of double exposure; image of men standing and seated in an office setting with woman wearing hat; not dated; Joe Gleitman is standing in the center of the image

Photographic postcard: black and white image of young man (Joe Gleitman) standing outside leaning on a tree; dated August 2, 1936; in Polish

Photographic postcard: black and white image of young man (Joe Gleitman) seated at desk with book open in front of him; dated March 28, 1936; in Polish

Copy print: original was black and white image of family seated and standing together outside of their home in the Sławków ghetto; pictured from right to left: Joe Gleitman, his mother Lilly, Joe's youngest sister Rusza, father David, maternal grandmother Dreizel (Lilly's mother), cousin Pesia (Lilly's brother's daughter), maternal aunt Pesia (Lilly's sister), Joe's brother Leibish.

Photographic print: large group photo of students and staff taken outside of the local school; staff seated at front; dated circa 1930s; according to Joe Gletiman, most of the Jewish students are together on the right half of the photo and the left half are the Poles. This photo was saved during the war by a non-Jewish neighbor and given to Joe's first wife Sura (Sally) and Joe's brother Henry back after the war.