

FRED LIFSCHUTZ PAPERS, approximately 1910-1975 2015.541.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Fred Lifschutz papers

Dates: approximately 1910-1975

Accession number: 2015.541.1

Creators: Lifschutz, Fred, 1933-

Extent: 2.0 linear feet (9 folders, 3 oversize boxes)

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

Abstract: The Fred Lifschutz papers consist of biographical materials, a personal narrative, photographs, postcards, and photograph albums documenting Fred Lifschutz from Vienna, Austria, his family and friends, and his immigration to the United States as one of the "50 children" sponsored by Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus. The biographical materials document Moritz, Bertha, and Fred Lifschutz and especially Bertha and Fred Lifschutz's immigration to the United States. Bertha's brief personal narrative describes her childhood, her experiences during World War I and the interwar years in Galicia and Austria, Nazi occupation, and her immigration to the United States. Loose photographs depict family and friends in prewar Europe. Most of the loose postcards are addressed to Fred from his mother while she was still in Vienna and he had immigrated to the United States or during the first years after her immigration while he was at summer camp. Postcards from a postcard album are primarily addressed to Fred from his childhood friends and family in Europe and America. The three photo albums document Bertha's and Fred's childhoods in prewar Europe, Fred's immigration to the United States with the "50 children," and their new lives in wartime and postwar America.

Language: German, English, 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 if item), Fred Lifschutz papers (2015.541.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Fred Lifschutz donated his papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2015.

Related material: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds an oral history interview conducted with Fred Lifschutz (2014.24.10). Fred Lifschutz also donated a steamer trunk to the Museum (2015.541.2).

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, December 2017

Biographical note

Friedrich (Fred) Lifschutz was born on April 17, 1933 in Vienna, Austria, to Moritz (Morris) and Bertha (née Meisels) Lifschutz. Moritz was born on August 30, 1899 in Podhajce, Poland. He had four sisters and many of his immediate family, including his mother, Rebecca, immigrated to the United States in the 1920s. Bertha was born on November 30, 1902, and had one sister. Moritz ran a beauty aid store in Vienna with his brother-in-law, Morris Frankel, who had married Bertha's sister, Helen. Bertha worked at the Rohatyn Bank in Vienna. The couple married in March 1931 and two years later, Bertha gave birth to their only child, Fred. In 1939, Bertha's father was killed in Buchenwald and the family made the decision to send Fred to the United States as part of the "50 children" transport led by Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus. After a summer at the Brith Sholomville camp in Collegeville, PA, Fred went to live with his grandmother and aunt in New York City. To avoid arrest in Vienna, Morris attempted to escape to Switzerland, but was caught and sent back. He was unable to obtain a visa for the United States, so he returned to Podhajce. Podhajce was occupied by the Germans in June 1941 and Morris was killed two months later. Bertha was able to obtain an American visa, immigrated to the United States in January 1940, and reunited with Fred. In the United States, Fred attended City College of New York and worked as a sales representative for toy companies. Bertha eventually married David Pelta, who was a German-Jewish refugee who came to the United States in 1938. Bertha passed away in 1975.

Scope and content of collection

The Fred Lifschutz papers consist of biographical materials, a personal narrative, photographs, postcards, and photograph albums documenting Fred Lifschutz from Vienna, Austria, his family and friends, and his immigration to the United States as one of the "50 children" sponsored by Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus. The biographical materials document Moritz, Bertha, and Fred Lifschutz and especially Bertha and Fred Lifschutz's immigration to the United States. Bertha's brief personal narrative describes her childhood, her experiences during World War I and the interwar years in Galicia and Austria, Nazi occupation, and her immigration to the United States. Loose photographs depict family and friends in prewar Europe. Most of the loose postcards are addressed to Fred from his mother while she was still in Vienna and he had immigrated to the United States or during the first years after her immigration while he was at summer camp. Postcards from a postcard album are primarily addressed to Fred from his childhood friends and family in Europe and America. The three photo albums document Bertha's and

Fred's childhoods in prewar Europe, Fred's immigration to the United States with the "50 children," and their new lives in wartime and postwar America.

System of arrangement

The Fred Lifschutz papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Lifschutz, Fred.

Lifschutz, Bertha.

Lifschutz, Morris.

Jews--Austria--Vienna.

Jewish children--Austria.

Refugee children--United States.

World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue--Austria.

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

Holocaust survivors--United States.

Vienna (Austria)

Austria--Emigration and immigration--History.

United States--Emigration and immigration--History.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Fred Lifschutz papers, approximately 1910-1975

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Biographical materials, 1931-1966
1.2	Personal narrative by Bertha Lifschutz, approximately 1975
1.3	Photographs, approximately 1931-1945
1.4-5	Photographs from brown photograph album, approximately 1910-1967 (2 folders)
1.6	Postcards, approximately 1931-1949
1.7	Postcards, approximately 1969-1972
1.8-9	Postcards from postcard album, approximately 1934-1969 (2 folders)
2.1	Photograph album (brown), 1933-1950
3.1	Photograph album (brown cover, empty), approximately 1910-1967
4.1	Photograph album (green floral cover), approximately 1915-1940