

PINUS RUBINSTEIN COLLECTION, circa 1900-1950
2015.607.1

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

Title: Pinus Rubinstein collection

Dates: circa 1900-1950

Accession number: 2015.607.1

Creator: Rubinstein, Pinus, 1888-1963

Extent: .7 linear feet (3 book enclosures, 1 oversize box, and 1 folder)

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

Abstract: The Pinus Rubenstein collection includes a diary, in three volumes, from Pinus Rubinstein (later known as Ben-Saar), dated 1900 to 1949, and written primarily while he lived in Bukovina, in Czernowitz and Sadagora (Chernivtsi and Sadhora, Ukraine). The diaries describe Rubinstein's adolescent years in Sadagora, his service in the Austrian Army in World War I, his marriage and life in Czernowitz in the inter-war years, life in German-occupied Czernowitz from 1941-1944, and his family's post-war journey to Romania, Austria, Italy, and eventually Israel. The diaries also contain poetry and stories from Rubinstein, signed under his pen name of Ben-Saar. In addition, the collection contains a portrait photograph of the Czernowitz Hairdressers Academy, 1936, to which Pinus Rubinstein belonged and a visiting card for Ben-Saar (P. Rubinstein), in his role as chairman of the organization "Poale Tsedek," in Beit She'an, Israel.

Languages: German, Yiddish, Hebrew, Romanian

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), Pinus Rubinstein collection (2015.607.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Pinus Rubinstein collection was acquired by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2015.

Related materials: Books that were purchased with this collection, including Rubinstein's *Der jüdische Vatikan in Sadagora, 1850-1950* (DS135.U42 C456 1954) as well as his son's work, *Die Greinizrasser* (HV640.5.J4 R83 1986) and the two-volume *Die Geschichte der Juden in der Bukowina* (edited by Hugo Gold. Tel-Aviv: Edition Olamenu, 1958) have been transferred to the United States Holocaust Museum Library, and are cataloged separately there.

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, January 2017; edited by Morgan Voth, March 2019.

Biographical note

Pinus Rubinstein (1888-1963) was born on February 4, 1888, in or near Sadagora (present day Sadhora, Ukraine), where he lived as a child. He served in the Austrian army during World War I, during which he married his wife, Pepi, in 1915, and returned to Czernowitz after the war. They had two sons, Edouard, or Edi (later Eli), and Bubi (later Mordechai). Pinus worked as a hair stylist, and was president of the hair stylists' association in Czernowitz during the 1930s.

In 1939, the two sons, Edi and Bubi, were conscripted into the Romanian army. When northern Bukovina was ceded to the Soviet Union in 1940, the sons were allowed to return to Czernowitz, and the family was still living there when the invasion of the Soviet Union started in June 1941, with Romanian and German forces occupying Bukovina. Both sons had again been conscripted in the army—this time the Red Army—and were captured by the Germans, but were allowed to return home, and one of them secured his release by claiming to be a *Volksdeutscher* (ethnic German). In October 1941, the Rubinstein's were forced into a ghetto with the approximately 60,000 other Jews living in Czernowitz, but after a few weeks, they were allowed to return to their apartment and were allowed to open their businesses once again. They watched nervously though as several transports of Jews were sent from their neighborhood to Transnistria and elsewhere in the following months, and were fearful that they would be included on an upcoming transport, although they never were. Instead, they were forced to move once again into the ghetto in Czernowitz in November 1942, where they remained until the Red Army liberated the city at the end of March 1944.

Following liberation, the family initially remained in Czernowitz, which once again was part of the Soviet Union. Edi was arrested and sent to a camp in Siberia for the following year, but upon his release, the family decided to leave Czernowitz, with Bubi (Mordechai) and his family having already left for Palestine. Pinus and his wife, along with Edi and his wife, left initially for Romania in 1946, living in Bacau and Satu Mare, but in subsequent years moved to Austria and Italy, living in displaced persons camp in the latter country during 1948 until they were able to leave for Israel in early 1949, and reunite with Mordechai and his family. Rubinstein settled in Beit She'an, where he founded the organization Poale Tsedek ("Workers of Justice"), and wrote and published a book about Sadagora (under his adopted name of Ben-Saar) titled "Der jüdische Vatikan von Sadagora, 1850-1950," memorializing the Jewish community of his hometown. Rubinstein died in Beit She'an on December 19, 1963.

Scope and content of collection

The Pinus Rubinstein collection consists of a diary, in three volumes, kept by Rubinstein from 1900 to 1949, and written primarily while he lived in Bukovina, in Czernowitz and Sadagora (Chernivtsi and Sadhora, Ukraine). The diaries begin with Rubinstein's adolescent years in Sadagora, his service in the Austrian Army in World War I, his marriage and life in Czernowitz in the inter-war years, life in German-occupied Czernowitz from 1941-1944, and his family's post-war journey to Romania and Austria and eventually Israel. The diaries also contain poetry and stories from Rubinstein, signed under his pen name of Ben-Saar. The diaries were the partial basis for the publication "Der jüdische Vatikan in Sadagora, 1850-1950," a history of the Jewish community in that city, which Rubinstein published in Tel Aviv in 1958. The collection also includes a portrait photograph of the Czernowitz Hairdressers Academy, 1936, to which Pinus Rubinstein belonged and a visiting card for Ben-Saar (P. Rubinstein), in his role as chairman of the organization "Poale Tsedek," in Beit She'an, Israel, circa 1950.

System of arrangement

The Pinus Rubinstein collection is arranged as a series.

Indexing terms

Persons:

Rubenstein, Pinus, 1888-1963.

Topical Subjects:

Jews--Ukraine--Chernivtsi--Biography.

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

World War, 1939-1945--Conscript labor.

World War, 1914-1918--Personal narratives.

Geography:

Sadhora (Chernivtsi, Ukraine)

Chernivtsi (Ukraine)

Genre/Form:

Diaries.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Pinus Rubinstein collection, circa 1900-1950

Box/Folder	Title
BE 1	Diary: Volume I, 1900-1915
BE 2	Diary: Volume II, 1915-1933
BE 3	Diary: Volume III, 1933-1949
1	Diary: Slipcase for three volumes
folder 1 of 1	Rubenstein, Pinus, 1936-1950