

**GIORGIO PERLASCA CORRESPONDENCE WITH
EVA AND PÁL LANG, 1988-1997
2016.169.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Giorgio Perlasca correspondence with Eva and Pál Lang

Dates: 1988-1997

Accession number: 2016.169.1

Creator: Perlasca, Giorgio.

Extent: 5 folders

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

Abstract: Correspondence, sent between Giorgio Perlasca, of Padua, Italy, and Eva and Pál Lang, of Budapest, Hungary, 1988-1992. and with Perlasca's family, 1992-1997. The Langs, who were among the Jews saved by Perlasca's actions in Budapest in 1944-1945, when Perlasca provided over 5,000 people with safe conduct passes through the Spanish legation in Budapest to prevent their deportation by the Nazis, contacted him in 1988 to express their gratitude. The Langs remained in contact with Perlasca in the following years, visiting him in Italy and hosting visits in Hungary, which are documented in this correspondence. In addition, Perlasca describes Holocaust commemoration events he had been invited to, including his naming as a Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in 1988, and his reflections on human rights and anti-Semitism in contemporary Europe.

Languages: Italian, Hungarian.

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.

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Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Giorgio Perlasca correspondence with Eva and Pál Lang (accession number), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Gift of Peter Lang, the son of Eva and Pál Lang, 2016.

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

Processing history: Processed by Brad Bauer, May 2016.

Biographical note

Giorgio Perlasca (1910-1992) was born on 31 January, 1910, in Como, Italy, the son of an Italian government official in Padua. He fought for some time in the Spanish Civil War and later took a position in an Italian trade firm. He later worked in other cities in Eastern Europe after Italy entered World War II in 1940. He maintained an official position with the Italian Trade Commission, living in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (Serbia) for a year in 1941 and in 1942. Perlasca continued his work for the Italian government largely unimpeded until the fall of the Hungarian regent, Admiral Miklos Horthy, in 1944. Perlasca was interned by the Hungarian government from April to October 1944 after the Germans took control of Hungary. He escaped from internment on falsified papers provided by a member of the Swiss Diplomatic Corps. Using his status as a veteran of the Spanish Civil War, Perlasca adopted Spanish nationality and began work at the Spanish Legation shortly thereafter, where he posed as the Spanish Charge d'Affaires after the flight of the appointed Charge d'Affaires for Spain, in December 1944. During this time, he worked for the establishment of several safehouses in Budapest for sheltering Jews under Spanish protection. He also coordinated efforts with representatives of other neutral nations, including Raoul Wallenberg of Sweden, and the representatives of the Vatican, Portugal and Switzerland, to shelter and save Jews from deportation. Upon the liberation of by the Soviet Red Army in February 1945, Perlasca returned to Italy and raised his family. In 1987 he was honored for his wartime actions as a Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem, and was similarly honored with the Medal of Remembrance by the United States Holocaust Memorial Council in 1990.

Scope and content of collection

Correspondence, sent between Giorgio Perlasca, of Padua, Italy, and Eva and Pál Lang, of Budapest, Hungary, 1988-1992. and with Perlasca's family, 1992-1997. The Langs, who were among the Jews saved by Perlasca's actions in Budapest in 1944-1945, when Perlasca provided over 5,000 people with safe conduct passes through the Spanish legation in Budapest to prevent their deportation by the Nazis, contacted him in 1988 to express their gratitude. The Langs remained in contact with Perlasca in the following years, visiting him in Italy and hosting visits in Hungary, which are documented in this correspondence. In addition, Perlasca describes Holocaust commemoration events he had been invited to, including his naming as a Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in 1988, and his reflections on human rights and anti-Semitism in contemporary Europe.

System of arrangement

The Giorgio Perlasca correspondence with Eva and Pál Lang is arranged in chronological order.

Indexing terms

Perlasca, Giorgio,--1910-1992.
World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue--Hungary--Budapest.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Hungary--Budapest.
Jews--Hungary--Budapest--Correspondence.
Righteous Gentiles in the Holocaust--Italy.

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