

JOSEF AND RUTH ROSENBERG PAPERS, 1904-1997
2016.456.4

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: Josef and Ruth Rosenberg papers

Dates: 1901-1997 [bulk 1945-1971]

Accession number: 2016.456.4

Creator: Rosenberg, Josef, 1903-1972.
Rosenberg, Ruth, 1920-2014.

Extent: 1.17 linear feet (2 boxes, 1 oversize box, 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The collection primarily documents the post-war experiences of Josef and Ruth Rosenberg, both of whom were from Poland, interned in the Łódź ghetto, and liberated from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where they met and later married. The collection includes identification papers, immigration documents, restitution claims paperwork, and photographs taken at Bergen-Belsen from 1945-1947 along with some pre-war family photographs.

Languages: German, English, Hebrew, Yiddish, Polish

Administrative Information

Access: There are no known restrictions on access to this material.

Reproduction and use: Material(s) in this collection may be protected by copyright and/or related rights. You do not require further permission from the Museum to use this material. The user is solely responsible for making a determination as to if and how the material may be used.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Josef and Ruth Rosenberg papers (2016.456.), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Bella Rosenberg in 2016 and 2019.

Related archival materials: The Joseph and Ruth Rosenberg collection contains two related artifacts: a comb in case [2016.456.2a-b] and framed scrip and tags [2016.456.3].

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

Processing history: Adam Fielding, January 2017, revised Julie Schweitzer, April 2023

Biographical note

Ruth Rosenberg (born Ruchla Wolman, 1920-2014) was born on 13 February 1920 in Łódź, Poland to Israel Wolf and Dvora Bella (née Weiland) Wolman. She had five brothers, Fiszel (1918-), David (1922-), Josef (1923-), Aron, (1925-), and Szyman (1930-). Her father was a businessman and her mother was a dental technician. In 1939 Ruth and her family were sent to the Łódź ghetto, where she worked as a forced-laborer in a factory. Her family was slowly deported beginning with her brothers and then her parents. They were all killed. Ruth was deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp on 22 August 1944. She remained in the camp for about ten days, and then was deported to Bremerhaven where she was a forced-laborer. She remained there for several months and then was sent on a death march to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. At Bergen-Belsen she had to move dead bodies to a mass grave. She was there approximately eight days before the camp was liberated by the English army on 15 April 1945.

Josef Rosenberg (1903-1972) was born 8 June 1903 in Tuszyn, Poland to Hinda (née Lasker) and Eliezer Lipman Rosenberg. His paternal grandfather was Rabbi Hacoheh Rosenberg of Strykow, Poland. Josef had three brothers, Ichiel, Srulek (d. 1978), and Shmuel; and four sisters, Mania, Chana, Chava, and Sima. His brother Ichiel and his sister Mania both passed away before the war. Josef was a businessman who owned several textile factories in Łódź. He was married to Masha Tabakman and they had a daughter, Helenka. In 1939, Josef, Masha, and Helenka were sent to the Łódź ghetto. They were deported to Auschwitz on 23 August 1944, where Masha and Helenka were killed. Josef was deported to the Hannover-Stöcken Continental-Werke, a subcamp of the Neuengamme concentration camp, in September 1944. He was then transferred to the Hannover-Ahlem subcamp. He was deported in March 1945 to Bergen-Belsen and was nearly dead at the time of liberation. All his siblings survived the war.

After the war, Ruth reconnected with Josef, whom she had known from Łódź prior to the war. They were married in 1946 in Bergen-Belsen (there are also documents that date their marriage to 1949 in Frankfurt), and moved to Frankfurt am Main, Germany by 1947. Their daughter, Bella, was born in 1950. In 1952, they immigrated to the United States on board the *RMS Queen Mary* and settled in Forest Hills, New York.

Scope and content of collection

The collection primarily documents the post-war experiences of Josef and Ruth Rosenberg, both of whom were from Poland, interned in the Łódź ghetto, and liberated from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where they met and later married. The collection includes identification papers, immigration documents, restitution claims paperwork, and photographs taken at Bergen-Belsen from 1945-1947 along with some pre-war family photographs.

The biographical materials include identification papers and immigration documents that both reflect their status as stateless refugees. The restitution claims paperwork for both Josef and Ruth document their Holocaust experiences and also discuss Ruth's medical problems related to her imprisonment in several concentration camps. There are also several personal narratives of Ruth's that describe her Holocaust experiences and give details on her family.

The photographs primarily depict the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp from 1945-1947. Included are photographs from the first anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen in 1946; other photographs taken in Bergen-Belsen with Josef, Ruth, and other survivors; and photographs of theatrical productions by the Concentration Camp Theatre of the Central Jewish Committee of Bergen-Belsen. The photograph albums contain similar and duplicate copies of the Bergen-Belsen photographs, along with a select few that depict displaced persons at the Landsberg displaced persons camp. Family photographs include Josef, Ruth, and their daughter Bella's trip to the United States aboard the *RMS Queen Mary*; relatives of Ruth in the Weiland and Wolman families; and Josef's relatives and his first wife Masha Tabakman and their daughter Helenka, both of whom perished in Auschwitz in 1944. There are also two photographs of a bakery in the Łódź ghetto and copy prints depicting the Worms Synagogue in Worms, Germany prior to its destruction on Kristallnacht in 1938.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as two series:

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1945-1997

Series 2: Photographs, 1901-1952

The series are arranged alphabetically by folder title. Documents are arranged chronologically. The photographs from the three red leather photograph albums have been removed for preservation purposes.

Indexing terms

Person:

Rosenberg, Josef, 1903-1972.

Rosenberg, Ruth, 1920-2014.

Rosenberg, Bella, 1950-

Corporate:

Bergen Belsen (Concentration camp)

Bergen-Belsen (Displaced persons camp)

Queen Mary (Steamship)

Auschwitz (Concentration camp)

Hannover-Stöcken (Continental) (Concentration camp)

Ahlem (Concentration camp)

Topical Subject:

Restitution and indemnification claims (1933-)--Germany.

Jewish families--Poland--Łódź.

Holocaust (1939-1945)--Personal narratives.

Forced labor.

Jewish ghettos--Poland--Łódź.

Jewish theater--Europe--History--20th century.

Emigration & immigration--United States.

Geography:
Łódź (Poland)

Genre/Form:
Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1945-1997

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Book of Remembrance: Prisoners in the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp, 1995
OS 1	Clipping, 1961
1.2	Family book (Stammbuch), 1949-1950
1.3	Marriage, 1946-1973
1.4-1.6	Restitution claims papers, 1945-1997
1.7	Rosenberg, Bella: Immigration documents, 1951-1952
1.8	Rosenberg, Joseph: Identification papers, 1950-1957
1.9	Rosenberg, Joseph: Immigration documents, circa 1950-1957
1.10	Rosenberg, Ruth: Identification papers, circa 1946-1958
1.11	Rosenberg, Ruth: Immigration documents, 1951-1957
1.12	Rosenberg, Ruth: Letter from Bella Rosenberg, circa 1970s [letter includes postcard from Łódź]
1.13	Rosenberg, Ruth: Personal narratives, circa 1970s
1.14	Rosenberg, Ruth: Survivors of the Shoah interview, 1996
1.15	Rosenberg, Ruth: RMS Queen Mary menu, 1952

Series 2: Photographs, 1901-1952

Box/Folder	Title
1.16	Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp, 1945-1947
1.17	Bergen-Belsen: First anniversary of liberation, 1946
1.18	Concentration Camp Theatre of the Central Jewish Committee of Bergen-Belsen, circa 1946
1.19	Dachau postcard, 1945
1.20	Family and friends, 1901-circa 1942
1.21	House, Palestine, circa 1940s
1.22	Łódź ghetto, Bäckerei No. 23, 1942
3.1	Photograph albums: Blue and orange cloth album, circa 1945-circa 1946
3.2	Photograph albums: Brown with white stripes cloth album, circa 1945-circa 1946

3.3	Photograph albums: Red cloth album, circa 1945-circa 1946
1.23, 3.4	Photograph albums: Red leather album 1, 1945-circa 1946
1.24, 3.5	Photograph albums: Red leather album 2, 1945-circa 1946
1.25, 3.6	Photograph albums: Red leather album 3, 1945-1946
1.26	RMS Queen Mary, 1952
1.27	Rosenberg, Hacoheh, circa 1910s
1.28	Rosenberg, Hinda, circa 1920s
2.1	Rosenberg, Josef, 1927-1946
2.2	Rosenberg, Josef, Ichiel, and Srulek, circa 1930s
2.3	Rosenberg, Josef and Ruth, 1946-1947
2.4	Rosenberg, Josef and Ruth: Wedding, 1946
2.5	Rosenberg, Josef with Masha and Helenka Tabakmann, 1936-1939
2.6	Rosenberg, Ruth, 1931-1947
2.7	Rosenberg, Shmuel, circa 1930s
2.8	SS Cap Arona, circa 1945
2.9	Weiland, Leah and Moshe, circa 1930s
2.10	Wolman, Szymon, 1934
2.11	Worms Synagogue, circa 1930s