

ADLER FAMILY PAPERS, CIRCA 1880s-2003
2016.458.1

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: Adler family papers

Dates: circa 1880s-2003

Accession number: 2016.458.1

Creator: Adler (Family : Szeged, Hungary)

Extent: 3.00 linear feet (4 boxes, 1 oversize box, 8 book enclosures, 3 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The Adler family papers document the Holocaust experiences of brothers Denis and János Adler, originally of Szeged, Hungary, and members of their extended families. The collection contains correspondence, biographical materials, immigration documents, restitution claims, and photographs regarding pre-war family lives; Denis's emigration from Szeged in 1939; János's conscription into the Hungarian Labor Service that accompanied German troops during the invasion of the Soviet Union, and his subsequent wounding and imprisonment in the field hospital in Alexajewka-Nikolajewka; the imprisonment and forced labor of Eva Adler, her mother Berta Neumann, and Borsca Adler in the Strasshof labor camp, Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, and Theresienstadt concentration camp; and post-war immigration to the United States.

Languages: Hungarian, English, German

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), Adler family papers (2016.458.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Adler family papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Barbara Adler in 2016.

Related archival materials: Barbara Adler also donated the following objects: Embroidered tablecloth, Rentenmark currency, Iron Cross box, medal and ribbon, Russian Ruble currency, Theresienstadt ghetto labor camp script, an Unused Star of David badge, and a prayer book.

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 and Brad Bauer, August-September 2016, November 2018

Biographical note

Rezső Adler (1874-1939) and Borsca Czikkai (sometimes referred to as Borbala or Boriska; later Barbara; 1885-1975), both of Szeged, Hungary, married in 1904. Borsca was the daughter János and Rosa Czikkai. She had four siblings, Ilona (1876-1980), Margit (1878-1945) Máttyàs (1889-1946), and Rozsa (1891-1977). Borsca and Rezső had two sons, Denis (born Dénes, nicknamed Dini; 1914-2011) and János (nicknamed Jancsi, briefly changed his last name to Arato, later John; 1905-1994), as well as two other children who died young, Béla and Magda. Rezső worked in the grain industry. He also served in the Hungarian army during World War I, and was wounded in 1916. He died in 1939 from angina.

Denis studied medicine, graduating with a Ph.D. in 1938. He worked in Makó, and Budapest, Hungary after graduation. After his father's death in April 1939, and with the increasing difficulty of Jews to practice medicine in Hungary, he began to look for ways to emigrate. He found a position in Paris, France with Dr. Francois Moutier, and moved there in May 1939. Through assistance with his family, he was able to secure an American visa despite the difficulties of living in German-occupied Paris after 1940. He left Paris in April 1941 with the assistance of a guide who led him out of the city, and took a train to Marseille. From there, he boarded the S.S. *Winnipeg* to sail to New York via Martinique. The ship was diverted to Port of Spain, Trinidad, where the passengers were taken off the boat. Denis was detained by the British Navy and accused of being a spy due to his fluency with German. He was released after two weeks and sailed to the United States on the S.S. *Arcadia*. He continued to practice medicine as a radiologist, first in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1943, and then in New York, 1944-1945. He married Patricia Valentine (1921-) in 1943, and they moved to Los Angeles, California in 1945. He continued to practice as a radiologist, and also taught radiology and the University of Southern California. They had three children, Steven (1947-), Thomas (1949-), and Barbara (1951-). Denis and Patricia divorced in 1965, and he married Sylvia Betron (1918-2000) in 1969.

János attended the Vienna University of Economics and Business in Austria (then known as Hochschule für Welthandel), graduating in 1927. He then moved back to Szeged and began working for the Agraria Merchandising Corporation, a grain business founded by his father. He married Eva Timár in 1937. In 1942, János was conscripted into the Hungarian Labor Service, and sent to a military camp in Kunszentmiklos, and was assigned to Battalion 254. In October 1942, he stepped on a Russian landmine and sustained serious injuries to his leg. He was sent to the field hospital in Alexajewka-Nikolajewka. In January 1943, the Germans and Hungarians fled the hospital due to the advancing Red Army. The

Russians took control of the hospital, and János was sent to a prison camp (sometimes referred to as Prison Camp 188) in Tambov, Russia. The Russians assigned him to deliver political lectures to German prisoners-of-war on topics related to the Soviet Union. He remained at the camp until the end of the war. Upon returning to Szeged, he learned that Eva, her mother Berta Neumann, and his mother Borsca all survived the war and had returned to the city. János and Eva immigrated to the United States in 1948, first travelling out of Hungary to London, and then taking the *S.S. Queen Elizabeth* to New York. They settled in Los Angeles where János worked for the Capital Brush Company, eventually becoming vice-president.

Berta Neumann (née Hoffer; 1886-1980) was born in Szeged to Marcus Hoffer (1859-1934) and Maria Gelberger (1870-1942). She had four siblings, Rhoda (later Rhoda Lakond; 1899-1983), Adrienne (1913-), Stephanis, and Léopold (d. 1976). She was married to Dezső Timár (1882-) and they had two daughters, Lisa (later Lisa Foldes; 1912-1986) and Eva (later Eva Adler; 1913-2007). She and Dezső divorced, and she later married Gyula Neumann (later Julius; 1879-1945), a wealthy wine and liquor merchant. They had one daughter, Zsuzsa (later Susan Foldes). Gyula traveled to New York in 1939 for the World's Fair, during which World War II began. He remained in New York and Cincinnati for the duration of the war, dying of a heart attack in 1945.

Zsuzsa survived the war in Budapest by hiding. She was married to Paul Foldes (1914-2001), who was sent to a camp but also survived. They planned to immigrate to the United States after the war, but only Zsuzsa was able to get a visa. She moved to Cincinnati where her sister Lisa lived, but died after getting hit by a truck. Paul, who was in Cuba at the time of her death trying to secure a visa, was granted permission to come to her funeral. While in the United States, he married her sister Lisa in order to remain in the country.

Lisa Timár was a trained pianist who studied at the Royal Hungarian Franz Liszt Conservatory of Music. She also studied dietetics at the University of Szeged. In 1937 she immigrated to New York, and later settled in Cincinnati. She worked as a food service manager for the Shillito's department store.

Eva attended St. Ursula Convent School in Glasenbach, Austria. After graduation from the finishing school, and a brief time working at the opera house in Budapest, Eva apprenticed with a furrier workshop in Szeged. She then worked at a knitting factory from 1936-1940. She married János Adler in 1937.

In March 1944, the Germans occupied Hungary, and the Jews in Szeged were sent to the ghetto. In June 1944, Borsca, her sister Margit, Eva, and her mother Berta were sent to the Strasshof labor camp in Vienna, Austria where they performed forced-labor in a brick factory. In October 1944, they were sent to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, and in May 1945 they were transported to Theresienstadt, which was soon liberated by the Russians. Borsca and her sister Margit both contracted typhus. Margit perished but Borsca survived. After the war, Borsca, Eva, and Berta all went back Szeged. Borsca and Berta immigrated to the United States in 1946. Borsca settled in Los Angeles, and Berta settled first in Cincinnati, and later in Los Angeles.

Scope and content of collection

The Adler family papers document the Holocaust experiences of brothers Denis and János Adler, originally of Szeged, Hungary, and members of their extended families. The collection contains correspondence, biographical materials, immigration documents, restitution claims, and photographs

regarding pre-war family lives; Denis's emigration from Szeged in 1939; János's conscription into the Hungarian Labor Service that accompanied German troops during the invasion of the Soviet Union, and his subsequent wounding and imprisonment in the field hospital in Alexajewka-Nikolajewka; the imprisonment and forced labor of Eva Adler, her mother Berta Neumann, and Borsca Adler in the Strasshof labor camp, Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, and Theresienstadt concentration camp; and post-war immigration to the United States.

The biographical materials primarily contain birth, marriage, and death certificates; identification documents such as passports; employment records; and school records and diplomas. Other materials include documents related to Denis Adler's medical profession in Szeged, Paris, and Los Angeles; János Adler's brief name change to János Arató in 1946; accounting sheets of Eva Adler that likely represent clothing she made and sold; and records for the sale of a family property in Szeged in 1947. In addition, there are documents regarding Eva Adler, Borsca Adler, and Berta Neumann's imprisonment in Theresienstadt concentration camp, and their repatriation from there to Szeged in late 1945.

The bulk of the correspondence consists of letters exchanged among family members from 1938-1945. Many of the letters were received by Denis Adler, Lisa Timár, and Gyula Neumann, all of whom had arrived in the United States by 1941. The correspondence of Denis Adler also includes letters received by his brother János discussing family news and the conditions in Szeged in the fall of 1945; and letters by Raymonde Grumbach and Francois Moutier, both of whom were doctors Denis worked with while in Paris. The correspondence of Lisa Timár includes letters from János and Eva in Szeged to Lisa, 1937-1941; and extensive letters from her stepfather Gyula Neumann. Other correspondence includes postcards exchanged between János and Eva after János was conscripted into the Hungarian Labor Service and sent to Kunszentmiklós. There is also post-war correspondence of János from his former school friends and his teacher Jozsef Kerkai.

The emigration and immigration papers primarily document János, Eva, and Borsca Adler's efforts to immigrate to the United States after the war. Included are application materials, travel documents, and correspondence. There is also correspondence between Denis Adler and the United States Department of State on behalf of his mother, Borsca.

The restitution claims contain records relating to the Adler family's restitution claims through the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, and the Austrian Reconciliation Fund. Included are applications, supporting documents, and correspondence.

The photographs primarily document the Adler and Timár families' pre-war lives in Szeged, but also include some wartime photographs and post-war depictions of family life in Szeged and the United States. The pre-war photographs include childhood photographs of Eva, Lisa, Denis, and János; various related family members; Jewish social events attended by Eva and Lisa; and Denis's medical school. Wartime photographs include Denis with other doctors in Paris, aboard the *S.S. Winnipeg*, and in custody in Trinidad in 1941 while en-route to the United States; János with Jewish labor troops, likely in Kiszomber and Makó; and probably French prisoners in Szeged and Haag, Austria. Post-war photographs include János and Eva's apartment in Szeged and various family members in the United States.

The ephemera include a cookbook from Bergen-Belsen that was owned by Eva Adler and a collection of writings that were likely authored by Lisa Timár.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as six series:

- Series 1: Biographical material, 1892-1986
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1937-circa 2002
- Series 3: Emigration and Immigration, 1944-1954
- Series 4: Restitution claims, 1938-2003
- Series 5: Photographs, circa 1880s-2003
- Series 6: Ephemera, 1914-1995

Each series is arranged alphabetically by folder title. Documents are arranged chronologically. The family names used were determined by what appeared most frequently in the documents.

Indexing terms

Person:

Adler, Denis, 1914-2011.

Adler, János, 1905-1994.

Adler, Borsca, 1885-1975.

Neumann, Berta, 1886-1980.

Adler, Eva, 1913-2007.

Timár, Lisa, 1912-1986.

Corporate:

Strasshof (Concentration camp)

Bergen-Belsen (Concentration camp)

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)

Queen Elizabeth (Ship)

Topical Subject:

Jewish families--Hungary.

Holocaust Jewish (1939-1945)--Hungary--History.

Jewish ghettos--Hungary--Szeged.

Jewish physicians--Hungary.

Restitution and indemnification claims (1933-)

Emigration and immigration--United States.

Concentration camps.

Forced labor--Austria--Vienna.

Forced labor--Hungary.

Prisoner-of-war camps--Soviet Union.

Geography:

Szeged (Hungary)

Paris (France)

Cincinnati (Ohio)

Los Angeles (Calif.)

Genre/Form:

Photographs.
Photograph albums.
Correspondence.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical material, 1892-1986

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Adler, Borsca, 1946-1975
1.2	Adler, Denis: 1938-1945
1.3, BE 1	Adler, Denis: Address books, circa 1941-circa 1945 (2 folders)
1.4, OS 1.1	Adler, Denis: Diplomas and certificates, 1936-1951 (2 folders)
1.5	Adler, Denis: Medical profession, 1936-1967
BE 2	Adler, Denis: Notebook kept in Paris, circa 1940-circa 1941
1.6	Adler, Eva: 1922-1984
1.7	Adler, Eva: Accounting sheets, 1935-circa 1940
1.8	Adler, Eva: Education and trade certificates, 1930-1948
1.9, OS 1.4	Adler, János: 1942-1949 (2 folders)
1.10	Adler, János: Employment, 1948-1954
1.11	Adler, János: German Volkswagen car purchase, 1966-1967
1.12, OS 1.2	Adler, János: School documents, 1916-1973 (2 folders)
1.13	Adler, János and Eva: European vacation, 1966
1.14	Adler, János and Eva: Hungarian passport, 1946
1.15	Adler, Rezső, 1917-1948
1.16	Adler, Salamon, 1939-1940
1.17	Cziklai, János and Rosa Czinner, 1939-1940
1.18	Neumann, Berta, 1892-1980
1.19	Neumann, Gyula, 1939-1947
1.20	Papers with names of people known by the Adlers during the Holocaust, circa 1945
1.21	Szeged property sale, 1947-1948
1.22	Theresienstadt documents, 1945; 1948
1.23	Theresienstadt documents regarding repatriation to Szeged, Hungary, 1945
1.24	Timár, Dezső, 1904-1946
1.25	Timár, Lisa: Death, 1986

Series 2: Correspondence, 1937-circa 2002

Box/Folder	Title
1.26	Adler, Borsca: 1942-1944
1.27	Adler, Borsca: Adler, János, 1942-1945
1.28	Adler, Denis: 1941-1964
1.29	Adler, Denis: Adler, Borsca, 1945-1946
1.30	Adler, Denis: Adler, János, 1941-1946
1.31	Adler, Denis: Grumbach, Adée and Raymonde, 1945

2.1	Adler, Denis: Lakond, Rhoda, 1945-1946
2.2	Adler, Denis: <i>Magyar Jövő</i> journal, 1945
2.3	Adler, Denis: Moutier, Francois, 1940-1945
2.4	Adler, Denis: Neumann, Gyula, 1945
2.5	Adler, Denis: Timár, Lisa, 1945
2.6	Adler, Eva: 1937-circa 2002
2.7	Adler, Eva: Adler, János, 1942-1943
2.8	Adler, Eva: Akos, Anna, 1969-1998
2.9	Adler, Eva: Geiblinger family, 1962
2.10	Adler, Eva: Kertez, Rozsa, 1944
2.11	Adler, Eva: Timár, Lisa, 1941
2.12	Adler, János: 1942-1991
2.13	Adler, János: Adler, Eva, 1942-1943
2.14	Adler, János: Adler, Denis, circa 1945
2.15	Adler, János: Kerr, Stefan, 1966
2.16	Adler, János: Kerkai, Jozsef, circa 1950s
2.17	Adler, János: Merenyi, Albin, and Helen, 1973-1990
2.18	Adler, János: Sauerwein-Kapellmeister, Johann, 1983
2.19, OS 1.3	Adler, János and Eva: Schweiger, Martha and Erich, 1973-1988 (2 folders)
2.20	Kertez, Rozsa: Adler, Borsca, 1938
2.21	Kertez, Rozsa: Adler, János and Eva, 1938-1945
2.22	Kertez, Rozsa: Neumann, Berta, 1938
2.23	Kertez, Rozsa: Neumann, Gyula, circa 1940s
2.24	Lakond, Rhoda, 1938-1945
2.25	Neumann, Berta: Adler, János and Eva, 1944
2.26	Neumann, Gyula: 1940-1944
2.27	Neumann, Gyula: Adler, Borsca, circa 1939
2.28	Neumann, Gyula: Adler, János and Eva, 1940-1944
2.29	Neumann, Gyula: Neumann, Berta, 1938-1945
2.30	Timár, Lisa: 1940-1946
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2.32	Timár, Lisa: Adler, János and Eva, 1937-1941
2.33	Timár, Lisa: Neumann, Berta, 1938-1945
2.34	Timár, Lisa: Neumann, Gyula, 1938-1941
2.35	Other correspondence and unknown author, 1942-1943

Series 3: Emigration and Immigration, 1944-1954

Box/Folder	Title
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2.37	Adler, Borsca: Adler, Denis correspondence with United States Department of State, 1945-1946
2.38	Adler, Borsca: Adler, Denis correspondence with Zionist Organization of America, 1944-1945
2.39	Adler, Borsca: Union Pacific Railroad Co. freight card, 1947

2.40	Adler, Denis: <i>S.S. Winnipeg</i> , 1941-1945
2.41	Adler, Eva, 1945-1954
2.42	Adler, János, 1945-1954
3.1	Neumann, Berta: Naturalization certificate, 1952
3.2	Timár, Lisa: Naturalization certificate, 1944

Series 4: Restitution claims, 1938-2003

Box/Folder	Title
3.3-3.6	Adler family, 1939-1996 (4 folders)
3.7	Austrian Reconciliation Fund, 2002-2003
3.8	Neumann, Berta, 1938-1958

Series 5: Photographs, circa 1880s-2003

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5	Adler, Borsca: Framed photograph, circa 1930s
3.10	Adler, Borsca with Berta Neumann, possibly with French prisoners, Szeged, Hungary, 1944
3.11	Adler, Denis: 1934-1978
3.12	Adler, Denis: Danube and Tisza boat trip, 1932
3.13	Adler, Denis: Medical school, likely in Szeged, circa 1936
3.14	Adler, Denis: On the <i>S.S. Winnipeg</i> and in custody in Trinidad, 1941
3.15	Adler, Denis: With Adée Grumbach, Marseille, France, 1941
3.16	Adler, Denis: With Francois Moutier and Raymonde Grumbach, Paris, France, 1939-1940
3.17	Adler, Eva, 1914-1962
3.18	Adler, Eva: 90 th birthday party, 2003
3.19	Adler family apartment, Szeged, Hungary, 1947 <i>One negative moved to cold storage</i>
3.20	Adler, Janós, circa 1906-1962 <i>One negative moved to cold storage</i>
3.21	Adler, Janós: Class photograph, 1922
3.22	Adler, Janós with Jewish labor troops, likely in Kiszomber and Makó, Hungary, 1940-circa 1942
3.23	Adler, Janós and Eva: 1935-circa 1980s
3.24	Adler, Janós and Eva: Apartment, Szeged, 1937
3.25	Adler, Janós and Eva: Apartment, Szeged, 1947
3.26	Adler, Janós and Eva: Honeymoon, 1937
BE 4	Adler, Janós and Eva: Photograph album [green], circa 1905-circa 1930s
3.27	Adler, Janós and Eva: With Janós, Mariste, and Katinka Ujhelyi, 1941
3.28	Adler, Patricia, 1943
3.29	Adler, Rezső, circa 1914-1916
3.30	Adler, Salomon, circa 1904

3.31	Cziklai, Matyas, 1914
3.32	Deutsch, Kunigund Glükelt, circa 1885-circa 1900
4.1	Foldes, Paul, circa 1950s
4.2	[probably] French forced labor prisoners, Haag, Austria, 1944
4.3	Hoffer, Leopold, circa 1960s-1972
4.4	Hoffer, Marcus and Maria, circa 1880s-1939
4.5	Kerkai, Jozsef, 1968-circa 1972
4.6	Kertez, Rozsa, circa 1940s; 1982
4.7	Marberger, Vera and Rozsa, 1943-1974
4.8	Merenyi, Albin and Helen; Albin Merenyi funeral [?], circa 1970-1990
4.9, OS 2	Neubauer family, circa 1894 (2 folders)
4.10	Neumann, Berta, circa 1890s-circa 1975
4.11	Neumann, Gyula, circa 1930s
4.12	Neumann, Zsuzsa, 1928-circa 1946
4.13	Sauerwein-Kapellmeister, Johan and family, 1979-1985
4.14	Thomas, Edith Sherman, circa 1921
4.15	Timár, Dezső, 1922
4.16	Timár, Dezső, Lisa, and Eva, 1922
4.17	Timár, Lisa: 1929-1965
4.18	Timár, Lisa: Friends, 1937-1938
4.19	Timár, Lisa: In the classroom, circa 1930
BE 5, 4.20	Timár, Lisa: Photograph album [red-orange pattern], 1912-circa 1935 (2 folders)
BE 6	Timár, Lisa: Photograph album [gold], circa 1920s-circa 1930s
BE 7, 4.21	Timár, Lisa: Photograph album [green], 1927-1928 (2 folders)
BE 8	Timár, Lisa: Photograph album [maroon with yellow striping], 1928-1930
4.22	Timár, Lisa: With Paul Foldes, circa 1960s
4.23	Timár, Lisa and Eva: Jewish Regatta, 1935
4.24	Timár, Lisa and Eva: Social events in Szeged, Hungary, 1935-1936
4.25	Ujhelyi, Janós and Katinka, 1930-1951

Series 6: Ephemera, 1914-1995

Box/Folder	Title
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BE 3	Bergen-Belsen recipe book, 1945
4.27, OS 3	Clippings, 1945-circa 1990 (2 folders)
4.28	Pensionat St. Ursula, Salzburg boarding school postcards and pamphlet, circa 1928; 1956
4.29	Receipts, 1944-1995
4.30	Writings, likely by Lisa Timár, circa 1936-circa 1940