

HENDEL AND WEISSMAN FAMILIES PAPERS, CIRCA 1920-1956
2016.497.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Hendel and Weissman families papers

Dates: circa 1920-1956

Accession number: 2016.497.1

Creator: Hendel family (Zagreb :Croatia)
Weissman family (Zagreb :Croatia)

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box, 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The collection documents the Holocaust experiences of Eisig and Hana (née Weissman) Hendel and their children David and Rut (later Tamar) of Zagreb, Yugoslavia (present day Zagreb, Croatia). Included are identification papers, immigration documents, financial papers, and photographs that document their escape from Zagreb to Rovigo and Rome, Italy, and their experiences as refugees at the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter in Oswego, New York. There are also pre-war photographs of the Hendel and Weissman families in Zagreb.

Languages: Croatian, Italian, English, Hebrew

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), Hendel and Weissman families papers (2016.497.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Tamar Hendel-Fishman in 2016.

Related materials: The Hendel and Weissman families collection contains a Girl Scout Badge and Sash worn by Tamar Hendel-Fishman when she was a child at the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter.

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, May 2017

Biographical note

Eisig Yitzhak Hendel (1903-1992; later Isaac Handy) was born in 1903 in the village of Turza Wielka, Poland to David and Reisel Hendel. He had one brother Wolf. He married Hana Sarah Weissman in 1927 in Zagreb, Yugoslavia (present day Zagreb, Croatia). Hana (later Hana Hendel Handy) 1908-1998) was born in 1908 in Ruda Różaniecka, Poland to Mordechai Weissman and Yetta Schneider-Weissman. She had one brother, Samuel, and three sisters, Bertha (1911-1997), Haika (1921-2011), and Darinka (b. 1922).

Eisig and Hana had two children, Rut (b. 1935, later Tamar Hendel-Fishman) and David (b. 1928), both born in Zagreb. They owned a dry goods store. After the German invasion of Yugoslavia in 1941, the family went into hiding and sought ways to escape. Hana and Ruth left Zagreb first, followed by Eisig and David soon after. They were joined by Hana's mother Yetta, and her sister Bertha and her two sons Volko and Herman in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Prior to fleeing Zagreb, Yetta's husband Mordechai and Bertha's husband Aron were both killed. The family was then able get to Rovigo, Italy. They remained there until the German invasion of Italy in 1943. They fled to Rome, and lived there using false papers. In August 1944 the Hendels were able to get on a refugee ship, the *USNS Henry Gibbins*, and sail to the United States. They were relocated to the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter in Oswego, New York.

By 1946, the family moved to New York City, settling in Flushing, Queens. David served in the Korean War, and later became a dentist. Rut became a public school teacher in New York and Maryland, and later became an art therapist. Eisig, who had apprenticed as a jeweler before the war, found work in that profession. Hana's sister Bertha and her sons Vilko and Herman also immigrated to the United States. Her mother Yetta and her sisters Haika and Darinka immigrated to Brazil after the war.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the Holocaust experiences of Eisig and Hana (née Weissman) Hendel and their children David and Rut of Zagreb, Yugoslavia (present day Zagreb, Croatia). Included are identification papers, immigration documents, financial papers, and photographs that document their escape from Zagreb to Rovigo and Rome, Italy, and their experiences as refugees at the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter in Oswego, New York. There are also pre-war photographs of the Hendel and Weissman families in Zagreb.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as two series:
Series 1: Biographical papers, 1931-1956

Series 2: Photographs, circa 1920-1956

The biographical papers are organized by location and contain documents primarily of Eisig and Hana Hendel. Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Hendel, Tamar.

Hendell, David.

Hendel, Eisig, 1903-1992.

Hendel, Hana, 1908-1998.

Corporate:

Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter.

Topical Subject:

Jewish families--Croatia--Zagreb.

World War, 1939-1945--Refugees--Italy.

Emigration & immigration--United States--1940-1950.

World War, 1939-1945--Refugees--United States--New York--Personal narratives.

Geography:

Zagreb (Croatia)

Rovigo (Italy)

Rome (Italy)

Oswego (N.Y.)

New York (N.Y.)

Israel.

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical papers, 1931-1956

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Clippings, circa 1944-1945
1	2	Fort Ontario, 1944-1946
1	3	Italy, 1942-1946
1	4	New York, postwar, 1945-1956
1	5	Zagreb, 1931-1941 (2 folders)
OS	1	

Series 2: Photographs, circa 1920-1956

Box	Folder	Title
1	6	Brazil, 1945
1	7	Fort Ontario, 1944-1945

1	8	Hendel, Hana, 1927-1942
1	9	Israel, 1949 and undated
1	10	Italy, 1943-1944
1	11	New York, 1946-1956
1	12	Zagreb: Hendel family, circa 1920-1941
1	13	Zagreb: Weissman family, circa 1920-1944