

**SHOAG FAMILY PAPERS, 1929-1997**  
**2017.334.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
Tel. (202) 479-9717  
e-mail: [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org)

**Descriptive summary**

Title: Shoag family papers

Dates: 1929-1997 (bulk 1929-1940)

Accession number: 2017.334.1

Creator: Shoag, Wolf, 1906-1983.

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: Correspondence and documents pertaining to the extended Shoag family of Wilno (Vilnius, Lithuania) and Traby, Poland (Traby, Belarus), and Jeannette, PA, between the years 1929 and 1940. Included are letters from Wolf Shoag in Wilno to his future wife Ida Lewin in Jeannette, letters to Wolf from his father Moses and his sister Roza in Wilno before they perished in the Holocaust, and Wolf's immigration papers of documenting his immigration to the United States in 1934. Also include are photocopies and translations of the correspondence as well as photocopies of family photographs.

Languages: Yiddish, English, Polish

**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), Shoag family papers (2017.334.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Helene Shoag Greenberg in 2017.

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

Processing history: Adam Fielding, September 2017

### **Biographical note**

Wolf Shoag (Szoag, 1906-1983) was born in Wilno, Poland (Vilnius, Lithuania) to parents Moses and Fagel (née Kozlovsky) on December 24, 1906. He had two brothers, Shia and Israel, and three sisters Roza, Beyle, and Sonia. The Szoag family lived in the Šnipiškės suburb of Wilno where they were the proprietors of a dry goods store. While the Shoags lived in an urban setting they also retained ties to family members who resided in Traby (Traby, Belarus), a village approximately 90 km SW of Wilno. In the summer of 1929, while visiting relatives in Traby, Wolf Shoag met and fell in love with Ida Lewin (1911-1984).

Ida was the American born daughter of parents who had emigrated from the region in the early 1900s. After the return of the Lewin family to the United States Wolf and Ida remained in written correspondence. This exchange of letters continued for the next four years. In his letters Wolf details circumstances pertaining to the Shoag family as well as to the local Wilno Jewish community at large.

In 1934 Wolf managed to secure his immigration to the United States. Upon his arrival Wolf joined the Lewin family in Jeanette, PA where he and Ida were married. In the years that followed Wolf remained in contact with his loved ones in Eastern Europe. While one brother, Shia Shoag, ultimately left Wilno for Palestine as a consequence of increasing anti-Jewish persecution, the rest of Wolf's siblings remained in Poland with their families. Until 1940 Wolf was in regular correspondence with his sister Roza Kozlovsky who relayed the increasingly harsh circumstances of life under Soviet occupation after the outbreak of the Second World War, including the deaths of Moses and Fagel from illness in winter 1939. No further letters were received from Roza after May 1940. All of the extended Shoag family members who remained in Poland perished during the Holocaust.

Biographical note by Cassandra LaPrade Seuthe, 2017

### **Scope and content of collection**

Correspondence and documents pertaining to the extended Shoag family of Wilno (Vilnius, Lithuania) and Traby, Poland (Traby, Belarus), and Jeannette, PA, between the years 1929 and 1940. Included are letters from Wolf Shoag in Wilno to his future wife Ida Lewin in Jeannette, letters to Wolf from his father Moses and his sister Roza in Wilno before they perished in the Holocaust, and Wolf's immigration papers of documenting his immigration to the United States in 1934. Also include are photocopies and translations of the correspondence as well as photocopies of family photographs.

### **System of arrangement**

The collection is arranged as one series

### **Indexing terms**

Person:

Shoag, Wolf, 1906-1983.

Shoag, Moses.  
Kozlovsky, Roza.  
Lewin, Ida, 1911-1984.

Topical Subject:  
Jews -- Lithuania -- Vilnius -- Correspondence.  
Holocaust Jewish (1939-1945)--Poland.

Geography:  
Vilnius (Lithuania)

Genre/Form:  
Correspondence.

### CONTAINER LIST

Folder	Title
	Correspondence:
1	Baston, Judy: Email regarding Levin family history and Traby cemetery, 1997
2	Davis, William: Allen, Robert, 1938
3	Lewin, Ida: Shoag, Wolf, 1929-1934
4	Lewin, Ida: Shoag, Wolf, photocopies and translation, 1929-1934
5 OS 1	Shoag, Wolf: Shoag, Moses and Roza Kozlovsky, 1939-1940
6	Shoag, Wolf: Shoag, Moses, Roza Kozlovsky, and other relatives, photocopies and translations, 1937-1940
7	Immigration papers, 1933-1934
8	Immigration papers, photocopies and translations, 1933-1934
9	Notebook, undated
10	Photographs, photocopies, undated