

SCHULTZ AND BODNAR FAMILIES PAPERS, CIRCA 1900-2015
2017.336.1

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: Schultz and Bodnar families papers

Dates: circa 1900-2015 (bulk 1916-1954)

Accession number: 2017.336.1

Creator: Schultz family (Szombathely, Hungary)
Bodnar family (Budapest, Hungary)

Extent: 4.43 linear feet (5 boxes, 2 oversize boxes, 1 book enclosure, 5 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The collection documents the Holocaust-era experiences of the Schultz and Bodnar families, both of Hungary. The collection includes biographical material such as education, identification, and immigration documents; wartime correspondence between John and Edith (née Schultz) Bodnar in the United States and their families in Budapest; and pre-war family photographs. The collection also documents the death of Zoltan Schultz, Edith's brother, who was killed on a death march to Mauthausen in April 1945, buried in a shallow grave, and reinterred in May 1945 by orders of the United States Army in a Catholic cemetery in Sankt Pankraz. Material includes documents, letters, and photographs found with Zoltan's remains after he was killed and the Austrian police report regarding the disinterment.

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), Schultz and Bodnar families papers (2017.336.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Anita Skolnick, Peter Bodnar, and Paul Bodnar in 2017.

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-June 2017

Biographical note

Laura Schultz (née Spiegler, 1895-1975) was born in Zagreb, Croatia to Ludwig (1859-1920) and Karolina Spiegler (d. 1921). She had five siblings, Theresa (1885-1964), Felix (d. 1941), Matilda, Irma (b. 1886), and Edward (Ődön); and one half-sister, Elizabeth (Erzsi).

Oszkár Schultz (1890-1935) was the son of Sandor (d. 1896) and Karolina (née Goldschmidt, 1860-1941) Schultz. He had two brothers, Lajos and Ferdo (Feri), and one sister, Erzsi.

Laura and Oszkár married and lived in Szombathely, Hungary. They had one daughter, Edith (later Edith Bodnar, 1920-2016), born on 1 July 1920, and one son, Zoltan (1917-1945). Oszkár died in 1935, and Zoltan, Edith, and Laura moved to Budapest, Hungary in 1936 after Zoltan was accepted to the Liszt Academy of Music. Edith immigrated to the United States on the *SS Washington* in 1939 under the Yugoslav quota, but Zoltan was on the Hungarian quota and unable to leave. Edith's mother could have left under the Yugoslav quota, but chose to remain in Budapest with her son.

Zoltan pursued his studies in music as a violinist and conductor. Shortly after his graduation in 1942 he was sent to a forced-labor camp in Nagykáta, Hungary, and possibly to others. In April 1945, Zoltan and other forced-laborers were sent on a death march to the Mauthausen concentration camp. On 17 April, Zoltan and two others were shot and buried in shallow graves near Sankt Pankraz, Austria. His remains were disinterred on 22 May 1945 by orders of the United States Army and buried in a Catholic cemetery in Sankt Pankraz. A packet containing photographs, letters, and identifying documents was found when the body was exhumed. In 1968, the body was exhumed again under orders by the Austrian government to bury all unidentified Holocaust victims in a mass grave at Mauthausen.

Edith settled in New York and lived with her aunt Elizabeth Greene (née Spiegler) and her husband Joseph Greene. While there, Edith met John Bodnar, a recent Hungarian immigrant who was also renting a room from the Greens. They married in 1942, and had three children, Peter, Paul, and Anita.

Laura remained in Budapest for the duration of the war. She received financial assistance from John's parents, Eugene and Katherine, and lived with them in a "safe house" in 1944. They also provided Laura and Zoltan with letters of protection issued by the Swiss Embassy. She immigrated to the United States in 1946.

In 2015, Projekt Einhalt, a European research project on the death marches through the Steyr and Kirchdorf districts in 1945, discovered an Austrian police report regarding Zoltan's death as well as a folder containing Zoltan's belongings in an archive in Kirschdorf. Project Einhalt were able to track down Edith and inform her of their discovery about Zoltan's death.

On Zoltan's *yahrzeit* (23 April 2015), the Austrians performed a ceremony for Zoltan at the mass grave in Mauthausen, and traveled the death march route. In October 2015, Edith's children Anita, Peter, and Paul visited Austria. They traveled the death march route, including Zoltan's shallow grave after he was murdered, and placed a memorial plaque for Zoltan at Mauthausen. In Kirchdorf, they attended a ceremony where Austrian officials officially returned Zoltan's belongings and the Austrian police report to the family.

John Bodnar (born János Bodnár, 1921-1985) was born on 19 March 1921 in Budapest to Eugene (born Jenő Krausz, 1883-1968) and Katherine Bodnar (born Katalin Hoffmann, 1888-1952). John had one brother, György (nicknamed Gyuri, 1913-2005). Eugene owned a radio repair store.

In 1939 Eugene and John visited New York to attend the World's Fair. John remained in New York, but his father returned to Budapest. During World War II, Eugene had his Uncle Otto's wife take over the store. He and his wife remained in their apartment, but had up to 64 other people living there when they were deported to the Budapest Ghetto where they remained for 12 days. After liberation, they discovered that their apartment had been turned into a hospital. Eugene and Katherine later immigrated to the United States. After Katherine died, Eugene married Edith's mother Laura. They later separated and he moved back to Budapest.

John's brother György was sent to a forced-labor camp in 1943 but survived the war. Oszkár's brothers Feri and Lajos and his family perished during the Holocaust.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the Holocaust-era experiences of the Schultz and Bodnar families, both of Hungary. The collection includes biographical material such as education, identification, and immigration documents; wartime correspondence between John and Edith (née Schultz) Bodnar in the United States and their families in Budapest; and pre-war family photographs. The collection also documents the death of Zoltan Schultz, Edith's brother, who was killed on a death march to Mauthausen in April 1945, buried in a shallow grave, and reinterred in May 1945 by orders of the United States Army in a Catholic cemetery in Sankt Pankraz. Material includes documents, letters, and photographs found with Zoltan's remains after he was killed and the Austrian police report regarding the disinterment.

Series 1-4 document the Schultz and Spiegler families. Biographical material includes genealogy research; education, identification, and immigration documents; Edith Schultz's autograph book and a personal narrative about her wartime experiences; Laura Schultz's letter of protection from the Swiss Embassy in Budapest; restitution claims; documents, letters, and photographs found with Zoltan Schultz's remains after he was killed and the Austrian police report regarding the disinterment; concert programs and sheet music of compositions likely written by Zoltan.

Correspondence includes letters written to Edith in the United States from Laura and Zoltan before he was sent to a forced-labor camp in 1942; letters to Edith from her friend Edit Laki who perished in the Holocaust; and letters from Laura written to Zoltan while he was in a forced-labor camp.

Photographs primarily contain pre-war photographs of the Schultz family as well as the Spiegler family (Edith's mother Laura's family). There is also a photograph of the Kilman family, who were friends of the Spiegler family. Additionally, there are two photograph albums that primarily document the Schultz and

Spiegler families. The albums contains several depictions of Zoltan's time in a forced-labor camp in Nagykáta, Hungary.

The born-digital material contains audio, video, photographs, and a speech documenting Anita Skolnick (née Bodnar), Peter Bodnar, and Paul Bodnar's 2015 trip to Austria to follow the path of Zoltan's death march, receive his belongings from the Austrian government, and to unveil a memorial plaque at Mauthausen.

Series 5-7 document the Holocaust-era experiences of the Bodnar family. Biographical material includes education, identification, and immigration documents; a catalog from Eugene Bodnar's radio repair business; and genealogy research. Correspondence contains letters received and sent by John Bodnar in the United States. The bulk are letters received by his parents Eugene and Katherine, and his brother György and his wife Klári. Photographs document pre-war family life in Budapest.

System of arrangement

The collection has been arranged into two series. Series 1 has four subseries and contains the Schultz and Spiegler family material. Series 2 has three subseries and contains the Bodnar family material.

Series 1: Schultz and Spiegler families, circa 1900-1998: Biographical material, 1917-1998

Series 2: Schultz and Spiegler families, circa 1900-1998: Correspondence, 1921-1947

Series 3: Schultz and Spiegler families, circa 1900-1998: Photographs, circa 1900-circa 1990s

Series 4: Schultz and Spiegler families, circa 1900-1998: Born-digital material, 2015

Series 5: Bodnar family, 1921-1996: Biographical material, 1917-1998

Series 6: Bodnar family, 1921-1996: Correspondence, 1921-1947

Series 7: Bodnar family, 1921-1996: Photographs, 1903-circa 1990s

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically. All correspondence is received, unless otherwise noted.

Indexing terms

Person:

Schultz, Laura, 1895-1975.

Schultz, Oszkár, 1890-1935.

Schultz, Zoltan, 1917-1945.

Schultz, Edith, 1920-2016.

Bodnar, John, 1921-1985.

Bodnar, Eugene, 1883-1968.

Bodnar, Katherine, 1888-1952.

Bodnar, György, 1913-2005.

Corporate:

Switzerland. Botschaft (Hungary)

Topical Subject:

Jewish families--Hungary--Budapest.

Jewish musicians--Hungary.

Forced labor--Hungary.

Restitution and indemnification claims (1933-)
 Emigration & immigration--United States.
 Jewish businesspeople--Hungary--Budapest.
 Death marches--Austria.
 Genealogy.
 World War, 1914-1918--Veterans.
 Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Survivors.

Geography:
 Budapest (Hungary)
 Szombathely (Hungary)
 Nagykáta (Hungary)

Genre/Form:
 Photographs.
 Photograph albums.
 Personal narratives.
 Correspondence.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Schultz and Spiegler families, 1903-2015: Biographical material, 1917-1998

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Clippings, 1982-1991
1 OS	2 1	Genealogy, undated (2 folders)
1	3	Kilman family history, 1998
1	4	Restitution claims, 1955-1997
		Schultz, Edith:
1	5	Address books, 1939-1942
1	6	Autograph book, 1932-1936
1	7	Calendars 1937-1939
1	8	Employment, 1947-1949
1	9	Identification papers, 1934-1985 and undated
1	10	Immigration papers, 1939-1945
1	11	Marriage certificate, 1942
1	12	Miscellaneous, 1938-1978
1	13	Passport, Hungary, 1937
1	14	Personal narratives, undated
1	15	Report card book, 1930-1938
		Schultz, Laura:
1	16	Identification papers, 1934-1946
1	17	Immigration papers, 1946-1955
OS	2	Marriage certificate (with Eugene Bodnar), 1957
1	18	Passport, Hungary, 1937
1	19	Swiss Embassy letter of protection, 1944
		Schultz, Oszkár:

BE	1	Árpád, Heeger, <i>A világháborúban kitüntetett közlekedési alkalmazottak arcképcsarnoka, 1914-1918, 1925</i> [page 134 features Oszkár Schultz]
2	1	Identification papers, 1928
2	2	Yahrzeit calendar, 1936
		Schultz, Zoltan:
2	3	Austrian police report and documents and photographs found with Zoltan's body, 1931-1945
2	4	Concert programs and sheet music, circa 1930s-1942
2	5	Education, 1917-1936 (2 folders)
OS	3	
2	6	Identification papers, 1928-1942

Series 2: Schultz and Spiegler families, 1903-2015: Correspondence, 1921-1947

Box	Folder	Title
2	7	Greene, Elizabeth: Schultz, Laura, 1935-circa 1939
2	8	Mayer, Martin and Olga: Schultz, Otto, 1946
		Schultz, Edith:
2	9	Juhász, Zoltán, 2004
2	10	Kálmánová, Edith, 1945-1946
2	11	Laki, Edit, 1940-1941
2	12	Nana, Ernő, 1946
2	13	Schultz, Karolina, 1940
		Schultz, Laura and Zoltan:
2	14	1939
2	15	1940 January-June
2	16	1940 July-December
3	1	1941
3	2	Schultz, Laura, 1945-1946
3	3	1939
3	4	1940
3	5	1941
3	6	1945-1946
		Schultz, Laura:
3	7	Bodnar, Eugene and Katherine, 1947
3	8	Schultz, Edith, 1941-1944
3	9	Schultz, Zoltan, 1944
3	10	Spiegler, Ludwig and Carolina, 1921 and undated
		Schultz, Zoltan:
3	11	Schultz, Laura, 1940-1943
3	12	Letters sent, 1940-1943
3	13	1942-1943
3	14	Spiegler, Irma: Schultz, Laura, 1936

Series 3: Schultz and Spiegler families, 1903-2015: Photographs, circa 1900-circa 1990s

Box	Folder	Title
3	15	Family and friends, 1922-1937

3	16	Greene, Elizabeth, circa 1920s
3	17	Kilman family, circa 1918
3	18	Memorial and grave, Szombathely, Hungary, circa 1990s
3	19	Relatives who perished in the Holocaust, 1922-1936
		Schultz, Edith:
3	20	Onboard the <i>SS Washington</i> , 1939
3	21	With family and friends, circa 1928-1939
3	22	circa 1935-1941
3	23	Schultz family, circa 1918-1939
3	24	Schultz, Feri, 1903-circa 1920s
3	25	Schultz, Lajos, circa 1916-circa 1918
3	26	Schultz, Laura, circa 1920s-1940
3	27	Schultz, Oszkár, circa 1916-1935
3	28	Schultz, Oszkár, Feri, and Lajos, 1908-circa 1930s
3	29	Schultz, Zoltan: Labor camps, Nagykáta, Hungary, circa 1943
3	30	Schultz, Zoltan, circa 1923-1939
3	31	Spiegler family, 1909-1920
3	32	Spiegler, Karolina, circa 1910s
6	1	Photograph album: Spiegler, Schultz, and Bodnar families, circa 1900-circa 1960s
7	1	Photograph album: Spiegler and Schultz families, circa 1900-circa 1970

Series 4: Schultz and Spiegler families, 1903-2015: Born-digital material, 2015

File number	Title
	Bodnar, Paul: Speech at ceremony
	Ceremony audio
	Ceremony video
	Explanation of photographs
	Photographs
	Schultz, Zoltan "Yahrzeit"

Series 5: Bodnar family, 1921-1996: Biographical material, 1921-1996

Box	Folder	Title
		Bodnar, Eugene:
3	33	Business catalog, 1938
4	1	Identification papers, 1938-1939
4	2	Immigration papers, 1941-1954
		Bodnar, John:
4	3	Biography by Edith Schultz, undated
4	4	Education, 1927-1939 (2 folders)
OS	4	
4	5	Identification papers, 1921-1971
4	6	Naturalization certificate, 1947
4	7	Passport, Hungary, 1939
4	8	United States visa application, 1939-1947
		Bodnar, Katherine:
4	9	Immigration papers, 1948-1949

4	10	Passport, Hungary, 1948
4	11	Genealogy, 1988-1996

Series 6: Bodnar family, 1921-1996: Correspondence of John Bodnar, 1936-1954 and undated

Box	Folder	Title
		Bodnar, Eugene and Katherine, received:
4	12	1936-1938
4	13	1939
4	14	1940
4	15	1941
4	16	1942-1943
4	17	1945
4	18	1946
4	19	1947
4	20	1948
5	1	Bodnar, Eugene and Katherine, sent, 1936-1942
		Bodnar, György and Klári, received:
5	2	1936-1945
5	3	1946
5	4	1947-1954
5	5	Bodnar, György and Klári, sent, 1941
5	6	Hoffmann, Klári, 1937-1941
5	7	Kerekes, Julius, 1938
5	8	Sebestyen, Gabi, 1939-1940
5	9	Stein, György, 1938-1940
5	10	General, 1937-1947 and undated

Series 7: Bodnar family, 1921-1996: Photographs, circa 1926-circa 1938

Box	Folder	Title
5	11	Bodnar, Eugene, 1940
5	12	Bodnar family, circa 1926-circa 1938
5	13	Bodnar, György, circa 1938
5	14	Bodnar, John, circa 1938-1939 (2 folders)
OS	5	
5	15	Bodnar, Katherine, circa 1930s-1940