

**HILLEL STORCH PAPERS, 1937-1985**  
**2017.526.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Hillel Storch papers

Dates: 1937-1985

Accession number: 2017.526.1

Creator: Storch, Hillel, 1902-1983

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (1 box, 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The Hillel Storch papers consist of correspondence, photographic negatives, personal papers, printed materials, and subject files documenting Storch's work on behalf of the World Jewish Congress in Sweden to rescue Jews during the Holocaust and to resettle survivors after the Holocaust. Records document his missions, activities, and meetings with Nazi leaders to save Jews from the extermination camps, and include materials about his work with Heinrich Himmler's assistant Franz Goering and physical therapist Felix Kersten, and SS Brigadeführer Walter Schellenberg about the "White Buses" operation transferring 1200 Jews from Theresienstadt to Switzerland and Sweden.

Languages: Swedish, German, English, Russian

**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), Hillel Storch papers (2017.526.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum acquired the Hillel Storch papers in 2017. The acquisition of this collection was made possible in 2017 by the Philip and Janet Levin Foundation.

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, March 2019

### **Biographical note**

Hillel Storch (also Hilel or Gilel, 1902-1983) was born on May 24, 1902 in Dvinsk, Vitebsk Governorate (now Daugavpils, Latvia). He participated in the Zionist movement and became a representative of the Jewish Agency at age 18. He moved to Riga to work as an export merchant. When the Soviet Union occupied Latvia in 1940, Storch fled to Stockholm. His wife Ania and daughter Eleonora rejoined him in May 1941 as part of an agent exchange between Sweden and the Soviet Union. In Sweden, Storch represented the Jewish Agency and the World Jewish Congress. He worked with the Stockholm Chief Rabbi Mordechai Ehrenpreis and other leading personalities in Sweden to find ways to save Jews from the Nazis. In 1944 he and the Jewish Agency helped bring Jews from "mixed marriages" to Sweden. In February 1945, Count Folke Bernadotte informed Storch that Swiss diplomats had arranged for several thousand Jews to be released from Germany to enter Switzerland, and that the Germans would consider releasing more. Heinrich Himmler's personal physician, Felix Kersten, sent an invitation from Himmler to Storch to come to Berlin to negotiate. As Storch was not a Swedish citizen, he could not expect Swedish protection abroad, so Norbert Masur went in his place. These so-called "White Buses" operations rescued hundreds of Jews from Neuengamme, Theresienstadt, and Ravensbrück. Storch died on April 25, 1983 in Stockholm. Many of his and his wife's relatives were murdered in the Holocaust.

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

The Hillel Storch papers consist of correspondence, photographic negatives, personal papers, printed materials, and subject files documenting Storch's work on behalf of the World Jewish Congress in Sweden to rescue Jews during the Holocaust and to resettle survivors after the Holocaust. Records document his missions, activities, and meetings with Nazi leaders to save Jews from the extermination camps, and include materials about his work with Heinrich Himmler's assistant Franz Goering and physical therapist Felix Kersten, and SS Brigadeführer Walter Schellenberg about the "White Buses" operation transferring Jews from Neuengamme, Theresienstadt, and Ravensbrück to Switzerland and Sweden.

Correspondence consists of letters to and from Hillel Storch about efforts to rescue Jewish victims from the Holocaust and to locate and resettle survivors after the Holocaust. Photographic negatives depict the White Buses operation, rescue teams, transfer ships, and concentration camp survivors and victims.

Personal papers include certificates, correspondence, and forms documenting Storch's export business, his immigration to Sweden in 1940, and his wife's and daughter's arrival in 1941.

Printed materials include calls to aid European Jews, pages from the newspapers *Unzer Wort*, the Swedish parliament's January 1945 protocols, and a 1985 booklet about the White Buses. Reports

document Jewish rescue efforts during the Holocaust, efforts to resettle refugees after the Holocaust, and the White Buses operation.

Subject files include correspondence, reports, and name lists documenting Storch's work to rescue European Jewish along with the World Jewish Congress and the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Records include Franz Goering's report about the release of Jewish during the White Buses operation, documents about Felix Kersten's and Walter Schellenberg's participation in rescue efforts, lists of Latvian and Lithuanian Jews, reports by Otto Schutz and Raoul Wallenberg about the conditions of Jews in various places in Europe, and correspondence with future Swedish Prime Minister Tage Erlander.

### **System of arrangement**

The Hillel Storch papers are arranged as six series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1940-1966
- Series 2: Negatives, circa 1945
- Series 3: Personal papers, 1937-1943
- Series 4: Printed materials, 1937-1947, 1981-1985
- Series 5: Reports, circa 1942-1956
- Series 6: Subject files, circa 1938-1969

### **Indexing terms**

#### **Personal Names**

Goering, Franz, 1908-1959.  
Kersten, Felix, 1898-1960.  
Schellenberg, Walter, 1910-1952.  
Storch, Hillel, 1902-1983.

#### **Corporate Terms**

Jewish Agency for Palestine.  
World Jewish Congress.

#### **Topical Terms**

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)  
World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue.

#### **Geographic Names**

Sweden.  
Switzerland.  
Denmark.

#### **Genre**

Correspondence.  
Reports.  
Negatives.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Series 1: Correspondence, 1940-1966

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Aid correspondence, 1942-1945
1.2	Aid correspondence, 1946-1947
1.3	Aid correspondence, 1948-1966
1.4	Personal correspondence, 1940-1942

### Series 2 : Negatives, circa 1945

Box/Folder	Title
Negatives Stored separately	67 negatives of photographs portraying the "White Buses" operation, 1945 (negatives stored separately)

### Series 3: Personal papers, 1937-1943

Box/Folder	Title
1.5	Birth, marriage, and immigration, 1937-1943
1.6	Business records and business reputation, circa 1940
1.7	Financial records, 1942-1943

### Series 4: Printed materials, 1937-1947, 1981-1985

Box/Folder	Title
1.8, OS 1	Printed materials, 1937-1947, 1981-1985

### Series 5: Reports, circa 1942-1956

Box/Folder	Title
1.9	<i>Landskonferensen "Jordens rop" på Menachem Ussishkins dödsdag, 1942</i>
1.10	<i>An den Vorstand der Zionistischen Organisation, 1943</i>
1.11	<i>News from Poland, 1944</i>
1.12	<i>The 22nd Zionist Congress expresses his gratitude..., 1946</i>
1.13	<i>The issue which the Special Assembly on Palestine..., 1948</i>
1.14	<i>Rede von Herrn Direktor G. Storch, gehalten auf dem Kongress des Skandinavischen Jugendverbände, 1955</i>
1.15	<i>An die Zionistischen Federation, 1955</i>

1.16	<i>Summary of White Paper on Swedish Aid Expedition to Germany 1945, 1956</i>
1.17	<i>Vorspeil und Verhandlungen zu der Schwedischen Hilfsexpedition nach Deutschland 1945, 1956</i>
1.18	<i>Programm-Entwurf</i> , undated
1.19	<i>P.M.</i> , undated

**Series 6: Subject files, circa 1938-1969**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1.20	Erlander, Tage, 1951
1.21	Goering, Franz, circa 1938, 1944
1.22	Hesse, 1945
1.23	Jewish Agency for Palestine, 1943-1948
1.24	Kersten, Felix, circa 1945-1951
1.25	Mosaiska Forsamlingen, 1945-1946, 1969
1.26	Name lists, circa 1944-1947
1.27-1.28	Schellenberg, Walter, circa 1945-1949 (2 folders)
1.29	Schutz, Otto, 1945
1.30	Spokoini, Hilier, 1947-1948
1.31	Wallenberg, Raoul, 1944
1.32	World Jewish Congress, circa 1945-1948