

**DRECHSLER FAMILY PAPERS, 1928-1996**  
**2018.635.8**

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: Drechsler family papers

Dates: 1928-1996 (bulk 1939-1941)

Catalog number: 2018.635.8

Creator: Drechsler (Family : Trnava, Slovakia)

Extent: .83 linear feet (2 boxes, 2 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: Correspondence, photographs, and immigration papers documenting the Holocaust-era experiences of the Drechsler family of Trnava (present day Slovakia). The bulk of the collection consists of wartime letters sent to Clara Drechsler (later Clara Kramer) in the United States from her parents Isidor and Anna Drechsler and siblings Andor, Rose, and Bela in Trnava and elsewhere in Europe. Also included is a small amount of immigration paperwork, recipes, and prewar family photographs.

Languages: Hungarian, English

**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.

Physical access note: Negatives in the collection are not available for research.

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), Drechsler family papers (2018.635.8), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Holly Rothkopf in 2018. An accretion was donated in 2019. Holly is the granddaughter of Clara Drechsler Kramer. The collections previously cataloged as 20108.635.1 and 2019.270.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Separated material: Several objects were also donated.

2018.635.2 a-c Compact

2018.635.3 Book (prayer book)

2018.635.4 Belt buckle

2018.635.5 Rug

2018.635.6 Figure of a man holding a rifle

2018.635.7 a - b Figure of a man holding a pipe

Related archival materials: Oral history interview with Rose Pogany (1997.A.0440.22, RG-50.460.0022)

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: Adam Fielding, September 2019

### **Biographical note**

Clara Drechsler (later Clara Kramer, 1908-1996) was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1908 to Isidor and Anna Drechsler. Her father Isidor (1880-1942) was born in Trnava (present day Slovakia) to Bernhard and Adela (née Sidon) Drechsler. Her mother Anna (née Weiss, 1883-1942) was born in Szeged, Hungary to Bernard and Klara (née Pulitzer) Weiss. Isidor and Anna were immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire who immigrated to the United States with their young son, Andor (b. 1905, also known as Bondi). Soon after Clara's birth the family decided to return to Trnava. Clara's younger siblings, twins Béla and Rose (later Rose Pogany, nicknamed Baby), were born in Trnava in 1917. Isidor was the proprietor of an iron foundry in the city. Clara graduated from the University of Prague Law School, but did not practice law.

After the German-annexation of Czechoslovakia in 1938 the Drechsler family began to experience anti-Semitic persecution. Clara travelled to the United States to attend the World's Fair in June 1939 aboard the SS *Manhattan*. After the outbreak of World War II, she was not able to return to Europe, and was already an American citizen by birth. At the time of Clara's departure, her brother Andor lived in Hungary and her brother Bela served with the Czech Army in exile. Her parents and sister Rose remained in Trnava.

Within months of arriving in the United States Clara married Charles Kramer (1912-2004). The couple settled in New York and had two children: Agnes (b. 1940) and Stanford (b. 1944). Clara remained in regular correspondence with her family in Europe. The couple also sent material support to Clara's family through the JDC.

In 1940 Rose escaped Czechoslovakia to join her brother Andor in Hungary. The Drechsler children endeavored to aid their parents living under German-occupation in Trnava in the hopes that they too might be able to flee. In approximately April or June 1942 Isidor and Anna were deported to Auschwitz where they were killed. Andor and Rose survived the Holocaust in hiding as non-Jews. Bela went to

Palestine and immigrated to the United States in 1948. Rose and her family fled Hungary during the 1956 revolution, later immigrating to the United States with her husband Gyuri Pogany.

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

Correspondence, photographs, and immigration papers documenting the Holocaust-era experiences of the Drechsler family of Trnava (present day Slovakia). The bulk of the collection consists of wartime letters sent to Clara Drechsler (later Clara Kramer) in the United States from her parents Isidor and Anna Drechsler and siblings Andor, Rose, and Bela in Trnava and elsewhere in Europe. Also included is a small amount of immigration paperwork, recipes, and prewar family photographs.

Biographical material consists of a small amount of financial records, handwritten recipes, and immigration paperwork. The immigration papers include letters regarding affidavits and an undated letter from Isidor petitioning the HIAS for tickets to the United States.

Correspondence primarily consists of letters to Clara sent from her family in Trnava, Budapest, and elsewhere in Europe. Also included are letters from friends and relatives in Slovakia and other parts of Europe. The bulk of the letters are from 1939-1941.

Photographs include pre-war depictions of the Drechsler family including Bela Drechsler in his Free Czech Army uniform, Rose Drechsler and her husband Gyuri Pogany, and Clara Drechsler aboard the SS *Manhattan* en route to the United States in 1939.

### **System of arrangement**

The collection is arranged as three series.

Series 1. Biographical material, 1939-1948 and undated

Series 2. Correspondence, 1928-1996 and undated

Series 3. Photographs, circa 1920s-1941 and undated

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

### **Indexing terms**

Person:

Drechsler, Clara, 1908-1996.

Drechsler, Andor.

Drechsler, Bela.

Drechsler, Rose.

Drechsler, Isidor, 1880-1942.

Drechsler, Anna, 1883-1942.

Kramer, Charles, 1912-2004.

Topical Subject:

Jews--Slovakia--Trnava.

Holocaust survivors.

Geography:

Trnava (Slovakia)

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Genre/Form:  
Photographs.  
Letters.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Series 1. Biographical material, 1939-1948 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Financial papers, 1939-1948
1.2	Immigration papers, 1939-1946 and undated
1.3	Recipes, undated

### Series 2. Correspondence, 1928-1996 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
1.4	Drechsler, Andor, 1939-1940
1.5	Drechsler, Rose, 1939, 1946, 1981
1.6	Drechsler family, 1928, 1939
1.7	Drechsler family, 1940
1.8	Drechsler family, 1941-1996 and undated
1.9	Eichel, J.?, 1939, 1985
1.10	Eisler, Friedrich, 1939-1941
1.11	Goldschmidt, Eugen, 1939
1.12	Kaufmann, Vilma, 1939-1940
1.13	Lippschitz, Max, 1940-1941
1.14	Schindler, Max, 1939-1940
1.15	Unger, Josef, 1941
1.16	Weiner, Julius, 1944
1.17	Calling cards, undated
1.18	General correspondence, 1939-1941 and undated
1.19	Empty envelopes

### Series 3. Photographs, circa 1920s-1941 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
2.1	Drechsler, Andor, circa 1930s
2.2	Drechsler, Anna, circa 1920s
2.3, OS 1	Drechsler, Bela, circa 1940s
2.4	Drechsler, Clara, 1939 and undated
2.5	Drechsler, Rose and Gyuri Pogany, circa 1930s
2.6, OS 2	Drechsler family, circa 1930s
2.7	Family and friends, 1941 and undated
2.8	Kramer, Charles, 1931-circa 1939
2.9	SS <i>Manhattan</i> , 1939