

ELI PFEFFERKORN PAPERS, circa 1919-2016
2018.651.1

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

Title: Eli Pfefferkorn papers

Dates: circa 1919-2016, undated

Accession number: 2018.651.1

Creator: Pfefferkorn, Eli.

Extent: 10 boxes, 1 oversize box, 1 oversize folder (4.25 linear feet)

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

Abstract: The collection primarily consists of writings and research materials of Holocaust survivor and scholar Eli Pfefferkorn, originally of Radzyń Podlaski, Poland. The bulk of the collection consists of articles and clippings, notes, and correspondence regarding several Holocaust-related topics, including the Claims Conference, Elie Wiesel, and the development of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Languages: English, Hebrew, Polish, German

Administrative Information

Access: There are no known restrictions on access to this material.

Physical access note: Electronic media originally housed on floppy disks may not be accessible.

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Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Eli Pfefferkorn papers (2018.651.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by the Estate of Eli Pfefferkorn in 2018.

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 and Henry Mayer, October-November 2023

Biographical note

Eli Pfefferkorn (1928-2017, sometimes listed as Elias Kupiec) was born Elias Pfefferkorn on May 6, 1928 in Radzyń Podlaski, Poland to Szyja Pfefferkorn (b. 1909) and Rosa Pfefferkorn (née Kupiec, b. 1912).

After the invasion of Poland by Germany and Russia in September 1939, Eli remained in Radzyń Podlaski. In 1943 he was deported to the Międzyrzec Podlaski ghetto. From there Eli survived several camps, including Majdanek, Skarżysko-Kamienna labor camp, Sulejów labor camp, Częstochowa labor camp, Buchenwald, and Rehmsdorf. He was liberated from Rehmsdorf and went to the Föhrenwald and Feldafing displaced persons camps.

Eli immigrated to England after the war. In 1948 he immigrated to Israel. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Bar-Ilan University, and his Ph.D. from Brown University in 1971. He joined the faculty of Haifa University in 1972. Eli served as the director of research for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum from 1981-1987. He wrote and taught extensively about the Holocaust, and published his memoir, *The Muselmann at the Water Cooler* in 2011.

Scope and content of collection

The collection primarily consists of writings and research materials of Holocaust survivor and scholar Eli Pfefferkorn, originally of Radzyń Podlaski, Poland. The bulk of the collection consists of articles and clippings, notes, and correspondence regarding several Holocaust-related topics, including the Claims Conference, Elie Wiesel, and the development of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Also included are project proposals and drafts of manuscripts, including Pfefferkorn's unpublished manuscript on Elie Wiesel entitled "The Kaleidoscopic Persona of Elie Wiesel," and drafts of his memoir "The Muselmann at the Water Cooler." Personal and biographical material primarily concerns Pfefferkorn's education at Brown University, employment matters, and restitution claims.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as 5 series.

Series 1. Subject files and correspondence, circa 1919-2016, undated

- Series 2. Claims Conference and restitution files, circa 1980-2013
 Series 3. Elie Wiesel and USHMM, circa 1977-2016, undated
 Series 4. Projects, proposals, and writings, 1970-2016, undated
 Series 5. Personal papers and biographical material, circa 1945-2015, undated

Indexing terms

Person:

Pfefferkorn, Eli.
 Wiesel, Elie, 1928-2016.

Corporate:

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Topical Subject:

Jews--Poland.
 Holocaust survivors.
 Education.
 Writers.

Geography:

Radzyn Podlaski (Poland)
 Israel.

Genre/Form:

Manuscripts.
 Correspondence.
 Clippings.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Subject files and correspondence, circa 1919-2016, undated

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Antaeus, 2013
1.2-1.5	Articles and clippings, circa 1970-circa 2010 (4 folders)
1.6	Avodah archives, undated
1.7	Awert, Irene, undated
1.8	Bertelsmann, circa 1998-2001
1.9	Bettleheim, Bruno and Lina Wertmüller, 1984
1.10	Birn, Bettina, 1985-2009

1.11	Brenner, Uri, undated
1.12	Central Zionist Archives, undated
2.1	Eizenstat, Stuart, 1999-2002
2.2	Foundations, undated
2.3	Gali-Ratner, undated
2.4	General correspondence, 1998-2016
2.5	German military passport and workbooks, circa 1935-circa 1941
2.6	"Ghetto," undated
2.7	Goebbels, Joseph, undated
2.8	Goodwin, Betty, undated
2.9	Grossman, David, 2004
2.10	Hartmann, Dieter, 1982-2012
2.11	HaYeled Bamitzar, undated
2.12	Hitler's Shadow, circa 2009
2.13	Jewish folks songs, circa 1919
2.14	Knaan, Haviu, undated
2.15	Kolitz, Zvi, 1994
2.16	Kovner, Abba, circa 1983
2.17	Letters to Zipporah, undated
2.18	Marrus, Michael, 2013
2.19	Masada, circa 1996
2.20	Mezzen, Genia, undated
11	Miscellaneous [floppy disk]
2.21	North Africa, undated
3.1	Palestine information with provenance, 2015
3.2	Passover, 2006
3.3	Photograph album, undated

3.4	Tabenkin, undated
3.5	Ticho, Anna, clippings, 1984
3.6-3.7	Yishuv in Palestine, circa 1941-circa 1945 (2 folders)
3.8	Youth movements debate, 1988

Series 2. Claims Conference and restitution files, circa 1980-2013

Box/Folder	Title
3.9	Articles, circa 2000
3.10	Bronfman, Edgar, 2000-2003
3.11	Canadian Jewish News, 2002-2013
3.12	Circle of Care, 2007-2013
4.1	Claims Conference: allocations, circa 1980-circa 2003
4.2	Claims Conference: bylaws, circa 1994-circa 2007
4.3	Claims Conference: reports, 2000-2001
11	Claims Conference files [floppy disk]
4.4-4.5	Clippings, circa 1990-circa 2007 (2 folders)
4.6	Griffin, Lydia, 2003-2010
4.7	Hilberg, Raul, 2002
4.8	Holocaust Survivors in Canada, 2000-2008
4.9	Kent, Roman, 2002-2003
4.10	Landy, Keith, 2003
4.11	Letters to the Editor, circa 1992-circa 2006
4.12	Personal pension and restitution claims, circa 2000-circa 2013
4.13	Schnall, Elaine, 2003
4.14	Schneider, Greg, 1999-2010
4.15	Stabinsky, Leon, 2000-2002
4.16	Taylor, Gideon, 2002-2008

4.17	UJC Holocaust Survivors Services Committee, 2002-2003
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Series 3. Elie Wiesel and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, circa 1977-2016, undated

Box/Folder	Title
5.1	Christianity, circa 1977-circa 1993
5.2	Claim on Memory, circa 1986-1999
5.3	Clippings, circa 1996-circa 2006
5.4	Clippings: Elie Wiesel death, 2016
5.5	Correspondence: Wiesel, Elie and Eli Pfefferkorn, circa 1979-2004
5.6	Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, 1990-circa 1992
5.7	German and American Committee on Learning and Reconciliation, 1985
5.8	Handwritten notes, undated
5.9	Hirsch, David, 1994-2008
5.10	Jacovitz, undated
5.11-5.12, 6.1	The Kaleidoscopic Persona of Elie Wiesel drafts, circa 2010 (3 folders)
6.2	The Kaleidoscopic Persona of Elie Wiesel notes, undated
6.3-6.4	The Kaleidoscopic Persona of Elie Wiesel proposals, circa 2010 (2 folders)
11	The Kaleidoscopic Persona of Elie Wiesel [floppy disk]
6.5	Kolitz, Yosel, undated
6.6	Mitterrand, François, circa 1993-circa 2009
6.7	Nobel Prize for Peace, 1983-1998
6.8	Notes in Hebrew, undated
6.9	The Other, 1986-2000
6.10	Pfefferkorn, Eli: writings on Elie Wiesel, 1983-1984
6.11	President's Commission on the Holocaust, 1979-circa 1986
6.12	Sailing to Brazil, undated

11	Sailing to Brazil [floppy disk]
6.13	Seidman, Naomi, 1996
7.1	Speeches, 1979-circa 1996
7.2	Swiss banks, 1997-2000
7.3	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council: Bitburg, 1983-circa 1985
11	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council: Bitburg research [floppy disk]
7.4	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council: Chairman's Guidelines for the Content Committee, 1985
7.5	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council: concept and development, circa 1985
7.6	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council: correspondence, memorandums, and meetings, 1978-1986
7.7	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council: miscellaneous, circa 1986-circa 2012
7.8	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council: museum themes, circa 1985
7.9	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council: Survivors' Credo, 1986-1987
11	Wiesel, Elie book [floppy disk]
11	Wiesel, Elie miscellaneous [floppy disk]
11	Wiesel, Elie research [floppy disk]
7.10	Wiesel, Elie: "The Scrolls, Too, Are Mortal," 1978
7.11	Wiesel, Elie and Jorge Semprun, circa 1995

Series 4. Projects, proposals, and writings, 1970-2016, undated

Box/Folder	Title
7.12	"The Dilemma of the Judenrat," undated
7.13-8.3	Drafts, unpublished articles, and fragments, undated (4 folders)
11	Education [floppy disk]

11	Golgotha Cross [floppy disk]
8.4	Jewish History Textbook proposal, 1997
8.5	Krakov documentary proposal, undated
8.6	Looking Through the Eye of Zion-Darkly proposal, 2011
8.7	Modern Masada on Mount Carmel in 1942 proposal, undated
8.8	The Muselmann at the Water Cooler: Academic Studies Press, 2010
8.9	The Muselmann at the Water Cooler: correspondence, 2009-2012
8.10	The Muselmann at the Water Cooler: draft (pg. 5-290), circa 2011
11	The Muselmann at the Water Cooler: draft [floppy disk]
9.1	The Muselmann at the Water Cooler: notes and research, circa 2009
9.2	The Muselmann at the Water Cooler: press and awards, 2011
OS 1	Nell F. McKereghan slides for proposal, undated
9.3-9.4	The Play is the Thing that Will Free the Psychic Sting, undated (2 folders)
11	The Play is the Thing that Will Free the Psychic Sting [floppy disk]
9.5	Published articles, 1970-1986
9.6	Second Temple in Perspective notes, undated
9.7	Teaching materials, circa 2016
9.8-9.9	Two Narratives in One Voice proposal, circa 2011-2016 (2 folders)
9.10	"Zichron" - curriculum notes, undated

Series 5. Personal papers and biographical material, circa 1945-2015, undated

Box/Folder	Title
9.11	Application for Polish veteran's allowance, 2015
9.12	Bar-Ilan University, 1965-circa 1968
9.13	Brown University, circa 1971-1993
10.1	Brown University: correspondence, 1980-1989
10.2	Clippings, 1979-2022

10.3	Condo noise complaint correspondence, 2004-2012
10.4	Curriculum vitae, undated
10.5	Employment correspondence, 1988-1993
10.6-10.7	Holocaust-related copies of documentation of Eli Pfefferkorn, circa 1945-2015 (2 folders)
10.8	Passports, circa 1950-2013