

PETER KOSSOWSKY FAMILY PAPERS, circa 1899-1939
2019.526.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Peter Kossowsky family papers

Dates: circa 1899-1939

Accession number: 2019.526.1

Creator: Peter Kossowsky family

Extent: 4 folders, 1 book enclosure

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

Abstract: The Peter Kossowsky family papers consist of biographical materials, a poetry book, a memorial book, and photographs documenting Peter Kossowsky, his first wife Gitel and second wife Chaje Sura, his daughter Schifra, Schifra's first husband Moses Friedman and second husband Salomon Kawalek, and Schifra's daughters Vera and Gerta.

Languages: German, Polish, Hebrew, Russian, French

Administrative Information

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

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Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Peter Kossowsky papers (2019.526.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Vera Chapman donated the Peter Kossowsky papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2019. Vera Chapman is Peter Kossowsky's daughter.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed. See archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, February 2023.

Biographical note

Peter (Pesach) Kossowsky (1872-1939) was born July 4, 1872 in Pinsk, Russia (now Belarus). He and his first wife, Gitel (d. 1913), had two daughters. Schifra Kossowsky was born in 1903 in Yekaterinoslav, Russia (now Dnipro, Ukraine). We do not know the name of their second daughter. The Kossowsky family relocated to Vienna while Schifra was young. After Gitel's death in Vienna in 1913, Peter married his second wife, Chaje Sura. Schifra Kossowsky married Moses (Max) Friedmann in Vienna in 1925. Moses was born in 1899 in Skalat, Poland (now Ukraine). Schifra and Moses had two daughters: Vera, born February 1928, and Gerta. Following the German annexation of Austria, the Gestapo briefly arrested and detained Moses. The Friedmann family then hid in Moses' textile warehouse before fleeing to Aachen, Brussels, and eventually Palestine. Peter Kossowsky died in Vienna on September 12, 1939. Moses Friedman's entire family was killed at Auschwitz except for one uncle. In 1961 Schifra married her second husband, Salomon Kowalek, who was born in Husiatyn (now Ukraine) in 1886.

Scope and content of collection

The Peter Kossowsky family papers consist of biographical materials, a poetry book, a memorial book, and photographs documenting Peter Kossowsky, his first wife Gitel and second wife Chaje Sura, his daughter Schifra, Schifra's first husband Moses Friedman and second husband Salomon Kawalek, and Schifra's daughters Vera and Gerta.

Biographical materials include report cards for Schifra and Moses Friedmann; two cemetery plot assignments for Peter and Gitel Kossowsky in Vienna; a wedding invitation and ketubah for Schifra and Moses Friedmann; a 1939 letter from Chaje Sura Kossowsky to the Friedmann family in Brussels; a passport for Salomon Kawalek; and a death certificate for Peter Kossowsky. The poetry book belonged to Schifra Friedmann in Vienna, and the memorial book commemorates Gitel Kossowsky.

Photographs depict Peter Kossowsky's relatives in Russia, his young family in Vienna, Moses Friedmann's family in Skalat, and a wedding portrait for Schifra and Moses Friedmann.

System of arrangement

The Peter Kossowsky papers are arranged four files: biographical materials, memorial book, photographs, and poetry book.

Indexing terms

Jews--Austria--Vienna.

Vienna (Austria)

Skalat (Ukraine)

CONTAINER LIST

Folder	
1 of 4	Biographical materials, 1905-1939
2 of 4	Memorial book, 1913
3-4 of 4	Photographs, circa 1899-1938
BE 1	Poetry book, 1917-1934