

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Finding Aid
RG-31
Ukraine

RG-31.055

Acc. 2006.336

Title: Chaim Gildin Collection, ca. 1945; 2002.

Extent: 1 folder (62 pages).

Provenance: From the Judaica Institute in Kiev, Ukraine. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the photocopied collection via the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum International Archives Project in April 2006.

Biographical/Historical Note: Chaim Morduhovich Gildin (known as Chaim Gildin) was born in the city of Nikopol, Ukraine in 1884. His father was a manual laborer who worked various jobs. When Chaim was only 12 years old, in 1896, he began working in a shoe factory. He continued working there until 1918, and during this time, he was called to work in many cities including: Dnepropetrovsk, Simferopol, Baku, Tbilisi, Batumi, Zaporozhe, Kherson, Kamenskoye, Yuzovka, Bahmut, Odessa, and Warsaw. In 1904 he joined the Jewish Socialists Workers Party, and was a member until April of 1919. A year prior, in 1918, the workers' party had split apart. The left branch formed a new party called "Komfarband". Chaim took an active role in the 1905 Revolution. In the fall of 1907 he was arrested and spent two years in various jails including: Simferopol, Tula, Samara, and Simbirsk. During this time in prison, Chaim Gildin began writing poems and short stories. In 1910, after his release from prison, he moved to Warsaw and again began working at a shoe factory there. During this time, he became introduced to the works of Isaac Leib Peretz, the renowned Yiddish author and playwright. At the end of 1913, he became part of the editorial staff of a workers paper, chronicling the lives of everyday workers. In early 1915 he left Warsaw for Odessa, where he worked in another shoe factory. During the February Revolution he was elected to the Soviet Workers Deputies, and then in the Presidium Executive Committee. He participated in the suppression of the Kornilovskii Revolt.

In the beginning, he was closely associated with Bolshevism, but then he had a confrontation with a well-known Colonel, Mikhail Artemevich Muravev. In August of 1918, Chaim Gildin was arrested along with many others of the Executive Committee, and spent four months in an Odessa jail. By the beginning of 1919 he went to the Crimean underground, where he was known as the Chairman of the Revolutionary Committee and Chairman of the Soviet National Commissars for the city of Feodosii. By the summer of 1919 he was Secretary of a Jewish newspaper publication. By 1920 he

was sent to Moscow, where he lived until the end of 1926. During this time he began new work in a news information office, and held a variety of professional offices.

In 1927 he moved to Kharkov, where he became involved with publishers of a literary art journal. In By 1929 he became involved in working on the journal full-time. Until May of 1932 he was editor of another literary art journal. At the same time, he served as a member of the editorial board of another journal.

In 1937 he was singled out by the party, along with other writers at the time, for punishment by the Soviet government as a Counter-Revolutionary. By May of 1940 he was arrested by the NKVD in Kiev. He died while imprisoned in 1943 at the age of 59.

His collected poems and short stories have been published since in America, Brazil, Argentina, and Canada.

Restrictions on access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on use: Publication by a third party requires a formal approval of the Judaica Institute in Kiev, Ukraine. Publication requires a mandatory citation of the original source.

Organization and Arrangement: The collection is organized into two main sections, each containing sequential page numbers.

Language: Russian, Ukrainian and Yiddish.

Preferred Citation: Standard Citation for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collections Division, Archives Branch.

Scope and Content: The collection contains a photocopy of a 2002 publication on a series of Ukrainian Jewish writers, including Chaim Gildin. The collection also includes a photocopy of Chaim Gildin's 1945 NKVD file.

Inventory:

Folder 1:

1. Gildin, Chaim. Ca. 1937. "Autobiography," in *Repressed Jewish Writers of Ukraine*, 5-6. Kiev: 2002. (photocopy)
2. NKVD/Ukraine File on Chaim Gildin, ca. 1945. (photocopy)