

**The Joseph Siakkis archives related to the
history of the Jewish communities of Greece
RG-45.006**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: The Joseph Siakkis archives related to the history of the Jewish communities of Greece

Dates: 1890-1980

Accession number: 2009.17

Creator: Ellēniko Logotehniko kai Istoriko Arheio

Extent: 49,976 digital images
8 DVD-ROMs

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

Languages: Greek
English

Scope and content of collection

Contains records related to the history of the Jewish communities of Greece. The archives are organized into 28 thematic sections. The most important topics are: 1. History of Greek Jewry and Jewish communities of Thessaloniki, Corfu, Larissa, Volos, Trikala, Zante, Chania, Preveza, Sparta, Chalkis and other major Jewish centers; 2. Anti-Semitism, Nazi occupation and Holocaust; 3. Collections of Jewish periodicals (Corfu and Athens); 4. Records of the Greek Jewish family names, personal correspondence, literary essays and poetry.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on reproduction and use: Formal approval of the Hellenic Literary and Historical Archive (Athens, Greece), ELIA, is required for publications.

Preferred citation: Preferred citation for USHMM archival collections; consult the USHMM website for guidance.

Acquisition information: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the filmed collection from the Hellenic Literary and Historical Archive, Athens, Greece (Ellēniko Logotehniko kai Istoriko Arheio) via the United States Holocaust Museum International Archives Project in April 2009.

Existence and location of originals: Ellēniko Logotehniko kai Istoriko Arheio

Historical note

Joseph Siakkis (Sciaky) was born in Athens, April 1, 1917. His parents were Moses Siakkis (Sciaky), a merchant from Chalkis, and Rachel Saporta from Thessaloniki. His grandfather Simantos (Simantov) Sciaky had served as President of the Jewish Community of Chalkis, while his father Moses had served as President of the Jewish Community of Athens. He had two brothers, Philip and Victor, and three sisters, Flora, Margarita and Anna.

After having completed his secondary studies at the Piramatikon School in Athens (where he was classmate to Andreas Papandreou), he studied Law at the University of Athens. During World War II, he served at the Albanian front. After the capitulation, he fled on a fishing boat to Turkey and joined the Greek forces in the Middle East. He fought with the Greek Third Mountain Brigade and took part in all operations in Italy, taking part in the Rimini campaign. He was decorated with the Military Cross of the Third Order, the Medal of Distinguished Services and the Medal of St Marc. During the war, his sister Anna was deported from Volos with her husband, and they both perished in the concentration camps.

He exercised the profession of lawyer, working simultaneously as a legal advisor for the Evangelismos Hospital in Athens. He was married in 1955 in Milan, Italy to Despina Vaki, a pharmacist, and they had a son, Moses-Maurice. He dealt actively with Jewish matters: He served as a member of the board of the Greece-Israel Organization, as President of the Organization for the Reinstatement and Relief of Greek Jews, as President of the Assembly of the Athens Jewish Community and as President of the B'nai B'rith. He was also a member of the Society of Evia Studies.

In 1951, his essay "Getting to know Eretria" was awarded with the first prize of the Greek Travellers Club Colloquia, the Jury Committee consisting of E. Papanoutsos, E. Venezis, I.M. Panagiotopoulos, P. Charis and Sp. Chiliadakis. In 1952 he wrote and published the collection of short stories from the Middle East "Pikres Alithies" (Bitter Truths), published by Ikaros, and in 1968 he translated into Greek the Jules Isaac book "The teaching of contempt". He was listed in the dictionary "Who's Who in World Jewry" (1972) as well as in the Encyclopaedia Judaica (1978), in the "Greek Jewish Authors" section. In 1987, he was among the speakers in the Conference "The City of Chalkis", presenting his work on the history of the city's Jews during the Venetian era. Other written essays by J. Siakkis dealt with diverse subjects such as the epic of the 1821 Greek Revolution, the poet K. Kavafis and the historian D. Kambouroglou. An essay on the latter was submitted to the Academy of Athens, in the competition for the E. Roidis Award.

In 1978 he retired from his law vocation to concentrate on academic research. This research is all included in the Archives. He died on October 13, 1999, in Athens.

System of arrangement

The collection is organized into 28 thematic sections: File 01, Jewish community of Athens; File 02, Jewish community of Thessaloniki; File 03, Jewish community of Kerkyra, File 04, Jewish community of Larissa, File 05, Jewish communities of Volos and Trikala; File 06, Jewish community of Zakynthos and Cephalonia; File 07, Jewish community of Crete; File 08, Jewish community of Jannina, Arta and Preveza, File 09, Jewish community of Patra and Sparta; File 10, Jewish community of Chalkis; File 11, Jewish community of Peloponnese; File 12, Jewish community of the Aegean; File 13, Jewish community of Thessaly and Macedonia; File 14, Jewish community of Istanbul and Smyrna; File 15, Jewish community of Byzantium and the cities of Asia Minor; File 16, Poetry, essays on literature; File 17, Various Jewish topics; File 18, Historical notes; File 19, The historian of Athens D. Kambouroglou; File 20, Jewish periodicals; File 21, Judaism, Christianity, historical and personal notes; File 22, Various notes on biblical topics; File 23, Anti-Semitism – Miscellaneous; File 24, Racism-Nazism-Shoah; File 25, Jewish family names; File 26, Manuscripts-Draft; File 27, Greek and Jewish words, Greek and Jewish scripts; File 28, Original Jewish certificates and letters.

Indexing terms

Siakkis, Joseph, 1917-1999.
Kampouroglous, Dēmētrios Grēgoriou, 1852-1942.
Hellēniko Logotechniko kai Historiko Archeio (Athens, Greece)
Israēlitikē Koinotēta Volou.
Jews--Greece--History.
Jews--Greece--Registers.
Judaism--Relations--Christianity.
Antisemitism--Greece--History.
Judaism--Customs and practices--Greece.
Athens (Greece)
Thessalonikē (Greece)
Peloponnesus (Greece)
Iōannina (Greece)
Periodicals.
Essays.
Poetry.

CONTAINER LIST

The Joseph Siakkis Archives collection is divided into 28 numbered files containing information and documents on the Judaism of Greece from antiquity to the present, together with general information on biblical subjects, relations between Christianity and Judaism, racism in Greece and other European countries, Nazism and the Shoah.

A. HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF GREECE

File 1a: Jewish Community of Athens

File 1b: Jewish Community of Athens

File 2a: Jewish Community of Thessaloniki (Salonica)

File 2b: Jewish Community of Thessaloniki (Salonica)

File 3a: Jewish Community of Kerkyra (Corfu)

File 3b: Jewish Community of Kerkyra (Corfu)

File 3c: Jewish Community of Kerkyra (Corfu)

File 4: Jewish Community of Larissa

File 5: Jewish Communities of Voles and Trikala

File 6: Jewish Community of Zakynthos (Zante) and Cephalonia

File 7a: Jewish Communities of Heraklio (Candia) and Chania

File 7b: Jews of Crete - Jewish Community of Rethymno

File 8: Jewish Communities of Jannina, Arta and Preveza

File 9: Jewish Communities of Patra and Sparta

File 10a: Jewish Community of Chalkis

File 10b: Jewish Community of Chalkis

File 10c: Jewish Community of Chalkis

File 10d: Jewish Community of Chalkis

File 10e: Jewish Community of Chalkis

File 10f: Jewish Community of Chalkis

File 11: Jewish Communities of the Peloponnese

File 12: Jewish Communities of the Aegean (Rhodes, Samos, Lesbos, Chios)

File 13: Jewish Communities of Thessaly and Macedonia

File 14a: Jewish Communities of Istanbul and Smyrna

File 14b: Jewish Communities of Istanbul and Smyrna

File 15: Jews of Byzantium and the cities of Asia Minor

B. JEWISH HISTORY

File 17a: Various Jewish topics

File 17b: Various Jewish topics

File 17c: Various Jewish topics

File 17c: Various Jewish topics

File 18a: Historical Notes

File 18b: Historical Notes

File 21: Judaism, Christianity, historical and personal notes.

C. BIBLICAL HISTORY

File 22: Various notes on biblical topics

D. HISTORY OF THE CITY OF ATHENS

File 19: The historian of Athens, D. Kambouroglou

E. ANTISEMITISM

File 23: Antisemitism - miscellaneous

File 24: Racism - Nazism - Shoah

F. JOSEPH SIAKKIS: MANUSCRIPTS

File 16: Poetry - Essays on literature

File 26: Manuscripts - drafts.

G. NAMES

File 25: Jewish family names

H. COLLECTION OF JEWISH PERIODICALS

File 20: Collection of the "ISRAILITIS CHRONOGRAFOS" / Corfu, 1899-1901 and "ISRAILITIKI EPITHEORISSIS" / Athens, 1912-1915.

I. WORDS - SCRIPT

File 27: Greek & Jewish words (interpretation, origin); Greek & Jewish script.

J. ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES

File 28: Original Jewish certificates and letters.