

Papers of Jacob Pat (Fond WAG 127)
RG-67.024M

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Papers of Jacob Pat (Fond WAG 127)

Dates: 1935-1978 (inclusive)
1944-1960 (bulk)

Accession number: 2009.268

Creator: Jacob Pat

Extent: 3,571 digital images
5 microfilm reels

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

Languages: Yiddish
English
French
German
Russian
Hebrew

Scope and content of collection

Includes correspondence, essays and writings, and other material pertaining to Pat's work with the Jewish Labor Committee. Correspondence (1937-1971) includes one file of obituary and memorial articles, and thirty-two files of correspondence, arranged chronologically. The correspondence includes both incoming and outgoing letters, reflecting Pat's involvement with a wide range of Jewish political and cultural organizations, and personal correspondence with friends from many countries. Of special note is a file of correspondence related to the publication of his conversations with Jewish Writers, 1959-1960. Also included is a small number of letters addressed to or written by other Jewish Labor Committee and Jewish Labor Bund officers and staff, which came into Pat's possession in the course of his work. Subject files (1935-1978), arranged alphabetically by topic, include a substantial number of material illustrating Pat's work with the Jewish Labor Committee, manuscript and printed reports and essays on a

variety of topics related to the Holocaust and Jewish survival, and records of his travels. A small number of documents dating from the years after Jacob Pat's death in 1966 were preserved by his widow, Frieda.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on reproduction and use: Permission to publish materials must be obtained in writing from the: Tamiment Library/Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library. See agreement between the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Robert Wagner Labor Archives

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

Acquisition information: Source of acquisition is The Tamiment Library and Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives, Fond WAG 127. The papers of Jacob Pat were donated to the The Tamiment Library and Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives by his granddaughter, Rebecca Pat Cohen, in 1998. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the collection via the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum International Archives Program in November, 2009.

Existence and location of originals: The Tamiment Library and Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives

Historical note

Jacob Pat was born in Bialystok, Russian Empire, in 1890. He attended yeshivas in Slobodka and Slutsk and later graduated from a teachers' seminary in Vilna. Active in the Zionist-Socialist Workers Party from 1905, he dropped his Zionist sympathies and became a member of the social-democratic Jewish Labor Bund after World War I. While working as a teacher, he also served as secretary of the Jewish Community Board of Bialystok, 1917-1920. He lived in Warsaw from 1921 to 1938, and worked there as General Secretary of the Bund's Central Association of Yiddish Schools (CISHO), which enrolled an estimated 60,000 children throughout Poland during the interwar years. He was a prolific journalist, editing and writing for Bundist children's magazines, and serving as co-editor for the Polish Bund's newspaper, the *Folkstseitung*.

In the 1930s he traveled to the United States on fund-raising trips, representing the Bund schools. One such trip took him to New York City in the fall of 1938. Worsening conditions in Europe forced him to remain in the United States to devote himself to anti-Nazi activity and rescue work. He had left behind in Warsaw his wife, Rivke Pat, and two children, Emanuel and Naomi. The family fled to Vilna after the German invasion of Poland, and there Rivke Pat died. Emanuel and Naomi Patt (this spelling of the surname was adopted by them in the U.S.) were brought to the U.S. on special visas in 1940. Jacob Pat remarried, to Frieda Wider, in 1942.

In 1941 Pat became Executive Secretary of the Jewish Labor Committee, a position he held until his retirement in 1963. He also served as a member of the Delegation of the Jewish Labor Bund to the U.S., 1938-1947, as chairman of the Congress for Jewish Culture, and as co-editor of

Zukunft. In 1946 he toured displaced persons camps and visited with communities of Jewish survivors in France and Eastern Europe; he wrote about his experiences in Poland in *Ashes and Fire* (1947). In later years he traveled extensively to Europe, South America and Israel. He was a frequent contributor to the Jewish press both in Yiddish and English, and published a number of books, including *Conversations with Jewish Writers* (1959). He died in New York City on April 26, 1966.

System of arrangement

Organized into 2 series: I. Biographical and Correspondence, 1937-1971; and II. Subject Files, 1935-1978. Series I is arranged chronologically and Series II is arranged alphabetically by subject, and there under chronologically.

Indexing terms

Pat, Jacob, 1890-1966.
Pat, Frieda Wider.
Patt, Emanuel, 1912-1971.
Held, Adolph, 1885-1969--Speeches, addresses, etc.
Chanin, Nathan, -1965.
Sherer, Emanuel.
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.
American Labor Committee.
Common Council for American Unity.
Congress for Jewish Culture.
General Jewish Council (U.S.)
International Jewish Labor Bund.
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.
World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue.
Antisemitism--Soviet Union--History--20th century.
Anti-fascist movements--United States.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Poland.
Jews--Persecutions--Europe.
Jews--Politics and governm
Poland--History--1918-1945.
Australia--History--1951-1965.
Soviet Union--Foreign public opinion, French.
Correspondence.
Diaries.
Reports.
Minutes.

CONTAINER LIST

Series I: Biographical/Correspondence

Reel 1

(Box 1, folder #)

1	Biographical/Obituary Information	1966-1971
2	Correspondence	undated
3	Correspondence	1937
4	Correspondence	1939
5	Correspondence	1940
6	Correspondence	1941
7	Correspondence	1943
8	Correspondence	1944
9	Correspondence	1945
10	Correspondence	1946
11	Correspondence	1947
12	Correspondence	1948-1950
13	Correspondence	1952
14	Correspondence	1953
15	Correspondence	1954
16	Correspondence	Jan 1955-Jul 1955
17	Correspondence	Aug 1955-Dec 1955
18	Correspondence	Jan 1955-Apr 1956
19	Correspondence	May 1955-Dec 1956
20	Correspondence	1957

Reel 2

21	Correspondence	1958
22	Correspondence	1959
23	Correspondence	1960
24	Correspondence	1961
25	Correspondence	Jan 1962-May 1962
26	Correspondence	Jun 1962-Dec 1962
27	Correspondence	1963
28	Correspondence	1964
29	Correspondence	1965
30	Correspondence	1966 , 1972 , 1981
31	Correspondence: Bialystoker Book	1958
32	Correspondence: Related to Sihot im Soforim Yehudiyim (Conversations with Jewish Writers)	1959-1960
33	Correspondence: Sherer, Emanuel	1944

Series II: Subject Files

34	Address Books & Business Cards	1940s-1950s
35	American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee	1944 , 1946
36	American Labor Committee	1941
37	Australia	1951-1965
38	Australia: Trip - Clippings	1956

39	Australia: Trip - Correspondence	1956-1957
40	Bessarabian Jewry	undated
41	Bialystok	undated
42	Bialystok: Research by Nachman Blumental	1940s
43	Chanin: Zionism & Communism	1946
44	China (Mezhiborsky, D., memorabilia)	1941-1943
45	Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons	1948
46	Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons	1949-1957

Reel 3

47	Common Council for American Unity	1948-1957
48	Conference: Goals of the Jewish Labor Movement	1948
49	Congress for Jewish Culture	1950
50	Diaries	1940s-1950s
51	Displaced Persons Act	1948
52	Displaced Persons Bill	1950
53	Displaced Persons Screening	1948-1949
54	Erlch and Alter Case	1943
55	Exhibition: "Europe's Fighting Underground"	1940s

(Box 2, folder #)

1	France: Mouvement National Contre le Racisme, pamphlets & newsletters	1943-1944
2	France: Protest of Soviet Anti-Semitism	1950s
3	Fund Transfer: European	1944
4	General Jewish Council	1943-1944
5	Germany	1946
6	Held, Adolph - Speeches & Addresses	1940s
7	Hungarian Reports	1944
8	Hungarian Rescue	1944-1945
9	Immigration	1946
10	Immigration	1948
11	Immigration	1948-1949

Reel 4

12	International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU)	Jan 1945-Aug 1945
13	ILGWU	Sep 1945-Dec 1945
14	Israel	1962-1964
15	Italian-American Labor Council	1944
16	Jewish Labor Committee (JLC): General	1942-1953
17	JLC: Ab. Cahan Fund	1965
18	JLC: Correspondence	1942
19	JLC: Correspondence	1944
20	JLC: Correspondence	1945
21	JLC: Correspondence	1946-1948
22	JLC: Correspondence	1951, 1957

23 JLC: Leivick Fund 1961
 24 JLC: Minutes of National Executive Committee Meeting (excerpt), 20 Nov 1943.
 "Report & Discussion on the General Jewish Conference" 1943
 25 JLC: Printed Material 1942-1974

Reel 5

26 JLC: Reports 1942-1976
 27 JLC: Women's Division 1947
 28 JLC: Workmen's Circle Division 1943-1951
 29 Labor Chest (AFL) 1935-1937
 30 League for Human Rights 1940-1942
 31 Pat, Frieda 1946-1978
 32 Patt, Emanuel 1971
 33 Poland 1937, 1940
 34 Report: "Some Confidential Information on the Last Days" undated
 35 Reports, Notes, & Writings 1940s-1960s
 36 Retirement 1963
 37 Soviet Jewry 1940s-1950s
 38 Vilna: Refugee List ca.1940
 39 Warsaw Ghetto Exhibition (Pictorial Statistics) 1945
 40 Warsaw Ghetto Memorial 1944
 41 Wise, Shmuel: "Jewish Workers' Movement in the United States"
 42 Workmen's Circle, Branch 303 ("Jacob Pat Branch") 1970
 43 Workmen's Circle: Constitution 1963
 44 World Conference of Jewish Organizations Mar 1963
 45 Yugentruf undated