

MIKHAIL LEV COLLECTION, 1940-2008

2011.12

RG-68.118

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: Mikhail Lev collection

Dates: 1940-2008

Accession number: 2011.12

Record Group Number: RG-68.118

Creator: Mikhail Lev

Extent: 5 linear feet (10 boxes)

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

Abstract: Archives of Mikhail Lev, a Yiddish language writer. The collection includes his correspondence, articles, and unpublished materials; fragments of personal archives of other persons: e.g. Valentin Tomin, M. Shulman, I. Rabin; Yakov Shterbner; personal diary of Mendel Rosengauz; literary work in Yiddish of Girsch Dobin, and of Girsch Dobin (1905-2001), a survivor of Minsk ghetto; and drawings from Ravensbrück.

Languages: Yiddish, Russian, Hebrew

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Mikhail Lev Collection (2011.12), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was acquired from the Soviet Yiddish writer and journalist Mikhail Lev, in Israel. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives received the collection via the United States Holocaust Museum International Archives Project in Jan. 2011.

Related materials:

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

Processing history: Archives staff, 2011.

Revised by Aleksandra B. Borecka, Nov. 2017, and Alla Dvorkin, Nov. 2017 and Jan. 2018.

Biographical note

Mikhail Lev, a Yiddish language writer, was born on July 3, 1917 in the town of Pogrebichshe, Kiev oblast, Ukraine. In 1926, his family moved to Krivog Rog where they joined the newly established Jewish agricultural colony. In 1935 Lev entered a Jewish teacher's college in Moscow and also started his work at the Jewish Central Library of the Jewish publishing house "Der Emes" (Truth). In 1941, Mikhail Lev joined the Red Army. He was wounded and captured by Germans. After surviving one year in a prisoner-of-war camp, he managed to escape and joined partisans in Belarus, serving first as a commander of the intelligence unit and then as a chief of staff of a partisan brigade. After the war, Lev returned to Moscow and continued his work in at "Der Emes" while also writing articles for the newspaper "Eynikayt" published by the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee. With the establishment of Yiddish journal "Sovietische Geymland" (Soviet Motherland), Lev became one of the major contributors to this monthly publication and a member of its editorial board. Up until his immigration to Israel in 1996, Mikhail Lev published 11 books in Yiddish and Russian.

Scope and content of collection

The collection contains mainly literary archives of Mikhail Lev. Includes his correspondence with readers, colleagues, friends, Holocaust survivors, publishing houses and literary journals related to the research and publication of his works. Mikhail Lev dedicated his literary career to research about the Holocaust, heroism of the Jewish people during WWII and to the history of Sobibór death camp and uprising. The most important part of this collection is Mikhail Lev's correspondence with Aleksandr Pecherskiy, leader of the Sobibór uprising and several other survivors from Sobibór, including original letters and correspondence between Aleksandr Pecherskiy and Sobibór survivors, Aleksandr Pecherskiy personal documents, his articles and publications, published and unpublished materials related to the history of Sobibór camp, Sobibór uprising and biography of Aleksandr Pecherskiy. Includes also a review of Mikail Lev's books and articles published in newspapers and literary journals, texts of lectures and presentations, as well as drafts of manuscripts submitted for publication. In addition to Mikhail Lev's personal archives, this collection also includes fragments of the personal archives of: Valentin Tomin,

Soviet historian and journalist, author of the book about Sobibór published in the Soviet Union in 1964; M. Shulman: contains letters from Soviet Yiddish writers; I. Rabin; Yaakov Shterbner (1890 -1973), a Jewish poet: includes his letters, photographs, poems and journals and the magazines he was published. Also includes a personal diary of Mendel Rosengauz (1901-1982), a specialist in literature and culture in Yiddish; and contains literary work in Yiddish of Girsch Dobin (1905-2001), a survivor of Minsk ghetto.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as three series:

Series 1. Biographical materials, correspondence, publications, clippings and photographs.

Series 2. Publications, notes and correspondence from the archives of other Yiddish authors and historians.

Series 3. Photographs.

NOTE: This donation includes also video cassettes: Video cassettes were transferred to the USHMM Film, Oral History, and Recorded Sound. The list of video cassettes is located on the end of the inventory.

Indexing terms

Person:

Belenki, Moyshe
Dobin, Girsch, 1905-2001
Gordin, Jacob
Lev, Mikhail, 1917-
Pecherskiy, Aleksandr
Peretz, I.L.
Rabin, Josef
Rozengauz, Mendel
Shlonsky, Avraham
Shternberg, Yakov, 1890-1973
Shulman, Moini
Teyman, Aharon
Tobin, Hirsh
Tomin, Valentin

Corporate:

Sobibór (Concentration camp)
Ravensbrück (Concentration camp)

Topical Subject:

World War, 1939-1945--Ukraine--Personal narratives, Jewish.

World War, 1939-1945--Jewish resistance.

Ukrainian literature--Jewish authors.

Literary work in Yiddish--Ukraine.

Concentration camp escapes--Poland--Sobibór.

Concentration camps--Soviet Union.

Holocaust survivors--Sobibor concentration camp.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Poland--Sobibór.

Holocaust survivors--Minsk ghetto.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945), in literature--Ukraine.

Geography:

Minsk (Belarus)--History--20th century.

Ravensbrück (Germany)

Sobibór (Poland)

Genre/Form:

Articles.

Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

Correspondence.

Diaries.

Drawings.

Drawings.

Newspaper articles.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Title
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1	2	Letters of A.M. Vaispapir to M.Lev, 1988-2003
1	3	Letters of A. Vaytsin, 2000
1	4	Correspondence A.Pecherski with Holocaust survivors, former Sobibor prisoners , 1962-1980
1	5	Correspondence A. Pecherski with individuals, Russian correspondence , different organisations (including Yad Vashem), 1964-1990
1	6	Correspondence A. Pecherski with Dunja Breyer and Lily van den Bergh (film director) -Holland , 1981-1986
1	7	Correspondence A. Pecherski with Miriam Novich, Israeli historian, reports from the Sobibor trial in Hagen, Germany (1965-1966), 1966-1980
1	8	Correspondence A. Pecherski with Polish historian Georgiy Soroka on Sobibor, 1964-1965
1	9	Correspondence A. Pecherski with A.Belov, 1980
1	10	Correspondence A. Pecherski with Robert van Albada, Holland, Vim Smit, Holland and Lue Friedman, USA, Ruvim Einstein , England, Martin Gilbert, England, Eric Edwards, England, Alan Kaplan , USA, 1966-1988
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1	12	Bulletin No.10, 1993 issued by Jewish school "Tehia" in Baku, Azerbajdjan dedicated to 50th anniversary of Sobibor camp uprising, contains biographies of members of the uprising committee
1	13	Invitation of municipality of Zfat for dedication ceremony to name the street after Alexander Pecherski, 2004. Photographs from the ceremony. Newspaper clip from "Forwards".
1	14	Letter of Tel Aviv municipality rejecting to name the street after Alexander Pechersky, November 28, 2007
1	15	Photograph of the grave tombstone of A.Pechersky. Letter written by Lev Diamant to the editor of Israeli newspaper "Globus" regarding commemoration tombstone for A.Pechersky

1	16	Russin translation of Richard Rashke's book "Escape from Sobibor" fragmentary, not complete .
1	17	2 letters of A. Pechersky to Waldu Romanovich ? with biographical data, Sobibor uprising, includes also bibliography of publications on the Sobibor uprising in the Soviet and foreign press, 1961
2	1	Reference for A.Pechersky for the presentation to the communist party central committee. Reports issued by Polish labor party published November 13, 1943 on the uprising in Sobibor. Letter written by Polish Jewish National Committee members to Itzhak Shwartzbard describing destruction of Polish Jews including extermination camps Treblinka and Sobibor , October 23, 1943, Warsaw . Quotation from the speech of the chief prosecutor Gideon Hausner on Eichman trial on Sobibor camp
2	2	Correspondence A.Pechersky and Boris Zibulski (Holocaust survivor and former Sobibor prisoner) Articles of A.Pechersky published in Yiddish and Russian press on Boris Zibulski and Sobibor uprising
2	3	Newspaper clips, A. Pechersky's letters on Boris Zibulski pretended to be one of the leaders of Sobibor uprising, articles related to Zibulski affair , 1963
2	4	Reports of Netherlands Auschwitz Committee on the Hagen Sobibor trial, 1965-1966
2	5	Dutch newspapers on Hagen Sobibor trial, 1965-1966 including invitation of A. Pechersky to give an evidence.
2	6	Articles been published in the Dutch newspapers on the Hagen Sobibor trial in 1983h
2	7	Newspapers clips about a diary of Harry Schwab a survivor of Sobibor which was found in Holland in 1983 Translations into Russian from Polish newspapers on Sobibor , 1964-1965
2	8	Articles in Russian from the newspapers published in Israel on Sobibor uprising, 2000-2012
2	9	Translations into Russian of publications on Sobibor uprising in American newspapers, 1966 - 1998
2	10	Interview with Thomas Blatt, the prisoner of Sobibor , published in the German magazine "Stern", No 23, 1984
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2	12	Translation into Russian from the British magazine "Jewish observer" on A. Pecherski and Sobibor uprising, 1965
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2	22	Plan of Sobibor camp – in German List of prisoners in Sobibor compiled by A. Pechersky List of SS-men in Sobibor
2	23	Script for the documentary on Sobibor by Lily Van der Berg – in Russian translation
2	24	Photographs (originals) : Destroyed Jewish quarter of Amsterdam Destroyed synagogue in Amsterdam Transport of Dutch Jews to Sobibor Sealed houses of Amsterdam Jews who were deported to Sobibor, 1943
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2	26	Reports and articles on Hagen trail against war criminals in Sobibor, 1965

2	27	Articles on Nazi criminal Gustav Franz Wagner (who was a Deputy Commander in Sobibor) arrested in Brazil in 1978 – in Russian, English, Hebrew, Yiddish
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8	142	Diary of Mendel Rozengaus (1905-1982) , bibliographer, specialized in Yiddish literature and culture, worked in Jewish theatre, Jewish newspapers and publishing houses
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9	157	From the archive of Yaakov Shternberg: Letters to the family
9	158	From the archive of Yaakov Shternberg: Correspondence with Soviet Writers Union regarding emigration to Israel Brochure on occasion of literature award for Yiddish writers given to Y. Shternberg , Israel, 1971 Y.Shternberg's will
10	159	191 Photographs: A.Pechersky and survivors of Sobibor, annually meetings in 1944 – 2008 Jewish Yiddish writers From the archive of V. Redko, the jung Jewish writer, fell in WWII Meeting with Jewish writers in Kishinev, Belzi and Kiev, 1961 The 6 th and the 7 th sessions of Council of Jewish culture in Kiev, 1991, 1994 Meetings of Yiddish writers in Beit Levik (Yiddish writers' house in Tel Aviv) Dorothea Greve with Yiddish writers in Israel, 2007-2008 Actress Etel Kovenskaya and Lev Kogan (writer) at the evening in memory of P. Markish in Tel Aviv, 1991

		Meeting with readers in Rehovot, Israel , 2004 Masha Rolnikaite, survivor of ghetto Vilno and Stutthof camp, author of the book "I must tell". Partisans Michail Lev
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NOTE: This donation includes 12 video cassettes: Video cassettes are transferred to the USHMM Film, Oral History, and Recorded Sound.

The list of video cassettes from Michael Lev collection:

1. Street dedication ceremony on the name of Alexander Pechersky. Zefat, 16 November, 2004
2. Commemoration of 60 years to Sobibor uprising. Freiberg family, Ramle, Israel, 14 October, 2003
3. Commemoration of 61 year to Sobibor uprising. Freiberg family, Ramle, Israel, 14 October, 2004
4. Misha Lev (interview?) - 1 h. 15min
5. Misha Lev, Jerusalem, 1995
6. Shoah Part I
7. Shoah Part II
8. Sobibor, 14 October 1943, testimony of Leon Lerner conducted by Clo
9. Uprising in Sobibor, the film (in Russian)
10. Presentation of Michail Lev's book "Sobibor" in Israel
11. Misha Lev. Sobibor. Boston

12. Interview with Mikhail Lev conducted by Shoah visual history foundation on 23 July 1997
in Rehovot, Israel