

Interviewee:	<u>MARKUS</u> , Henry	Date:	November 24, 1981
Interviewer:	Judy Fliegelman		
Audio tapes:	2 English	Transcript:	1 vol. (unpaged) English
Restrictions:	None		

SUMMARY

Henry Zvi Markus was born October 31, 1932 in Sofia, Bulgaria, the only child in an Ashkenazi Polish family. His father was a historian and a leader in Hebrew education. Henry describes that there was little antisemitism in Sofia until January, 1941. After the Nuremberg Laws were imposed, Henry had to leave school and his family was forced to move to a restricted area.

In 1943, the family had to leave Sofia, traveling on a regular passenger train to Ruse (a town over 300 km away), where they lived with a Jewish family. Henry attended a Jewish school where his father taught Hebrew. In early 1944, when the Russian Army occupied the city, Jewish persecution diminished. The Markus family first learned of German slaughter of Jews in Poland when they encountered Russian Jewish officers. Later in 1944, they returned to Sofia and found their home occupied. A Popular Court confirmed their ownership and police helped find their furniture which had been sold. The large library of Judaica of Henry's father, saved by a gentile friend, was returned and other Christians offered their support.

In 1949, the family emigrated to Israel, where Henry earned MA and PhD degrees in biochemistry at Hebrew University. In 1967, he married a daughter of survivors and came to the United States for post-doctoral studies. He fathered two sons. His family received reparations from Germany.