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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

## **Inventory of the Anita Abeles Freilich Papers, 1929-2008**

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College of Charleston  
66 George Street  
Charleston, SC 29424 USA  
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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Anita Abeles Freilich papers
<b>Date(s)</b>	1929-2008
<b>Creator:</b>	Freilich, Anita Abeles, 1930-
<b>Abstract:</b>	Images, correspondence, and other papers of Anita Abeles Freilich and the Abeles family, a Jewish family that fled Czechoslovakia shortly before the Nazi invasion in 1939. Included is a memoir from Sara Novak, a friend of the Abeleses and a Lithuanian Holocaust survivor, and a DVD recording of the Abeles family's 60th anniversary picnic in 1998. Materials document the Abeles family prior to their escape from Czechoslovakia and their attempts to seek restitution.
<b>Extent:</b>	0.1 linear feet (5 folders)
<b>Repository:</b>	Jewish Heritage Collection, Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries 66 George Street Charleston, SC 29424 Phone: (843) 953-8016 Fax: (843) 953-6319 URL: <a href="http://archives.library.cofc.edu">http://archives.library.cofc.edu</a>
<b>Call Number:</b>	Mss 1065-005
<b>Language of Material:</b>	Materials in English,Czech, and German

## Biographical Note

Anita Abeles was born in 1930 in Svinare, Czechoslovakia, to Walter and Zdenke Abeles. The Abeleses were the only Jewish family in Svinare in the pre-war era. In 1938, with the Germans threatening Czechoslovakia, Walter Abeles decided that he and his family must leave the country. He secured Canadian visas for his family by agreeing to a five-year commitment to farm land in Canada.

The Abeleses left Czechoslovakia in March 1939, within a week of the Nazi invasion. They traveled through Germany, France, and England before arriving in Dundas, Ontario, where Walter Abeles was given a farm of 100 acres. After completing his five-year commitment, the family moved to Toronto, where Anita Abeles met Max Freilich on a blind date. They married in 1954 and eventually moved to Greenville, South Carolina.

## Collection Overview

Images, correspondence, and other papers of Anita Abeles Freilich and the Abeles family, a Jewish family that fled Czechoslovakia shortly before the Nazi invasion in 1939. Included is a memoir from Sara Novak, a friend of the Abeleses and a Lithuanian Holocaust survivor, and a DVD recording of the Abeles family's 60th anniversary picnic in 1998. Materials document the Abeles family prior to their escape from Czechoslovakia and their attempts to seek restitution.

## Collection Arrangement

Materials are described at the folder level.

## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

### Copyright Notice

The nature of the College of Charleston's archival holdings means that copyright or other information about restrictions may be difficult or even impossible to determine despite reasonable efforts. Special Collections claims only physical ownership of most archival materials.

The materials from our collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study, pursuant to U.S. copyright law. The user must assume full responsibility for any use of the materials, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced materials. Any materials used for academic research or otherwise should be fully credited with the source.

## Related Material

Related materials in College of Charleston Special Collections include the Max Freilich papers (Mss 1065-004).

## Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person, family, or organization, by topical subject, by place, and by types of material.

### Names

Freilich, Anita Abeles, 1930-  
Abeles family

### Subjects

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Lithuania--Personal narratives  
Holocaust survivors  
World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities  
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees--Czechoslovakia

### Places

Svinare (Czech Republic)

### Types of Material

Correspondence  
Digital images  
DVDs  
Memoirs  
Photocopies

## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Anita Abeles Freilich papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

### **Acquisitions Information**

Materials were donated in 2008 by Anita Freilich.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Rebecca McClure, January 2011.

Encoded by Rebecca McClure, November 2011.

Reviewed and uploaded by Martha McTear, January 2012.

Funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources supported the processing of this collection and encoding of the finding aid.

# Inventory

Folder 1	<b>General, 1938, 2008, undated</b>  Included are copies of Freilich's parents' Czechoslovakian passports and field notes from discussions with Freilich. Also included is a handwritten statement from Freilich about the Holocaust.
Folder 2	<b>Correspondence photocopies, 1939-1940, 1963, undated</b>  Included is correspondence in Czech related to Walter Abeles's attempts to obtain restitution for his lost Czechoslovakian property as well as an inventory of goods he sold prior to leaving Czechoslovakia. Also included is a postcard in German from Freilich's grandmother, Kamila Stadler, who later died in Theresienstadt.
Folder 3	<b><i>Life during the War</i>, undated</b>  Memoir of Sara Novak, a friend of Freilich, detailing her experience as a Jew in Lithuania after the Nazi occupation in 1941, including her imprisonment in the Kovno ghetto and the Stuthoff concentration camp.
Folder 4	<b>Images, 1929-1941, 1964, undated</b>  Digital images on CD and DVD of pre-war photographs of Freilich and her family in Czechoslovakia. Also included are digital images of correspondence.
Folder 5	<b>Abeles Family 60th Anniversary Picnic DVD, 1998</b>  DVD recording of the Abeles family's 60th anniversary picnic held in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1998.