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CHARLESTON

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

## **Inventory of the Pincus Kolender Papers, circa 1915-1996**

Addlestone Library, Special Collections  
College of Charleston  
66 George Street  
Charleston, SC 29424 USA  
<http://archives.library.cofc.edu>  
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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Pincus Kolender papers
<b>Date(s)</b>	circa 1915-1996
<b>Creator:</b>	Kolender, Pincus, 1926-2008
<b>Abstract:</b>	The collection consists of images and transcripts of a speech and oral history interview of Pincus Kolender, a Jewish native of Bochnia, Poland, who survived imprisonment in multiple concentration camps during World War II, including Szebnie, Birkenau, Buna, and Dora. Images include pre- and post-war photographs of Kolender and his family, as well as those of his wife Renee Fox (formerly Fuchs) Kolender.
<b>Extent:</b>	0.25 linear feet (4 folders)
<b>Repository:</b>	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 1065-014
<b>Language of Material:</b>	Materials in English

## Biographical Note

Pincus Kolender (1926-2008) was born in Bochnia, Poland, near Krakow. Kolender had an older brother, Abraham, and an older sister, Rosa. His family owned a small grocery store on the first floor of their home, opened after Kolender's father, Chiel Kolender, lost his job in 1936 for refusing to shave his beard, a reflection of growing Polish antisemitism. After the German invasion of Poland in September 1939, Bochnia was transformed into a Jewish ghetto.

Kolender, his parents, and his siblings survived in the ghetto until the first stage of its liquidation in 1942, when his mother, Rachel, was shot and killed by the SS. The remaining family lived in the ghetto for another year, at which time Rosa Kolender was deported to Treblinka, where she was killed. Chiel Kolender was sent to Plashov, a labor camp, where he was shot and killed by a commandant. Pincus and Abraham Kolender were deported to Auschwitz, where they survived by sneaking into the line headed for the work camp, rather than the line headed for the gas chambers to which they were initially assigned.

Kolender and his brother ended up at Buna, also known as Auschwitz III, working at the I.G. Farben factory. As the Red Army advanced into Poland in January 1945, they, along with the other surviving Auschwitz inmates, were sent out on a long march away from the camp. Abraham Kolender died during the march. Kolender survived and was sent to Dora, another German work camp, until the British approached in April 1945, at which point he was again moved, this time by train to Czechoslovakia.

Outside of Prague, Kolender and two other inmates jumped off the train. They hid in the woods for eighteen days, aided by a Czech farmer who provided them with clothes and food, until the area was liberated by an American tank unit on May 7, 1945. After liberation, Kolender left Prague for Germany and applied for an American visa, which was approved in 1950. The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society helped resettle Kolender in Charleston, South Carolina, where in 1953 he married Renee Fox (formerly Fuchs), also a Polish Holocaust survivor.

## Collection Overview

Images and transcripts of a speech and oral history interview of Pincus Kolender, a Jewish native of Bochnia, Poland, who survived imprisonment in multiple concentration camps during World War II, including Szebnie, Birkenau, Buna, and Dora. Images include pre- and post-war photographs of Kolender and his family, as well as those of his wife Renee Fox (formerly Fuchs) Kolender.

## 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 Special Collections include a 1997 oral history interview with Pincus Kolender (Mss 1035-146). Also available in the media collection is a 2002 interview with Kolender in the videorecording *For every person there is a name* (D804.3 .F68 2002). Photographs are available in the **Lowcountry Digital Library**.

## 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

Kolender, Pincus, 1926-2008  
Kolender, Renee Fox, 1922-1999  
Birkenau (Concentration camp)

### **Subjects**

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Personal narratives  
Holocaust survivors--Poland  
Jewish ghettos--Poland--History  
World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities

### **Places**

Bochnia (Poland)  
Charleston (S.C.)

### **Types of Material**

Black-and-white negatives  
Black-and-white slides  
Digital images  
Interviews  
Photocopies  
Speeches (documents)

## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Pincus Kolender papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

### **Acquisitions Information**

Materials were donated in 2000 by Pincus Kolender.

### **Alternate Form of Materials**

Photographs available online in the **Lowcountry Digital Library**.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Rebecca McClure, September 2013.

Encoded by Rebecca McClure, October 2013.

Reviewed, edited, and uploaded by Martha McTear, December 2013.

# Inventory

Folder 1

*Ghetto Bochnia, 1996*

Transcript of an interview with Kolender by I. Zelinkovsky. In this interview, Kolender describes his experiences in the Bochnia ghetto; in the Szebnie, Birkenau, Buna, and Dora camps; and his escape from a transport train in Czechoslovakia.

Folder 2

**Holocaust speech, undated**

Transcript of a speech given by Kolender, primarily about his experience in Buna. This transcript was adapted by Kolender for use in different presentations.

Folder 3

**Negatives and slides, circa 1915-1953, 1960s, 1987, 1993**

Copy negatives and slides of photographs of the Kolender and Fuchs families. Pre-war photographs show Kolender's aunts, uncles, cousins, and paternal grandfather in Poland; also includes pre-war portraits of Renee Fuchs's family. Post-war photographs show Kolender with surviving family and friends in Germany, the United States, Israel, and on a return trip to Auschwitz. Photographs of Renee Fuchs after the war show her traveling with her brother Michael to the United States and marrying Kolender in Charleston, South Carolina. Also includes an identification card issued to Kolender by a Jewish chaplain in the U.S. Army in 1945, and a driver's license issued to Kolender in Germany in 1946. A DVD containing these images is also included.

Folder 4

**Photocopies, circa 1915-1953, 1960s, 1987, 1993**

Photocopies of the images in Folder 3.