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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**Inventory of the Guta Blas  
Weintraub papers, circa 1922-2008**

Addlestone Library, Special Collections  
College of Charleston  
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Charleston, SC 29424 USA  
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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Guta Blas Weintraub papers
<b>Date(s)</b>	circa 1922-2008
<b>Creator:</b>	Weintraub, Guta Blas, 1924-2008
<b>Abstract:</b>	Images and newspaper clippings of Guta Blas Weintraub, a Jewish resident of #ód#, Poland, who survived the Holocaust and immigrated to the United States after World War II, settling in Charleston, South Carolina. Pre-war images show members of the Blas and Weintraub families in #ód# and Bodzentyn, Poland. Wartime images show Leon Weintraub in a work camp in Starachowice, Poland, and Guta Blas in Sweden after her rescue. Post-war images show the Weintraubs in the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp and in Charleston. Newspaper clippings describe Blas's resistance when facing execution at Majowka and her later testimony against the guard who shot her.
<b>Extent:</b>	0.1 linear feet (2 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 1065-019
<b>Language of Material:</b>	Materials in English

## Biographical Note

Guta Blas (1924-2008) was born in #ód#, Poland. Her father, Noach Blas, owned a textile factory and was able to send Blas and her younger brother, Moshe, to private Jewish schools. By 1940, Blas and her family escaped #ód#, which had been occupied by the Germans in September 1939, and fled to Starachowice-Wierzbnik, Poland, where Blas's mother, Bleema Goldwasser, had relatives. Blas and her parents were forced into the Tartak work camp in Starachowice, where Blas met her fiancé, Leon Weintraub, a fellow inmate.

In late 1943, Blas and her family were moved to another camp, Majowka, in preparation for deportation to Auschwitz. Once there, Blas and three hundred other inmates, including her parents, brother, and fiancé, were lined up in front of open graves to be executed. Before the executions could begin, Blas jumped on one of the Nazi guards from behind and attempted to choke him, creating a disturbance that saved all inmates from execution that day. Though Blas was shot in the head by the officer she attacked, the wound was superficial, and she was deported to Auschwitz with her family.

At Auschwitz, Blas's father and brother were sent to the Buna work camp. Blas and her mother remained in Auschwitz until they were forced to march to Ravensbruck in January 1945. Her mother died shortly thereafter. Blas was rescued by the Swedish Red Cross and spent the remainder of the war in Sweden. After the war ended, Blas returned to Poland to look for her father and brother and learned that they had both been killed. She also learned that Leon Weintraub, her fiancé, had survived and was in a hospital in Germany. Blas traveled to see him, and they married and stayed in the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp before immigrating to the United States in 1947.

## Collection Overview

Images and newspaper clippings of Guta Blas Weintraub, a Jewish resident of #ód#, Poland, who survived the Holocaust and immigrated to the United States after World War II, settling in Charleston, South Carolina. Pre-war images show members of the Blas and Weintraub families in #ód# and Bodzentyn, Poland. Wartime images show Leon Weintraub in a work camp in Starachowice, Poland, and Guta Blas in Sweden after her rescue. Post-war images show the Weintraubs in the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp and in Charleston. Newspaper clippings describe Blas's resistance when facing execution at Majowka and her later testimony against the guard who shot her.

## 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 Harry and Erika Blas Collection (Mss 1065-029). Digital reproductions from that collection are available online 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**

Weintraub, Guta Blas, 1924-2008  
Blas family  
Weintraub family

**Subjects**

Forced labor--Poland--Starachowice  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)  
Holocaust survivors--Poland  
World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities  
World War, 1939-1945--Jewish resistance--Poland

**Places**

#ód# (Poland)  
Bodzentyn (Poland)  
Starachowice (Poland)  
Charleston (S.C.)

**Types of Material**

Clippings (information artifacts)  
Digital images  
Black-and-white negatives  
Black-and-white slides

**Administrative Information****Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Guta Blas Weintraub papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

**Acquisitions Information**

Materials were donated in 2000 by Blanche Weintraub Wine.

**Processing Information**

Processed by Rebecca McClure, September 2011.

Encoded by Rebecca McClure, December 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

Negatives and slides, circa 1922-1963

Includes pre-war images of Guta Blas and her family in #ód#, Poland, and Leon Weintraub and his family in Bodzentyn, Poland. Also included are images of Leon Weintraub in the Tartak work camp in Starachowice, Poland, Guta Blas in Sweden after her rescue by the Swedish Red Cross, and the Weintraubs in the Bergen-Belsen displaced persons camp and in Charleston, South Carolina. Digital images on DVD are included.

Folder 2

Clippings and notes, 1971, 1981, 2006, 2008, undated

Includes three newspaper clippings from The Post and Courier which describe Blas's actions at Majowka and her testimony in the trial of the guard who shot her. Also included are Weintraub's obituary and researchers' notes from discussions with Weintraub's daughter, Blanche Weintraub Wine.