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**Inventory of the Tola Wilner
Widawski photographs, 1905-1957**

Addlestone Library, Special Collections
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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Tola Wilner Widawski photographs
Date(s)	1905-1957
Creator:	Widawski, Tola Wilner, 1920-
Abstract:	Slides, negatives, and digital images of Tola Wilner Widawski, a Jew from #ód#, Poland, who survived the Holocaust. Pre-and post-World War II images show Wilner with friends and family, including her husband, Michislaw Widawski, and their children. Also included are images of the Polish exit permits the family used to leave Poland for Israel in 1957.
Extent:	0.1 linear feet (1 folder)
Repository:	Jewish Heritage Collection, Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries 66 George Street Charleston, SC 29424 Phone: (843) 953-8016 Fax: (843) 953-6319 URL: http://archives.library.cofc.edu
Call Number:	Mss 1065-020
Language of Material:	Materials in Polish

Biographical Note

Tola Wilner (also known as Tolka or Teresa) was born in 1920 in #ód#, Poland. Her father, Israel Wilner, was considered well-educated for his time and worked as a courier for an attorney. Tola Wilner's mother, Ruta Nahtegal, came from a wealthy family and had an arranged marriage with Israel Wilner.

Tola Wilner and her family lived in the #ód# ghetto from 1939 until 1943, where her father died of starvation. In 1943, a Jewish policeman warned Wilner, her sister, and her mother that the #ód# ghetto was going to be liquidated. He advised them to take work at a camp outside of the ghetto, but the train they were told to take to the work camp arrived at Auschwitz instead. Wilner's mother was killed upon arrival; Wilner and her sister were sent to Birkenau. As Russian troops neared the camp late in the war, inmates were forced to evacuate. During the evacuation, Wilner and a friend were rescued by an older German couple. After the Russians liberated the area, Wilner traveled to a cousin's house in Germany before returning to #ód# where she located her sisters.

In 1947, Tola Wilner met Michislaw (Mieter) Widawski and they married a year later. Their daughter, Evelina (Eva), was born in 1949, followed in 1950 by their son, Jerry. The family moved from Poland to Israel in 1957 and immigrated to the United States in 1960. Michislaw Widawski changed his first name to Mike after he arrived in the United States.

Collection Overview

Slides, negatives, and digital images of Tola Wilner Widawski, a Jew from #ód#, Poland, who survived the Holocaust. Pre-war images show Wilner with friends and family, including her father, aunt, sister, and cousins. Other pre-war images show Wilner's husband, Michislaw Widawski, and his family, including his grandmother. Post-war images show the Widawskis with their children, Eva and Jerry. Also included are images of the Polish exit permits the family used to leave Poland for Israel in 1957.

Collection Arrangement

Materials are described at the folder level.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

Copyright Notice

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Related Material

Related items in College of Charleston Special Collections include two 2005 oral history interviews with Evelyn Opper, Widawski's daughter (Mss 1035-295, Mss 1035-297). Widawski was present for the second interview and makes occasional comments.

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

Widawski, Tola Wilner, 1920-
Widawski, Michislaw, 1920-
Widawski family

Subjects

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities
Holocaust survivors--Poland--#ód#

Places

#ód# (Poland)

Types of Material

Digital images
Black-and-white negatives
Black-and-white slides

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Tola Wilner Widawski photographs, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisitions Information

Materials were donated in 2005 by Evelyn Widawski Opper.

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, 1905-1957, undated