Inventory of the Renata Somers Collection of Holocaust Photographs, 1941
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Renata Somers collection of Holocaust photographs

Date(s): 1941

Creator: Somers, Renata

Abstract: The collection consists of copy negatives, contact sheets, and digital images of the destruction of the synagogue in Holešov, Czechoslovakia, in 1941, by the Nazis. Also included are images of photographs, postcards, and letters relating to Renata Somers's grandfather, Jakub Michalowski, cantor of the Holešov Jewish community, who was killed at Auschwitz in 1944.

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 1065-044

Language of Material: Materials in Czech and German

Biographical Note

In 1939, Leo Michalowski, a young physician, his wife, Emillia Stadler, and their daughter, Jeanette, emigrated from Holešov, Czechoslovakia, to Canada to escape escalating persecution. In exchange for permission to immigrate to Canada, Michalowski agreed to farm for five years, after which he resumed his medical practice and settled with his family in Toronto. After settling in Toronto, Leo Michalowski received an unmarked envelope in the mail which contained photographs of the destruction of the synagogue in Holešov. The identity of the sender of the photographs remains unknown.

Collection Overview

The collection consists of copy negatives, contact sheets, and digital images of the destruction of the synagogue in Holešov, Slovakia, in 1941 by the Nazis. Also included are images of photographs, postcards, and letters relating to Renata Somers's grandfather, Jakub Michalowski, cantor of the Holešov Jewish community, who was killed in Auschwitz in 1944.

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.

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Related Material

Related materials in College of Charleston Special Collections include the Anita Abeles Freilich papers (Mss 1065-005). Frelich's parents, Walter and Zdenka Stadler Abeles, emigrated from Czechoslovakia to Canada in 1939 with Leo and Emillia Stadler Michalowski, the parents of Renata Somers.

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
Michalowski, Jakub

Subjects
Antisemitism--Czechoslovakia
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
Holocaust survivors--Czechoslovakia
Jews--Persecutions--Czechoslovakia
World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities

Places
Holešov (Czech Republic)

Types of Material
Black-and-white negatives
Contact sheets
Digital images
DVDs

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Renata Somers collection of Holocaust photographs, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.
Acquisitions Information

Materials were lent for copying in 2005 by Renata Somers.

Processing Information

Processed by Rebecca McClure, May 2012.

Encoded by Rebecca McClure, July 2012.

Reviewed and uploaded by Martha McTear, July 2012.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Negatives and contact sheets, 1941, undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Included are digital images on three DVDs.