

Special Collections, Hartley library

Archives Information Sheet 10 – Ghettos

This research guide focuses on sources concerning Jewish ghettos in Europe prior to and during the Second World War.

The collections contain **personal accounts and reminiscences** including (i) a typescript account by Harold Goldman of the experience of **Marianne Schwarz**, 1938-45. Schwarz lived in Vienna in 1938. She and her parents were interned in a ghetto and subsequently moved to Theirenstadt in Czechoslovakia. Finally Marianne and her mother were sent to Belsen in Mar 1945 (MS 311/38 A3026); (ii) a copy of a typescript paper 'War experiences of **David Kutner**, 1939-1945' describing his family's incarceration in **Lodz** ghetto and subsequent move to Auschwitz where the family were separated. Kutner never saw his mother and younger sister again. He worked in the horses stable. (MS 311/42 A3031); and (iii) an account, with photographs, by **Naidia Woolf** of a journey in August 2007 to her ancestral home towns in Poland, to **Lodz** ghetto and to Treblinka (MS 311/49 A3077).

The **Institute of Jewish Affairs** was established in New York in 1941 to conduct a thorough investigation of Jewish life over the preceding 25 years, to establish the facts of the position of the Jews during the Second World War, to determine their causes and to suggest how Jewish rights might be claimed in a post-war settlement. Sequence 6 contains papers concerning the Holocaust and war crimes and in particular a file of newspaper cuttings and articles, some in French, German, Hebrew script or Hungarian on the **Warsaw ghetto**, 1963-79 (MS 237 6/8).

There is additional material in the archives of the British section of the World Jewish Congress. MS 238/2 contains correspondence and working files of the London office of the World Jewish Congress, 1933-53, but principally 1942-53, including the papers of A.L.Easterman and N.Barou, Political Secretaries, about the destruction of the Jews on the Continent. This section includes: a note from a Swiss Jew residing in Warsaw and a typescript translation of a letter from Switzerland on the condition of Polish Jews and of the **Warsaw ghetto**, Oct 1942 (MS 238/2/12); statement by Alexander Guttman relating to the **ghetto of Bendzin**, Aug 1943 (MS 238/2/16); a typescript, in German, 'Die tragüdie der juden in Nagyvarad (oradeagrosswardein)' [memoir of Alexander Leitner, President of the Orthodox Jewish community of the **ghettos of Nagyvarad**], 1944 (MS 238/2/24) and a copy of orders, in German, relating to the organisation of **ghettos in Poland** (MS 238/2/52/f1).

Myer Domnitz was Secretary and Education Officer of the Central Jewish Lecture Committee, a member of the Schools Committee, Chairman of the Citizens of East London, Headmaster of Amhurst Park Day School and was a consultant on education, inter-group relations and world religions. His papers contain several **typescripts concerning ghettos** (MS 74 A795/1/6 and 2/4)

The papers of **Simon Burns** include a lecture on his visit to **Warsaw** and **Zbaszyn** in 1938 (MS 116/122)

Reuben Ainsztein was born in Vilnius. He studied in Brussels and came to Britain in 1943, serving in the RAF during World War II. From 1949 to 1966, he was a journalist specialising in Eastern European affairs, working for the BBC and Reuters. His publications, largely on Polish and Soviet resistance movements and the history of the destruction of Polish Jewry, include *Jewish resistance in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe: with a historical survey of the Jew as fighter and soldier in the Diaspora* (London, 1974) and *The Warsaw Ghetto revolt* (New York, 1979). His papers include a file of manuscript and printed notes on the **Warsaw uprising**, c.1978 (MS 202/RA8).