K0238
Lilian Kranitz (1923-2007) Papers
[Jewish Community Archives]
1923-1983
43 folders and 21 cassette tapes

_Taped interviews and written transcripts of 13 Holocaust survivors from Lodz, Poland. Also includes notes, reports, and articles on historical background and policies towards Eastern European Jews._

BIOGRAPHY:

Lilian Kranitz was born on November 13, 1923 in St. Joseph, Missouri, the daughter of the Ethel and Meyer Kranitz, attended high school in Liberty, Missouri, and lived her entire adult life in Kansas City. She received her B.A. in Interpretive Oral History from Park College in 1976, her Master of Arts in History (Judaic Studies) from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1983, and was admitted into the doctorate program in history at the University of Kansas-Lawrence in 1983.

Ms. Kranitz has pursued her profession as an oral historian since 1976. Ms. Kranitz' research is based on oral history methodology. It demonstrates how taped recollections either correlated or refuted information obtained from Kansas City Jewish community minutes and other documents. It also demonstrates how oral history methodology can be used to complement written data. She was the oral historian for _Mid America's Promise: A Profile of Kansas City Jewry_, published in 1982, a history of the Kansas City Jewish community. The tapes of her interviews are in Central Agency for Jewish Education (CAJE) Collection (K0670). Other of her accomplishments include: _Twelve Who Survived_, an oral history about twelve Holocaust survivors born in Lodz, Poland, published in the _Kansas City Jewish Chronicle_; _A Handbook on tape recording Jewish roots: Guidelines for family and community history_; and an _Overview of the History of the Kansas City Philharmonic_ (K0877), commissioned in 1982. Many of her research articles have been published in the _Kansas City Jewish Chronicle_, and
she continues to be an active part of the Jewish community in the Kansas City area.

Ms. Kranitz was a member of Congregation Beth Shalom and a life-long member of Hadassah. She sang in the Beth Shalom choir and was known for her beautiful soprano voice.


PROVENANCE:

Lilian Kranitz donated the oral history cassette tapes and research notes relating to her Masters Thesis on first hand accounts of Holocaust survivors. The materials were received on January 31, 1985 as accession KA0267.

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1. Researchers are not permitted to use the real names of any interviewee without first obtaining permission from that interviewee.
2. In the event that permission cannot be obtained, the use of their names is to be closed until January, 2000. After that time, they can be opened.
3. Copies of any transcripts may be photocopied by researchers as long as the real names are not used. Here again, the researchers must go to the individual and request permission to use his or her name.
4. No one outside of the SHSMO-KC can make copies of the tapes for a period of 25 years.

PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; Lilian Kranitz (1923-2007) Papers (K0238); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

CONTACT:

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS:

The papers contain a copy of Kranitz' Masters Thesis, along with the taped interviews and written transcripts of 13 individuals from Lodz, Poland. It also includes notes, reports, and articles on historical background and policies towards Eastern European Jews. A bibliography of journal articles removed from the collection is included.

INVENTORY:

MASTERS THESIS
Folder 1. Masters Thesis, pp i-40
Folder 3. Survey List of thesis; Record book containing interviewee name key; List of possible interviewees in the K.C. area; Demographics chart of people interviewed
Folder 4. Correspondence on thesis

TRANSCRIPTS OF THE TAPED INTERVIEWS
Folder 5. "Sarah"; Interviewee I
Folder 6. "Leah"; Interviewee II
Folder 7. "Gertrude"; Interviewee III
Folder 8. "Meyer"; Interviewee IV
Folder 9. "Ester"; Interviewee V
Folder 10. "Pearl"; Interviewee VI
Folder 11. "Abe"; Interviewee VII
Folder 12. "Simon"; Interviewee IX
Folder 13. "Max"; Interviewee X
Folder 14. "Mendel"; Interviewee XI
Folder 15. "Leah's Husband"; Interviewee XIII

REPORTS REGARDING EASTERN EUROPEAN POLICY TOWARDS THE JEWS
Folder 16. Excerpts from The Black Book of Poland, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, NY, 1942. Statistics and notes regarding the extermination of the Jewish population by the Nazis
Folder 17. The May Laws: May 1882 -- constituted a permanent administrative pogrom against the Jews in Russia

Folder 19.  Notes on 1926 policy on minorities

**AMERICAN REPORTS REGARDING THE PLIGHT OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWS**

Folder 20.  *The Situation of Polish Jewry*, the text of a memorandum submitted to the secretary of state of the U.S. on July 12, 1937 by the American Jewish Congress


Folder 23.  Correspondence President Truman and Eddie Jacobson

**HISTORY OF POLAND**

Folder 24.  History of Poland 963 - World War II. the Encyclopedia Judaica Jerusalem;  History of Poland 966 - W.W.II. Outline by O. Halecki


Folder 27.  Article V: The Period Between the Two World Wars, by Mrs. Alexander Dolowitz

Folder 28.  Outline: Politics in independent Poland 1921-1939

Folder 29.  Translations of the names of Polish towns

Folder 30.  *Encyclopedia Judaica*, Jerusalem—entry on Lodz, Poland

Folder 31.  Maps: include maps from the Great War, maps regarding the history of Poland (1466-1923), and maps of Jewish communities in Poland

**NOTES, REPORTS, AND ARTICLES**

Folder 32.  Newspaper clippings: Rediscovering Polish Jewry, Anti-Semitism Without Jews? A Polish Riddle

Folder 33.  *Night and Fog People*, a personal account by Madeleine Michaud


Folder 35. Marshall Sklare: social theory
Folder 36. Jacob Katz: social theory
Folder 37. Max Weber: social theory

INDEX CARDS

Notes on articles and books used in Bachelor of Arts thesis

Folder 38. Index Cards: Bibliography: B.A. Thesis on Lodz, Poland; American Jewish Year Books
Folder 40. Index Cards: History of Poland, Industrial and Social, Lestchinsky, In Search of a Lost People, Jewish Catastrophe, The Jewish Population, Jewish Resistance, Jewish Rights, Jews in the Cities, Lestchinsky, Judenrat, Aid to the Jews
Folder 41. Index Cards: Miscellaneous, The New Poland and the Jews
Folder 42. Index Cards: Poland and the Minority Races, Poland: Key to Europe, The Polish Tradition, Politics in Independent Poland
Folder 43. Index Cards: The Promised Land, Studies in Polish Jewry, The War Against the Jews

TAPES

Tape 1. "SARAH" INTERVIEWEE I: Side 1. Biographical family, and life in Lodz through liberation from the concentration camp. Side 2. A report given by Lillian on an interview that was not taped
Tape 5. "PEARL" INTERVIEWEE VI: Side 1. Biographical family life in Lodz through to arrival in Kansas City. Side 2. life in Kansas City