

# Yad Vashem as a Model of Archival Migration and Memory

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# Yad Vashem

- What is Yad Vashem?
- Translation from Hebrew “Testimony or Eternal Memory”
- Historical
- The Shoah or Holocaust period, 1933-1945
- Everything that happened to the Jewish people in Europe from the beginnings of the National Socialist Party in Germany, during World War II, and after the end of the war.
- 6,000,000 Jewish people were murdered, one third of the Jewish population in the world

# Yad Vashem

- Goals
- *“It must be recorded with not a single fact omitted . And when the time comes - as it surely will – let the world read and know what the murderers have done”*
- *(From the “Oneg Shabbat Archives”)*

# Yad Vashem – First Steps

- 1942 Information about what was happening in Europe began to reach the Jewish community in the Land of Israel
- Commemorative Project for the Jews in Europe
- 1946 Yad Vashem Archives
- Immediately after the war, “Historical Commissions” (centers for documentation and the collection of testimonies) in Munich, Warsaw , Lodz, Lublin, Paris, Bratislava, Budapest, etc

# Yad Vashem

- Legal
- 1953 Knesset (Parliament) of Israel enacted the Yad Vashem Law
- Founded Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority
- April 19<sup>th</sup>, memorial day. The day the Jewish Rebellion in the Warsaw Ghetto began

# Yad Vashem Institution

- Archives
- Museum
- Library
- Research Department
- Editorial
- Education Department
- Righteous Among the Nations Department

# Yad Vashem Archives

- Historical Documentation Archives
- It isn't the legal heir of any institution or organization
- It collects and copies from many administrative archives in Europe and throughout the world; all the material is about its principal subject: the Holocaust
- It also receives original documentation from many origins: personal, private, past organizations

# Yad Vashem Archives

- Sections in the Archives
- Documentation
- Testimonies
- Pages of Testimony
- Photo and Film Archives



# Yad Vashem Archives

- Digital Collections
  - The Central Database of Shoah Victim's Names
  - The Online Photo Archives
  - The Documents Archive
  - The Righteous Database
  - Yad Vashem Library
  - Visual Film Center Database
  - The Shoah Related Lists Database

# Yad Vashem Archives

- Numbers
- [370 fonds](#) in all, 120 original fonds
- 170,000,000 pages of documents
- 4,500,000 [pages of testimony](#) (7.000.000)
- 110,000 testimonies (oral history)
- 214,000 [photographs](#), 400 albums, 9,000 collections
- Link to Yad Vashem Website



## Listing of the record groups in the Yad Vashem Archives

### AM

#### Yad Vashem Administrative Archive

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### M 1

#### Central Historical Commission (CHC) of the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the US Zone, Munich *(See also the subsections which follow)*

The Central Historical Commission of the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the US Zone was founded in December 1945 in Munich. The CHC opened about 50 branches in the various Displaced Persons (DP) camps in Germany. Testimonies were recorded and questionnaires distributed.

Attempts were also made to secure information about Jewish Communities from German sources, both by acquiring Nazi documentation and by distributing questionnaires among the regional councils (Landraete) in Germany. After three years the CHC was dissolved.

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### M 1 B

#### Office of the Central Historical Commission of the Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the US Zone

This subsection contains the entire correspondence of the CHC with its various branches in the DP camps, with Jewish leaders and institutions from different countries, and with German municipal authorities.

The correspondence deals mostly with gathering material about the Holocaust, cultural activity in the DP camps and editorial work of the CHC.

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### M 1 D

#### Documentation of the Dachau Concentration Camp

The CHC came into possession of a large portion of the files from the Dachau concentration camp.

This material contains the central card index of the camp, payment cards and correspondence of the camp administration.

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### M 1 DN

#### Nazi Documentation, Munich Municipality

Main language: German

This subsection is composed of files concerning Jews, which the CHC received from the Archives of the City of Munich.

These documents deal with the persecution of Jews during the Nazi period, mainly in Munich, but also in Frankfurt am Main, Ansbach and a number of other towns in Germany.

The material includes personal files of Jews from the Munich welfare department.

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### M 1 DNA

#### Nazi Documentation, The German Academy of Science

After World War II, the CHC acquired some files of the German Academy of Science in Munich.

These files contain material for a lexicon of German economists and industrialists since 1801 (*Deutsche Wirtschaftsleiter*), excluding Jews.

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## Yad Vashem Photo Archive

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Search

### Most Requested Searches:

- [Auschwitz Album](#)
- [Sheerit Hapleita](#)
- [Liberation](#)
- [Warsaw Ghetto](#)
- [Lodz Ghetto](#)

### Featured Collections



Photographs related to Jewish refugees in 1945 in Czechoslovakia and to the surviving remnant

Type: Collection (52 items)

Places: Bratislava, Czechoslovakia

Credit: Yad Vashem



Identification snapshots of prisoners and family photographs that were found in the camp after its liberation

Type: Collection (578 items)

Places: Auschwitz, Camp

Credit: Yad Vashem

### [Browse all collections](#) »

*"Mendel takes out his camera. No more flowers, clouds, natures, stills or landscapes. Amid the horror all around him he has found his destiny: to photograph and leave behind a testimony for all generations about the great tragedy unfolding before his eyes."*

Mendel Grossman's photos constitute only a small portion of the historical photos in Yad Vashem's Photo Archive collection. The largest of its kind in the world, this collection comprises some 200,000 photographs related to the Holocaust. The online archive currently comprises 130,000 historical photos. [More Details...](#)



[About the Photo Archive](#) | [Frequently asked Questions](#) | [Donation of Photographs](#) | [Order Photographs](#) | [Rights of Use and Liabilities](#) | [Educational Materials](#) | [Our Supporters](#)

## This Month in Holocaust History



January, 1943, Deportation of Jews from Ghetto One in Grodno, Poland

[More...](#)

## Your Stories Behind the Photos



The young woman on the far left of the photo is my mother, Brondle Wawjura. She was born in Lodz to Avram Josef and Kreindle (nee; Flax) Wawjura. She was in the Lodz Ghetto until approximately August, 1944...

Updated on: 16/2/2011 by carol

[Read Full Story...](#)

# Yad Vashem -Changing Trends

- From a Jewish point of view of the Holocaust to a more universal view of it
- From description of and research on the Holocaust as a masse massacre of Jews to the presentation and description of and research on individuals' and families' fates in these terrible situations
- Exhibition of the Jewish life in Europe before the Shoah

# Others Memorial Centers

- 1993 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum – Washington DF
- BENAS (Behind every name a story)
- 1997 Museum of Jewish Heritage – New York
- 2010 EHRI European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, European Union

# Bibliography

- Reference Books
- Gutman, I, (ed. in chief), *The Encyclopedia of the Righteous Among the Nations*, YVP, 10 v. Jerusalem 2003 - 2011
- Rozett, R. and Spector S. (eds.), *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*, YVP, Jerusalem 2000
- Spector, S. and Wigoder, G. (eds.), *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Life. Before and During the Holocaust*, YVP, Jerusalem, 2001

# Bibliography – Research Studies

- Almog, S., Bankier, D., Blatman, D., Ofer, D., (eds.) *The Holocaust: History and Memory*, YVP, Jerusalem 2001
- Almog, S., Bankier, D., Blatman, D., Ofer, D., (eds.), *The Holocaust: The Unique and the Universal*, YVP, Jerusalem 2001
- Bankier, D. and Michman, D., (eds.) *Holocaust Historiography in Context*, YVP, Jerusalem 2008
- Bankier, D. and Gutman, I., (eds.) *Nazi Europe and the Final Solution*, YVP, Jerusalem 2009
- Milgram, A. and Rozett, R. (eds.) *The Holocaust. Frequently Asked Questions*, YDP, Jerusalem 2005



# Link

- [Yad Vashem - Basic Search](#)
- <http://collections1.yadvashem.org/search.asp?lang=ENG&rsvr=8>