



## THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

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.

Lilian Kranitz died December 13, 2007.

#### 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.

#### COPYRIGHT AND RESTRICTIONS:

The Donor has given and assigned to the University of Missouri all rights of copyright which the Donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

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].

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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 2. Masters Thesis, pp 41-105
- 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 18. *Poles and Jews: A Common Bond*, by Stefan Korbonski. A first hand documented account of Polish-Jewish cooperation during W.W.II

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 21. American Friends Service Committee, Annual Report; 1933-1945

Folder 22. Report on the Activities of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; 1935-1938, 1940.

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 25. Article III: *1905-1914*, by Mrs. Alexander Dolowitz. (1905 Russian Revolution and Following Upheaval)

Folder 26. Article IV: *Jews on the Eve of W.W.I*, by Mrs. Alexander Dolowitz.

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 34. COMMENTARIES: R.W. Ross, *The Evidence Reveals: They Did Know*. ADL Bulletin; May 1981.; A. J. Wolf, *The Centrality of the Holocaust is a Mistake: The Holocaust is Being Sold, Not Taught*. The National Jewish Monthly; October 1980.; M. Berenbaum, *Lessons of the Holocaust Are All Important: Jews*

*Should Aim for a Living Memorial.* The National Jewish Monthly, October, 1980.

- 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 39. Index Cards: Anguish of the Jews, The Black Book, Economic Aspects of Jewish Community Organization in Poland, Lestchinsky, Encyclopedia Judaica, Essays in Anti-Semitism, The Final Solution
- 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 2. "LEAH" INTERVIEWEE II: Side 1. Biographical family, and life in Lodz. Side 2. Economic life in Lodz from 1936 through arrival to Kansas City. Side 3. Life in K. C.
- Tape 3. "GERTRUDE" INTERVIEWEE III: Side 1. Biographical family, and life in Lodz through going to Kansas City. Side 2. Life in Kansas City.
- Tape 3. "MEYER" INTERVIEWEE IV: Side 1. Biographical family, and life in Lodz through liberation from the concentration camp. Side 2. Coming to Kansas City.
- Tape 4. "ESTER" INTERVIEWEE V: Side 1. Biographical family and life in Lodz. Side 2. From the German occupation to Kansas City.

- Tape 5. "PEARL" INTERVIEWEE VI: Side 1. Biographical family life in Lodz through to arrival in Kansas City. Side 2. life in Kansas City
- Tape 6. "ABE" INTERVIEWEE VII: Side 1. Life in Lodz and family background. Side 2. Life from 1936-41: economics and pogroms. Side 3. Life in Lodz Poland before and after the war. Side 4. Immigration to the United States
- Tape 7. "JACOB" INTERVIEWEE VIII: Side 1. Biographical family and life in Lodz. Side 2. Pogroms and life in Poland. Side 3. From the German occupation in 1939 to life in Kansas City.
- Tape 8. "SIMON" INTERVIEWEE IX: Side 1. Family background and life in Lodz. Side 2. Formation of the Ghetto in Lodz though life in Kansas City.
- Tape 9. "MAX" INTERVIEWEE X: Side 1. Life in Lodz, and family history. Side 2. Liberation from the concentration camp to life in the United States.
- Tape 10. "MENDEL" INTERVIEWEE XI: Side 1. Complete interview.
- Tape 11. "HIRSH" INTERVIEWEE XII: Side 1. Life in Lodz before the war. Side 2. Liberation from the concentration camp and coming to Kansas City. Side 3. Comparison between life in K.C. and Lodz.
- Tape 12. "LEAH'S HUSBAND" INTERVIEWEE XIII: Side 1. Family background in Lodz before the war. Side 2. Economic life in Lodz before the war. Side 3. Economic life before the war as a refugee. Side 4. Formation of the ghetto in Lodz. Side 5. Ghetto under German rule through arriving at the concentration camp. (tape quality is poor towards the end). Side 6. not an interview; unrelated material. Side 7. Life at the concentration camp. Side 8. not an interview; unrelated material. Side 9. Period of liberation. Side 10. Coming to the United States.