# CONCENTRATION CAMP ARCHIVES

by Miriam Weiner

#### INTRODUCTION

Virtually all the State Archives throughout Poland include documents from the Holocaust period. Many different kinds of documents exist, including transport lists, lists of confiscated property, ghetto registrations, tax lists, general lists of inhabitants and many other documents that tell the tragic story of Polish Jewry.

In addition to those documents that can be found in the Polish State Archives and the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, many documents, maps and photographs are located in the archives of the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau in Oświęcim and the Majdanek Museum Archives in Lublin, described in this chapter.

There are also university libraries, regional museums, local archives, collections of private individuals and various other sources for Holocaust-related documents in Poland. Many documents from the Holocaust period have been microfilmed in Poland and can be found in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives in Washington, D.C., and at the Yad Vashem Archives in Jerusalem.

In addition, many Holocaust-related documents pertaining to events in Poland can be found in archives of neighboring countries, including Germany, Austria, Ukraine, Lithuania, Russia and Belarus, as well as in archives in Canada and the United States. While some of these are original documents, many are microfilms of documents stored in Polish archives, e.g. microfilms by the Family History Library.

The documents from archives of the former Soviet Union that have become accessible in the past few years include many transport and victim lists, providing documentation of hundreds of thousands of Jews who perished during the Holocaust. See also Chapters 3 and 5.

The "Auschwitz Complex" (also referred to as KL [Konzentrationslager] Auschwitz) included Auschwitz I, Auschwitz II—Birkenau and Auschwitz III—Monowitz. Within this book, the terms Auschwitz, KL Auschwitz and Auschwitz—Birkenau are used interchangeably.

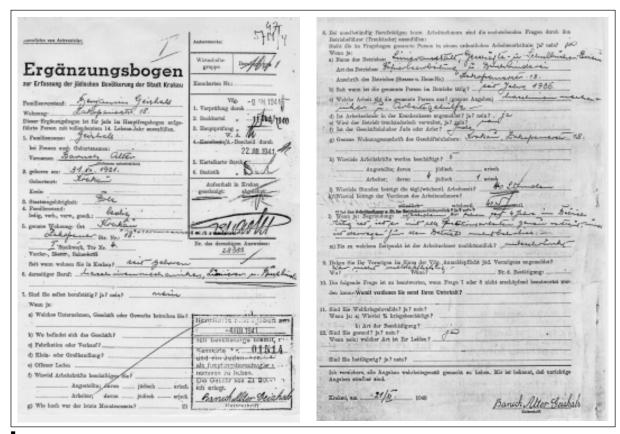


Sign on the grounds of the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau, 1990

## **USEFUL ADDRESSES FOR THIS SECTION**

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, D.C. 20024-2150 <a href="http://www.ushmmp.org">http://www.ushmmp.org</a>

UNITED STATES NATIONAL ARCHIVES, Pennsylvania Avenue at 8th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20408 <a href="http://www.ndra.gov>Yad Vashem">NATIONAL ARCHIVES, Pennsylvania Avenue at 8th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20408 <a href="http://www.ndra.gov>Yad Vashem">http://www.ndra.gov>Yad Vashem</a>, P.O. Box 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel <a href="http://www.yad-vashem.org.il">http://www.yad-vashem.org.il</a>



Kraków ghetto registration, 1940, for Baruch (Benek) Alter Geizhals (two-page registration)

#### KRAKOW GHETTO DOCUMENTS RELATING TO BENJAMIN GEIZHALS

In 1940 and 1941, in cities and ghettos throughout Poland, the Germans organized deportations, forcibly transferring the Jewish population to various concentration camps and extermination centers, where most were murdered.

Within the context of the above situation, the document dated October 30, 1940 (fig. 3), spared Benjamin (formerly Baruch Alter) Geizhals from being deported to a death camp and allowed him to remain in Kraków.

The document dated February 4, 1941 (fig. 4), also served to prolong Geizhals' life by allowing him again to evade deportation. The German authorities issued the document, known as a Kennkarten, to Geizhals. It prevented him from being sent to Bełżec, the notorious death camp. The document allowed Geizhals to remain in the Kraków ghetto until its liquidation by the Germans in March 1943, at which time Geizhals was deported to the Plaszów concentration camp.

**Author's note:** Benjamin Geizhals survived the Holocaust and is a printing consultant for this book.



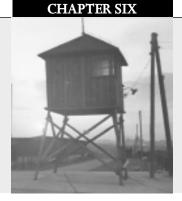
Resident permit dated October 30, 1940, Kraków



Permit to remain in the ghetto, dated February 4, 1941, Kraków

# **MAJDANEK MUSEUM ARCHIVES**

# by Janina Kiełboń Archives Director



children brought to the camp.

#### ARCHIWUM PAŃSTWOWEGO MUZEUM NA MAJDANKU ul. Droga Męczenników Majdanka 67 20-325 Lublin

Hours: 8:00 AM-3:00 PM

Tel: 81/744-2647 Fax: 81/744-0526

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Majdanek Museum was established in October 1944. It covers one-third of the area of the former death camp and is located in a suburb of Lublin. Its purpose is the preservation of camp objects, the collection of documents and accounts of the World War II period and the exhibition of the Nazi genocide apparatus.

From the very beginning, the Majdanek Museum has made intensive efforts to collect as many documents as possible, but the majority of files were destroyed by the staff during the evacuation of the camp in 1944. The surviving files, consisting of three groups of documents, were placed in the Archives. The most important of these were the files created by the camp offices in the years 1941–1944. The second group consists of documents created outside the camp, but directly connected to it. The third group of documents includes files concerning various aspects of the occupation of the Lublin area indirectly connected with the Majdanek camp. The camp documents were divided into six file sections according to the camp's organizational structure:

- · Camp commandant's office
- · Political department
- Prisoners' camp
- Administration
- Camp doctor
- Camp guards

# half of 1942, and the register of those who died in October and November 1943, men from Field IV. Documents from the camp employment office are fairly

well represented, consisting of detailed daily reports concerning the work of prisoners; work brigades; summary reports; cards from work files; and permanent permits, which enabled specialists to pass from one Field to another.

of new arrivals, listing the total number of men, women and

book survived, kept during the period May-September 1942, along with daily reports of prisoners' deaths in the second

Of the records of those who died in the camp, only one

The greatest number of documents survived from the administration department responsible for provisions: files for clothing and other articles taken from prisoners after admission to the camp (5,000 items); cash files (2,000 items); a register of names of arrivals, transfers and deaths, with the money and valuables owned by them shown; and lists of cash and valuables taken from prisoners in 1944. Included in this section of documents are the accounting and financial records.

A separate group consists of files concerning the dispatch of hair from the camp in 1942–1944. From this correspondence, we learn that, from September 1942 to the first quarter of 1944, 730 kilograms of human hair were sent from Majdanek.

#### **HOLDINGS**

The smallest number of preserved documents were from the camp commandant's office, political department and prisoners' camp management. Documents that also partially survived were orders, instructions and announcements from the commandant's office for the years 1943–1944, fragmentary reports about the number of prisoners, and announcements sent to the families about the deaths of prisoners and about inmates released from the camp. However, a small number of instructions from the political department to the effects department (Effektenkammer) concerned the ownership of property of those who died in the camp and of the prisoner interrogations. Also surviving, though incomplete, are records of the announcements



■ View of the mausoleum at Majdanek

Documents concerning the transportation of Zyklon B gas were also preserved. The orders, urgent reminders, delivery notes and explanations for the years 1941–1944 allow us to estimate that, from July 1942 to July 1944, some 7,711 kilograms of Zyklon B were delivered to the Majdanek camp.

Only a small number of documents survived from the office of the camp doctor: questionnaires and fragments of patients' cards, temperature charts and several dozen doctors' reports of prisoners' deaths in 1944. From Department VI, to which belonged the guards and the security of the camp, most of the documents preserved are concerned with the guard service. These are the name records of particular guard companies for the years 1942–1944, records of the guards of the Women's Field, a few personnel files, daily strength reports of the guard company, service orders, code words, orders and regulations for the guard shifts and the commandant's office orders.

Also important are files created by other institutions, but directly connected with Majdanek, relating to general camp plans as well as particular fields and buildings. In addition, there are bills and correspondence of the Central Construction Office of the SS occupied with the building of the camp, of which the majority of the documentation (280 files) is kept in the State Archives in Lublin. The announcements concerning the deaths of prisoners directed to the Roman Catholic parishes of Saint Paul and Saint John in Lublin were sent to the museum.

Very precious is the collection of documents described as "Archives of the Prisoners' Organization," concerning the resistance movement in the camp, self-help and aid given to the prisoners from outside. This material consists mostly of illegal correspondence: notes smuggled out and sent to the prisoners' families, to acquaintances and to people who organized aid with the help of free workers or inmates working outside the camp.

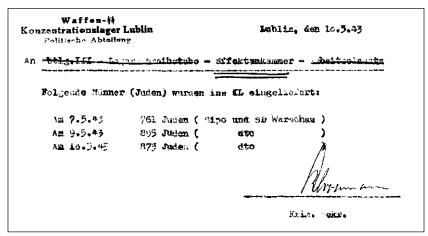
Of extreme interest are personal documents of prisoners of various nationalities, collected after their arrival and found after the liberation of the camp. These consist of passports, identity cards, employment cards, certificates, diplomas, etc. This is a very valuable source of material for research into the international composition of the inmates, their professional structure and social backgrounds.

In 1958, the Museum took possession of the files of the Polish Red Cross, Lublin region, concerning mostly the aid given in 1943–1944 to Majdanek prisoners. Among others, there are files containing more than 10,000 cards with the names of inmates who, with the intervention of the Polish Red Cross, received parcels. In 1971, the Museum received the files of the AK (Home Army) cell, which was called the Centralna Opieka Podziemia (OPUS)—Central Underground Welfare—which rendered aid to the persecuted members of the AK and their families. These files contain lists of inmates and reports on the situation in the camp.

The Museum at Majdanek also possesses a very interesting photographic collection. These are private photographs brought into the camp by prisoners and found after the liberation in one of the barracks: photographs of the camp in the years 1941–1944 (30 items), camp buildings after the liberation in 1944 and in later years, photographs of former prisoners and people who rendered aid to them, photographs of the camp personnel and photographs of important observances and events in the State Museum at Majdanek.

The Museum continues to collect diaries, recollections and accounts by prisoners. At present, the number of written recollections amounts to 1,200 items, to which have been added 480 tape recordings and about 100 video recordings. The forms filled in by the former witnesses are also a rich source of information; more than 2,000 of them have been collected.

Most of the files dealing with prisoners of Jewish descent originate from the years 1942 to 1943. These consist of announcements of the sending of group transports to the camp from Slovakia, Germany and Poland as well as information about the settlement of individual people, fragmentary remains of records, name indices and examples of clothing and money indices. The Jews are mentioned as a separate group in the numerical records of prisoners and also in the summary lists of those directed to work. Much data about the Jews brought



Notification of deportation of a transport of Jews from Warsaw to KL Lublin

from various countries are to be found in the collection of prisoners' documents. These are the personal documents certifying the education, professions, businesses and family situations of Jewish prisoners. Among them, correspondence can be found dating from before the outbreak of war and detailing the attempts to obtain permission to leave for the United States or Australia from countries endangered by Hitler's aggression—for example, Slovakia and Austria. In addition to these documents, partial records of Jews who died in the camp have survived. Also, there is a small collection of documents from Aktion Reinhard. These materials pertain to the warehouse on Chopin Street in Lublin in which items taken from the murdered Jews were stored. They consist mainly of lists of plunder and requisitions for these items, not only from various institutions, but also from private individuals.

A part of the files concerned with the Majdanek camp are located outside the museum in other Polish archives, such as the State Archives in Lublin and archives in Warsaw: the Archives of Contemporary Documents, the General Administration of the Polish Red Cross and the Main Commission for the Investigation of Crimes Against the Polish Nation/Institute of National Memory. Some of the documents created in the camp are to be found in archives in Russia and Germany. The museum possesses microfilms, photographs and photocopies of the most well-known files kept in other archives.

#### ACCESS TO ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Information about former prisoners of the camp can be obtained through an on-site visit or by written request. There is no fee involved.

The following information should be provided:

- First/last name of person being sought
- Date/place of birth
- Names of parents
- · Address before arrest/deportation
- Date of arrival to Majdanek

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Partial report of prisoners who died in Majdanek, 1942





■ Majdanek memorial to 18,000 Jews killed on November 3, 1943



List of money	and a	valuables	taken	froi	n	prisoners
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Clothing index, Majdanek camp, 1942

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#### MAIN HOLDINGS RELATING TO JEWISH VICTIMS

• Death record books from 1942 (sygn. 1d.19). May 18–September 28, 1942 (with gaps in May–June). Includes 6,716 names including 2,849 Jews from Slovakia; 1,155 from Poland; 1,060 from Czechoslovakia; and 772 from Germany. Further information can be found in the article by Dr. Janina Kiełboń published in Zeszyty Majdanka XV, 1993.

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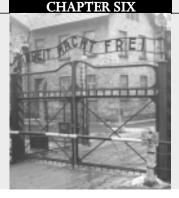
- Remnants of death book from 1942–1943 (Fot. 407). Specifically, November 20, 1942–January 20, 1943. Includes 1,650 names (many Jewish names) and a summary of those who died in November (2,999 persons, including 2,190 Jews) and December 1942 (2,983 persons, including 2,505 Jews).
- Reports about deaths of prisoners (sygn. 1d.18, vols. 1–4) from April 3 to September 29, 1942 (many gaps).
- A list of prisoners by name (the majority are Jewish). The documents were found in the territory of the camp during destruction. Only some pages are in one piece; the majority of them are in fragments.
- A file about prisoners' clothes (sygn. 1d.6).
- Fragments of transport lists, some single reports concerning people who were arrested and lists of employed workers.

According to the most recent calculations of Dr. Czesław Rajca, published in Zeszyty Majdanka XIV, 1992, Majdanek had approximately 300,000 prisoners (including 120,000 Jews, or 40 percent). Of this number, 110,000 Jews perished, representing 47 percent of the total number of the victims of Majdanek.

# STATE MUSEUM OF AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU THE ARCHIVES

by Barbara Jarosz and Helena Śliż

Archivists



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#### BACKGROUND

The Archives were created as a separate section of the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1957 by Tadeusz Iwaszko, who also served as director. Before the Archives were organized, the section of documentation (which functioned through the Committee to Search for Nazi Crimes in Kraków) had functioned for this purpose, and in 1950, it was transferred to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The purpose of the Archives is to maintain and provide access to their holdings. The Archives of the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau have a specific character: they collect various materials connected with the history of KL Auschwitz and, in some instances, other camps. Their holdings consist of original German documents, copies of documents, testimonials and memories of former inmates and postwar documents.

#### **HOLDINGS**

The original documents form a small percentage of what was generated in the camp offices. During the liquidation and evacuation of the camp, SS authorities gave an order to destroy or remove all documentation in order to erase traces of the crime. The majority of the original documents that are in the Museum were found on the grounds of the liberated camp and in places where the documents were secretly sent during the operation of the camp. In addition, the Museum received documents from former inmates, their families and various industrial factories where subcamps of KL Auschwitz were set up.

Documents were created according to the structure of SS camp authorities. The following documents are connected with the commandant's office: Kommandant-urbefehle, Standortbefehle and Sturmbannbefehle. A large group of documents consist of records about SS officers and members of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp staff. There is a large collection of camp letters written by prisoners (both original letters and copies), consisting of more than 8,000 letters and postcards.

The following documents remained from the political department of the camp:

- Transport lists of prisoners brought to KL Auschwitz in 1941
- Transport lists of Jews from 1942
- Personal records of prisoners
- Reports about punishments of prisoners

There are also 46 volumes of original death records of those who perished in KL Auschwitz. The death records were finally returned to the Museum in 1991–1992 by the Center for the Preservation and Storage of Historical Documents in Moscow, after years of effort. In the volumes that cover the period from August 1941 to December 1943, there are 69,000 death records.

The documents about the management of the camp and the employment department consist of:

- A book with the prisoners' numbers
- Books (incomplete) of daily status reports saved from January to August 1942
- Record books of the Romani (Gypsy) camp (men and women)
- A bunker book
- A book from the punishment unit
- Record books from Block No. 4 and 16A in KL Auschwitz I; Block 22B in KL Auschwitz II (Birkenau)
- Index card file of the Soviet prisoners of war
- Index card file of Block No. 11
- Telegrams and letters about prisoner employment
- Index card file of locksmiths, electricians and installers
- Lists of employed prisoners (men and women)



Gloria Resin looks for information about her family in the Auschwitz Archives, 1991

Evidence of the administrative work performed in the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp may be found in the following documents:

- The personnel changes of the SS
- Orders of SS officers to tailor and shoemaker workshops
- Food coupons for the SS
- Receipts for belongings of deceased persons
- · Documents regarding vehicular use
- · Orders of material to crematoria to burn bodies

There is a significant collection of camp hospital documents. Most important are the documents from hospital barracks No. 20, 21, and 28: x-ray records; the dental station records; ambulance records; Buna hospital records; registration records of medicines given to prisoners; fever records; lists of prisoners who died in the camp between October 7, 1941, and August 31, 1943 (morgue registry); death books of Soviet prisoners of war; and reports about removing gold teeth and other reports/orders.

A separate group of documents are Zentral bauleitung der Waffen SS und Polizei Auschwitz I, II, III and documents of different German companies working for the needs of the camp. Among these documents are correspondence, expense lists, maps, and drawings of camp and subcamp objects. The documents of the SS–Hygiene Institute contain the referral slips to the laboratory for urine testing, blood, etc., for both prisoners and SS men (and their families).

There are remnants of subcamp documents of KL Auschwitz I, for example, correspondence and plans (drawings). There are also a large number of court (trial) documents of the commandant of the camp, Rudolf Höss and SS staff (78 volumes), and the court documents of Gerhard Maurer, Adolf Eichmann and Oswald Pohl. This file is augmented continually by new trial documents coming into the Archives.

Another archival collection consists of a group of documents from other Nazi camps, including Buchenwald, Dachau, Flossenburg, Mauthausen and Ravensbrück. These documents consist of copies of transport lists received from different institutions or death records received from former prisoners or their families. The original index card file of Mauthausen prisoners (who had previously been in KL Auschwitz) was brought to Auschwitz by former Mauthausen prisoners. It consists of 30,000 files from the employment division and 62,000 files from the registration department.

Another group of documents consists of testimonials and memories of the former prisoners, mainly from KL Auschwitz. More than 3,000 reports are included in 128 volumes, and more than 1,000 memoirs in 185 volumes. The reports and memoirs were written or recorded by workers of the Museum. The memoirs were sent to competitions organized in recent years by the Museum and different institutions or were given spontaneously by former prisoners. The Archives still receive this kind of documentation, which, in many cases, is the only source of information for those who research and document the history of Auschwitz-Birkenau.



List of new arrivals, 1941, Auschwitz, Bohdan Weber

In the years 1945–1980, in the area of Birkenau, the diaries of Sonderkommando prisoners were found buried in the ground. These prisoners were employed in the crematoria and burning areas, and their testimonials are a very valuable source of information.

Documents about the resistance movement are unique. Among them are secret messages sent from the camp by the members of the movement to organizations acting in Kraków or near the camp, reports written by prisoners who escaped from the camp (Tabeau, Wetzler, Vrba, Stanisław Chybinski, Rosin-Mordowicz), illegal photographs and copies of documents. This material is gathered in 40 volumes and, because of it, the world learned (during the war) the truth about Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Also in the archive collection are approximately 39,000 original negatives of photographs of camp prisoners and 30,000 different photographs. The most valuable are photographs taken by SS officers Ernst Hofman and Bernhard Walter during the selection of Hungarian Jews that took place in 1944 on the railway ramp at Birkenau. There are also photographs of the Central Construction Headquarters that include photo documentation of the construction of the camp

buildings (crematoria and gas chambers), private photographs brought to the camp by prisoners and found after the war (about 2,500 photos) and aerial photographs taken by Allied air forces in 1944–1945.

Audio-visual material consists of documentary and feature films connected with the camp and World War II, records, tapes and videocassettes with recorded memories and reports of the prisoners. In the last few years, the Archives have received 1,562 tapes with recorded memories of former prisoners from Polish Radio in Katowice.

The Archives also collect materials created after World War II connected with the occupation and the camp. Among them are press articles, reports, scripts, reviews and academic publications. The majority of this material was created on the basis of material in the Archives, and access is given to those who are interested. Many university theses and articles are based upon archival material, and dozens of films were made utilizing this data.

Researchers from many countries (in 1995, e.g., from the Czech Republic, Israel, Japan, Germany and Poland), along with historians, sociologists, students, journalists, and filmakers, use our material. Archivists provide written and oral information about collections, conduct research, make photocopies of photographs and documents, and give lectures in Polish and German to groups of young people and teachers who visit the Archives.

There is an Information Office in the Archives that provides former prisoners with written statements confirming their stay in the camp. Written and oral information is also given to relatives of prisoners as well as to different institutions in Poland and abroad that want to know about prisoners in KL Auschwitz.

The Photo Laboratory does work requested by the Archives (microfilms, negatives, xerox copies, photographs), museums, private individuals, institutions in Poland and abroad, publications and various exhibitions.

In Moscow, in the Center for Preservation of Historical Documentary Collections, there is a rich collection of original documentation connected with the Central Construction Headquarters, *Waffen* SS and SS Police in Auschwitz-Birkenau. This collection includes the construction plans of the camp as well as projects for enlarging it, a list of SS men from Zentralbauleitung der Waffen SS and Auschwitz Police, lists of chief workers and 125,000 files of civil workers employed by different German companies.

A part of the KL Auschwitz documentation was taken after the war to the Military-Medical Museum in Leningrad. This includes:

- A list of female prisoners who died or were murdered in KL Auschwitz in December 1943 (836 names)
- A list of prisoners who died in January 1944 (921 names)
- The camp hospital surgical registry
- Camp statistics about illnesses among prisoners

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Auschwitz I.D. (1942) for Berek Cymbler, born 1879 in Olkusz

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- Correspondence with the Topf und Sohne Company in the years 1941–1943 about building crematoria
- Correspondence of the administration of the camp for the years 1941–1943 with WVHA (Main Administration and Economic Office of SS) about enlarging the camp
- A list of employed prisoners from 1944
- The diary of the Sonderkommando prisoner Zalmen Gradowski, which was found in March 1945 in the area of the crematorium in Birkenau

In 1992, an agreement between the Polish State Archives and the Committee for Archives of the Federal Government of Russia was signed in Moscow about returning archival records of Polish origin, including documentation of KL Auschwitz. The Archives have already received some of those documents. The Polish Military Archival Committee xeroxed about 5,000 selected documents for the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Among them are documents concerning Zentralbauleitung and other branches: Kommandanturbefehle (1940-1944), Standortbefehle and Sturmbannbefehle. Further efforts are proceeding through government and diplomatic channels. The cooperation that began in 1992 with the Military-Medical Museum in St. Petersburg is also very fruitful. On the basis of a bilateral agreement, part of the documents and exhibits were given to Auschwitz-Birkenau in the form of yearly transfers.

The Archives cooperate with different institutions of similar character in Poland and abroad, such as the Main Committee to Search Crimes Against the Polish Nation and Regional Committees, Internationaler Suchdienst from Arolsen in the Federal Republic of Germany, Yad Vashem in Israel, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and the Russian Archives. The Archives also have contact with former prisoners and their families. Through this cooperation, many copies of documents about KL Auschwitz have been retrieved.

In 1991, a computer section was established in the Archives to computerize the data from the KL Auschwitz prisoners' documents. The next step will be the input of data from other

archival documents. In addition to microfilming, and as another method of protection and preservation, the documents will be scanned using optical discs, which will make academic research easier.

On the basis of this data, Memorial Book: The Gypsies at Auschwitz-Birkenau was published. Additionally, the Auschwitz Archives published Death Books from Auschwitz (three volumes), including 69,000 prisoners' names who perished in KL Auschwitz in the period between August 1941 and December 1943.

To accommodate the Archives' needs, a list of original preserved negatives of photographs of camp prisoners was prepared in the order of camp numbers (five volumes).

**Barbara Jarosz** is a historian and graduate of Jagiellonian University in Kraków. Jarosz is director of the Archives at the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau and is the author of a publication about the camp resistance movement.

**Helena Śliż** was born in 1953 in Sokołów Mazowiecki. In 1975, Śliż graduated from Śląski Unviersity in Katowice. She currently works in the Archives of the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau.



List of illnesses to be used as "causes of death"

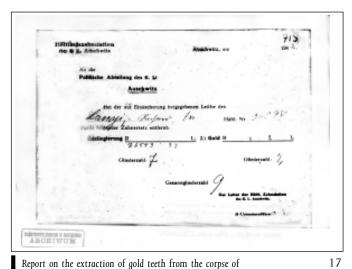
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Town square, Oświęcim (near Auschwitz-Birkenau camp), 1916

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Death record for Bohdan Israel Weber, who died November 6, 1941



Report on the extraction of gold teeth from the corpse of Richard Israel Lanyi before cremation



Bohdan Weber, born March 28, 1908 in Budweis, Bohemia, clerk. Transported to KL Auschwitz from Brno on October 24, 1941. Registered as a Polish Jew, he was a political prisoner, placed in Block 11 and shot on November 6, 1941, "while fleeing" with his brother, Jarosław Weber.

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Registration of Bohdan Weber, Block 11, Auschwitz

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These five photographs from the archives of the State Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau are among thousands confiscated from deportees upon their arrival in the camps.

# STATE MUSEUM OF AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU Regulations for Access to Archival Documents

### Jerzy Wróblewski, Director

- 1. Visitors (users) can access archival documents in the reading room of the Archives every day between 8:00 AM and 2:00 PM, except holidays and other stated days for closing.
- 2. Prior to archival research, permission must be obtained by the director or the vice-director of the Archives. Those individuals wishing permission to research archival documents must complete an application card, listing the purpose of their research, or the title of their proposed publication, and then register in a book for users of the archives.
- 3. Users may be given material in the form of copies and microfilms. In exceptional cases, original documents for academic research purposes and publication purposes are also provided. Access to archival material of a personal nature (family correspondence of living individuals and other documents relating to living people) can be obtained only with written permission from the person or institution that deposited the material in the Archives or after the stated release date, named by the individual or institution.

#### The director of the Archives or his deputy has the right to:

- Withhold permission to access documents if they are in poor condition or because of other reasonable reasons.
- Withdraw access permission in the event the user does not observe the regulations or does
  not follow conditions of the access permission. An individual who is denied access to archival
  documents by the Archives director or vice-director may appeal to the director of the museum.

#### The user is permitted to:

- Use inventories, lists and other helpful sources for the work.
- Order copies of documents, photocopies, and negatives in a quantity that the archive director
  considers possible for the photo lab to process. The user pays the costs of the service according
  to the price list. The completion date of the processing is determined by the Archives director.

#### The user is obligated to:

- Inform the Archives in advance regarding the date of arrival and subject of research, so as to allow the Archives to prepare the requested material.
- Provide an introduction/recommendation letter if a student or a representative of institutions, associations or state administrative institutions. Without this letter, permission to research documents may be denied.
- Be familiar with the regulations and obey them.
- Return material every day to the person who is in charge of the reading room.
- Provide the Archives with one copy of the published work that was based upon the archival material.

#### The user is not permitted to:

- Personally make reproductions of any archival material.
- Make any markings or notes on archival material.
- Change the order of the archival material.
- Give access to material to other users in the reading room.
- Bring briefcases or bags into the reading room.
- Do anything that negatively affects the archival material.

Only specific institutions (television, film studios, press, etc.) may be given permission to photograph archival material.

The Archives do not lend material to individuals, but do lend material to museums. If there is a need, a microfilm can be loaned to academic institutions.

Museum workers may use original documents and other files only in the reading room. They may take copies to their offices only for a certain time designated by the director of the Archives. If it is necessary, the director can request that the material be returned earlier. In the event that Museum workers are absent for an extended period of time, they are obliged to return the borrowed material.

Original documents may be loaned for exhibitions only in exceptional cases after obtaining permission from the Main State Archives.

Permission to microfilm archival materials for other institutions in Poland and abroad cooperating with the Museum is given by the director of the Museum.

Regulations dated as of January 1, 1993.

STATE MUSEUM OF AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU



Former yeshiva building in Oświęcim; now houses offices of the Polish-Israeli Friendship Society



Plaque at site of Bet Midrash in Oświęcim, in memory of the owner of the textile factory in Kęty, Shlomo Zalman Felczman, born 1906.

THE PROPLE WERE SELECTED ON THE RAHWAD PLATFORM THOSE TO BE CASSED WERE ASSURED THAT THEY WERE GOING TO TAKE A BATH. DUMMY SHOWERS WERE FIXED TO THE CEILING. CUDGELLED AND HALLOOED WITH DOOS 2000 VICTUALS WERE CRAMMED IN THE CHAMBER DOOR WAS LOCKED, AND OXION B WAS POURED. AFTER 15-20 MINLITES THE CHAMBER WAS OPENED. CORPSES WERE STRIPTED OF GOID TEETH HAR EARRINGS RINGS AND THEN TRANSPORTED TO A CREMATORY, VICTIMS PERSONEL DOCUMENTS WERE DESTROYED.

Caption beneath Auschwitz model of the crematoria, 1991

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IN 20.01.1942 - AFTER CONFERENCE IN WANNSEE ALISCHWITZ WAS DESIGNED AS CENTER FOR TEWS EXTERMINATION FROM THE COUNTRIES OCCUPIED BY NAZI GERMANY.

ANIONG FOUR CREMATORIES WHICH WERE BUILT IN BIRKENAU, CREMATORY NUMBER 2 WAS ACTIVE FROM SPRING 1943. THERE WERE A CAS CHAMBER AND STOVES FOR CORPS BURDING, TA MASH THE CRIMES, NAZISTS FLANTED POPULARS ON THE TERRAIN ARDUIND THE CREMATORY.

DESIGNATION OF SELECTED PARTS OF THE CREMATORY WAS AS FOLLOWS:

1. UNDRESSING ROOM.

2. CAS CHAMBER THERE WERE KILLED TWO THOUISAND PROPILE IN THE SINGLE CHARGE.

3. BUICTRICAL CRANE FOR CORPS TRANSPORTATION TO THE STOVES.

4. THE GHAMBER WHERE WAS CARRIED HAIR-CUT FOR MILLED WOMEN.

5. CREMATORIES STOVE HALL, WHERE GOLD TEETH WERE PULLED OFF, AND LATER CORPS WERE BURNED.

CAPTURED FROM KILLED.

CAPTURED FROM KILLED.

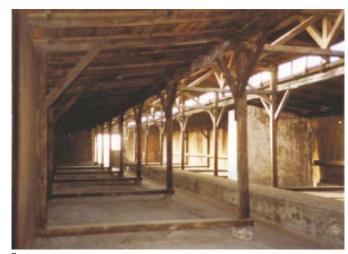
ON OCTOBER 7TH 1944 TEWISH PRISONERS EMPLOYED WITH CORPS BURNING STARTED URREINING IN THE CREMATORY NUMBER FOUR, THEY KILLED TWO SS-MEN AND AND HEN CUT OFF BARBED WISE AND RUN AWAY TO THE VILLAGE RAJSKO.

ALL OF THEM WERE SURRAAUNDERED BY SS-MEN AND IN THE FIGHTING WERE KILLED.

Caption beneath Auschwitz model of the crematoria, 1991

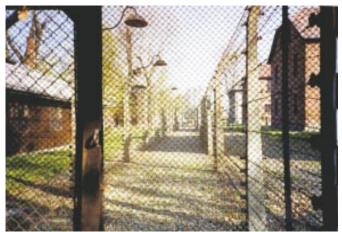


Shelves of record books in the Auschwitz-Birkenau Archives, 1990



Remaining barracks at Auschwitz, 1991

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View through chain-link fence at Auschwitz, 1990

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Remains of gas chambers at Birkenau, 1990