

Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study Collections

Imre Farkass Collection

Finding Aid

- Creator:** Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study
- Title:** Imre Farkass Collection
- Dates:** 1938-2007
- Abstract:** This collection includes materials related to the life and work of Imre Farkass, particularly during the Holocaust and World War II. Compiled by Imre Farkass and the Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study, the collection contains correspondence, written and recorded testimonies, event materials, photographs, audio/visual media, and artwork.
- Extent:** 5 boxes, 3.5 linear feet
- Languages:** English and Hungarian
- Repository:** Drew University Library, Madison NJ

Biographical Note

Imre Farkass was born on September 26, 1919 in Budapest, Hungary. Before and during World War II, he was involved in anti-Nazi activities in Hungary. Most significantly, beginning in 1944, Imre and his wife Piroska Ozoray hid fourteen people both in their home and in Imre's physics laboratory at the Technical University in Budapest. These individuals belonged to various groups that were being persecuted by the Nazis, including Jews and political dissidents. The laboratory where Imre Farkass worked was located across the street from a Gestapo headquarters, making his rescue efforts that much more difficult and remarkable. The lab also served as a way station for aiding persecuted people in their escape from Budapest to a nearby estate. Through the actions of Imre and his wife, numerous Hungarian citizens were saved from arrest and possible death at the hands of the Nazis.

In 1995, Imre Farkass was introduced to Ann Saltzman, Director of the Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study. Mr. Farkass agreed to speak to Dr. Saltzman's "Psychology of the Holocaust" class and, in May 1995, met with Saltzman's students at his home. A video recording of Mr. Farkass's talk was made at the time (see folder 1 below). From there, a relationship between Imre Farkass and the Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study emerged. This relationship culminated in the awarding of honors by Yad Vashem in recognition of Mr. Farkass's rescue efforts during the war. A special exhibit of materials related to Imre's life was put together in 1997 to commemorate the honor. Imre Farkass died in December 2000, and was honored by Drew University and the Center with a memorial ceremony in January, 2001.

Scope and Content Note

The Imre Farkass Collection is part of the larger group of archival collections from the Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study. The collection includes

correspondence, written and recorded testimonies, event materials, photographs, audio/visual media, and artwork. These materials are all related to the life-saving actions and activities of Imre Farkass before and during World War II. They range from mid 20th to early 21st century. Some of the materials were provided to the Center by both Imre Farkass and his second wife, Violet “Bambi” Farkass. The remaining materials were produced by or in conjunction with the Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study as part of events honoring Mr. Farkass and his work.

Arrangement

Series I. Event Materials
Series II. Photographs and Artwork

Administrative Information

Acquisition

Donated by Imre Farkass and Violet “Bambi” Farkass to the Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study, 1995-2001. Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study Collections transferred to Drew University Library, 2014.

Restrictions

One photo copy may be made of each document for research purposes.
Permission to publish must be obtained from the Drew University Library.
Researcher is responsible for further copyright restrictions.

Preferred Citation

[Item, date]. Imre Farkass Collection, Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study Collections. Drew University Library.

Processor

Brian Shetler, 2015

Related Material

Additional collections within the Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study Collections include:

- Andrew Liput Collection
- Carol Rosen Collection
- *Moments in Time* Collection
- The Nuernberg-Fuerth Survivors Group Collection
- Records of the Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study
- Victor Wegard Collection
- Witold Szymanski Collection
- Extraneous Materials Collection

Local resources and collections related to Holocaust studies include:

- Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education, Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ
- The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, William Paterson University, Wayne, NJ
- New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, Trenton, NJ
- Leo Baeck Institute, New York City, NY
- Sara & Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, Stockton University, Galloway, NJ

Index Terms

People

Ellenbogen, Oscar
Farkass, Imre, 1919-2000
Farkass, Violet “Bambi”
Katona, Kathy
Ozoray, Piroska
Rácz, Julianna

Organizations

Budapesti Műszaki Egyetem (lcnaf)
Drew University (lcnaf)
Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter-Partei (lcnaf)
Yad va-shem, rashut ha-zikaron la-Sho’ah yela-gevurah (lcnaf)

Subjects

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) (lcsh)
Holocaust survivors (lcsh)
Jewish refugees—United States (lcsh)
Jews—History—20th century (lcsh)
Nazi Holocaust (lcsh)
World War, 1939-1945 (lcsh)

Document Types

Cartoons (humorous images) (aat)
Clippings, newspaper (aat)
Correspondence (aat)
Periodicals (aat)
Photographs (aat)
Sound recordings (aat)
Video recordings (aat)
Works of art (aat)

Container List

Series I. Event Materials

Series Description and Arrangement: Series I Event Materials contains correspondence, written and recorded testimony, programs, recorded audio/visual media, and other files related to events held in honor of Imre Farkass. Highlights of the materials include recordings of testimonies/talks by Imre Farkass, Juli Racz, and Kathy Katona. In addition, the series contains event-related materials for exhibits and memorials organized in Mr. Farkass's honor. The materials are organized in original order as provided by the Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study. Folder numbering and labeling has been left intact when available; missing or incomplete folder titles have been supplied in brackets by the processor. The bulk of material in the series spans 1995-2007, with one item from 1938.

Box 1

Folder 1: Guest presentation in "Psychology of the Holocaust", 1995

Folder 2: Correspondence with and about Juliana Racz, 1995-1997

Folder 3: Correspondence regarding Righteous Among the Nations [award], 1995-1996

Folder 4: Juli Racz's testimony, 1995

Folder 5: Testimony by Kathy Katona, 1995

Folder 6: Lecture materials for May 7, 1997 lecture

Box 2

Folder 7: Imre Farkass Award Ceremony, 1997

Folder 8: Kathy Katona/Award Ceremony, 1997

Folder 9: Imre Farkass Memorial Service and Obituaries, 2001

Folder 10: [Holocaust Memorial Garden and Study Center Dedication, 1998]

Folder 11: Biographical info. About Imre Farkass, 1995

Folder 12: [Student letters to Imre Farkass, 1997]

Folder 13: Violet Farkass, 2007

Folder 14: Exhibit, November 1997

Box 3

Scrapbook celebrating the life of Imre Farkass, 2001

"To the Conscience of the Nation" article in Budapest newspaper *Esti Kurir*, 6 May 1938

Imre Farkass Certificate of Honor, 1996

Series II. Photographs and Artwork

Series Description and Arrangement: Series II Photographs and Artwork is arranged by item type. These items include a photograph album, a selection of hand-drawn cartoons, and translations of the cartoons. The materials in this series were created between 1941 and 2013.

Box 1

Binder containing about 250 black and white photos of Budapest during World War II including bombings of the city by U.S. forces, with caption information, 1941-1944

Box 2 (Oversize)

Binder containing “Life in the Alhambra”—hand drawn cartoons by Oscar Ellenbogen, 1944-1947

Copies of “Life in the Alhambra” cartoons with English translations and translator notes