USING THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

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New Jersey State Library
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Between a Broch and a hard place: My search for Saul Lichtmann

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saul Lichtmann 1889-1941</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bolszowce 1889 (ITS death card/Sonnenstein)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cologne 1919 (Nat Birth Certificate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cologne 1921 (Herman Birth Certificate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buenos Aires 1925</td>
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<td>Leipzig 1933 (book)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leipzig-Dosen 1939 German Minority census (Landes-, Heil- und Pflegeanstalt Leipzig-Dösen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pirna-Sonnenstein 1941 death card</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What I’m trying to find out

There are two Saul Lichtmanns born in Bolsowce neither of whom match his birthdate. Which is him?

Where was he from 1889 to 1919? Was he married? Did he have other children?

What was he doing from 1926 to 1936 in Leipzig? Was he married? Did he have other children?
Lichtman on a map
Leo Broch and my grandmother, Rosa Holler Lichtmann Broch (aka Oma)
My questions about Leo Broch
Had he been married before he married my grandmother when he was 41? Did he have other children?

Why did they split up in France in 1940? My grandmother and father managed to get out of France in July 1940 to Liverpool.
Leo Broch’s on a map (1894-1943)
Introduction—

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM
In addition to the museum, USHMM houses a library, librarians, and archivists.
What are Archives?
from http://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/archive-centre/introduction-archives/definition/index.html#what

They are collections of primarily unpublished materials
They have been selected as evidence of historically significant events
They are being looked after in the hope they will last for hundreds of years

Important to remember that archives of a country include things beyond the vital records that genealogists love. They include the records of an institution, personnel records, newspaper clippings.

Archival records may be in any format, including text on paper or in electronic formats, photographs, motion pictures, videos, sound recordings. In addition to archival records, an archive can contain artifacts such as the Jewish star pictured here.
Respect de Fonds and Provenance

- We may wish there was one big file of all the names of holocaust victims but that is not the way the archives are arranged.

- The principle of provenance has two components: records of the same provenance (origin/source) should not be mixed with those of a different provenance (respect de fonds), and the archivist should maintain the original order in which the records were created and kept (but see next slide).

- The principle of respect des fonds is the basis of archival arrangement and description (records created together should be maintained together in their original order if an original order exists or was maintained by the creator).
I can only imagine the stir this caused...

- More recently, the Archives made an additional decision to follow the principle of respecting the provenance of the records, which in this case means that records are registered and cataloged according to the source of acquisition, not the location of creation.

- For example, if the Museum obtained from Yad Vashem a collection of records that that Israeli institution reproduced in the Lithuanian State Archives, the collection would be listed under RG-68 Israel, rather than RG-26 Lithuania.

- This latter decision regarding provenance is the reason more recently acquired collections may be placed in record groups different from thematically similar collections acquired before the decision was made.
Searching archival collections
https://collections.ushmm.org/search/?ref=spotlight-btn

Search All 283,495 Records in Our Collections
The Museum’s Collections document the fate of Holocaust victims, survivors, rescuers, liberators, and others through artifacts, documents, photos, films, books, personal stories, and more. Search below to view digital records and find material that you can access at our library and at the Shapell Center.

These are typically not names. VERY CONFUSING.
Archival Guide (very large print book OR https://www.ushmm.org/online/archival-guide/)
77 Record groups—listed at https://www.ushmm.org/online/archival-guide/list-of-record-groups.php

RG-01 RECORDS OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE HOLOCAUST, THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL, AND THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM
RG-02 SURVIVOR TESTIMONIES
RG-03 JEWISH COMMUNITIES
RG-04 CONCENTRATION AND OTHER CAMPS

Included are more than 78 individual collections, most of which have been cataloged; the catalog data appears on the USHMM Website. Title: Fichier de Drancy = Drancy file, 1939-1962 (bulk 1942-1943) [microform]. https://collections.ushmm.org/findingaids/RG-04.077M_01_fnd_en.pdf

RG-05 GHETTOS
RG-06 WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS
RG-07 ROMANI (ROMA AND SINTI (GYPSIES))
RG-08 HADASSAH ROSENSAFT COLLECTION
RG-09 LIBERATION OF THE CAMPS AND GHETTOS
RG-10 SMALL COLLECTIONS
RG-11 SELECTED RECORDS FROM THE FORMER SPECIAL [OSOBYI] STATE ARCHIVE IN THE RUSSIAN STATE MILITARY ARCHIVE (RGVA)
RG-12 BENJAMIN B. FERENCZ COLLECTION
RG-13 ESTONIA
RG-14 FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Several other record groups in the USHMM Archives contain German records relating to Germany, in particular RG-04 — Concentration and Other Camps, RG-11 — Selected Records from the former Osobyi Archives in Moscow, RG-15 — Poland, and RG-43 — France. Many, but not all of the collections obtained from the German Federal Archives are described in a more detailed summary form, including a brief history and explanation of the hierarchies of the agencies, in Josef Henke, et al., Das Bundesarchiv und seine Bestände...
Excerpt of Full list of Record Groups and their sub-groups [https://www.ushmm.org/online/archival-guide/list.php](https://www.ushmm.org/online/archival-guide/list.php). N=2,865

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record Group</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Source of Accession</th>
<th>Accession Number</th>
<th>Collection</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>RG 203</td>
<td>Records of the Jewish Social Services Department of Berlin, 1900-1938</td>
<td>The collection contains records of the Jewish Social Services Department of Berlin, 1900-1938.</td>
<td>German, English</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ushmm.org/online/archival-guide/list.php">Link</a></td>
<td>Social Services Department</td>
<td>German, English</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ushmm.org/online/archival-guide/list.php">Link</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>RG 204</td>
<td>Selected Records from the Galician Czernowin Zamenhof Collection, 1868-1944</td>
<td>The collection contains selected records from the Galician Czernowin Zamenhof Collection, 1868-1944.</td>
<td>Polish, Yiddish, Russian, German, Hebrew</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ushmm.org/online/archival-guide/list.php">Link</a></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N=2,865
Sample finding aid for RG14.002M—only shows first of 13 reels. You’d really need to look at the reel if it looked relevant.

- 6/21/2018
- RG-14.002M
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives Finding Aid
- RG-14
- Germany
- RG-14.002M
- Title: Staatarchiv Leipzig records, 1887-1944
- Extant: 13 microfilm reels
- Provenance: The documents were selected from the collections of the Staatarchiv in Leipzig, Germany, and filmed under the authority of the Staatliche Archivverwaltung - DDR in Potsdam, Germany. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum acquired the records on microfilm from Staatliche Archivverwaltung on basis of exchange.
- Restriction on access: No restrictions on access.
- Restriction on use: Restrictions apply. See Staatarchiv Leipzig donor file for details.
- Organization and arrangement: Arrangement is thematic.
- Language: German
- Preferred citation: Standard citation for United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collections Division, Archives Branch.
- Scope and Content: Various local government offices of Leipzig created the documents from the 1880s to the 1940s. Among topics covered in the Holocaust era are Jewish organizations, youth organizations, Gypsies, labor, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and confiscation of Jewish property.
- Inventory:
  - File # Title - Description
  - Reel 1:
    - (Hans Klein / Versteigerungshaus Leipzig)
    - 21 Verkauf von jüdischem Vermögen (Polizeipräsidium - Leipzig)
    - https://www.ushmm.org/online/archival-guide/finding_aids/RG14002M.html/1/5
  - 6/21/2018
  - Reel 2:
The serendipity factor can’t be overlooked. ”Herman Broch” is listed in the finding aid but searches of the archives don’t search the finding aid.
Sidney Stecher – from the finding aid


- Restrictions on Access: Due to the private nature of the claims files, access is restricted for 75 years. Access before the year 2071 will be granted to researchers presenting a death certificate for a claimant.

P.S. The archivist allowed me access with a note from my sister who has my dad’s Power of Attorney.

P.P.S. This is a huge document that probably has valuable info but I don’t read German.

Box 19:
- Becker, Raschka
- Benevolent Stryjer Fraternity
- Berger, Esther
- Berglas, Sara
- Berkovits, Lazar
- Berne, Max
- Blauner, Max
- Broch, Herman
- Cohen, Ruth (Friedman)
- Cossman, Paul K.
- Cossman-Trules, Irene
Among the 2,865 subcollections in the archives, about ten percent of lists of names.
Note ITS is #3 and sorted by person counts.

We will see below that only a tiny fraction of ITS is online at USHMM.
Records of the Central Office of the Judicial Authorities of the Federal States for the Investigation of National Socialist Crimes (B 162)

Contains selected records relating to the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed under the National Socialist regime from 1933-1945. Includes interrogation reports of perpetrators, testimonies of witnesses, and court decisions.

Records document violent crimes, including: mass crimes against Jews and others committed by members of the SS and security police within the killing squads in Poland and in the former Soviet Union, as well as crimes in numerous ghettos, concentration and extermination camps (such as Auschwitz, Majdanek, Belzec, Treblinka or Sobibor) across occupied Europe. Also contains files detailing the murder of political opponents and the homicidal crimes within the so-called euthanasia program, materials on the “Röhm murder,” on the pogroms against Jews in Nazi Germany in 1938; on the crimes against forced laborers in the numerous forced labor and POW camps, as well as in other institutions for detention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>1933-1999 (inclusive)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>German</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genre/Form</td>
<td>Testimonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>1,760,630 digital images: JPEG; 2,33 TB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,226 microfilm reels; 16 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Credit Line| Forms part of the U.S. Conference International Holocaust Documentation Archive at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This archive consists of documentation whose reproduction and/or acquisition
My conclusions about the USHMM

- I volunteered to do this presentation a year ago, so I could learn about the structure of the USHMM archives. I figured the archives contained valuable information and I needed to learn how to use them more effectively.

- In my humble opinion, for genealogical research, the Holocaust Survivors and Victims database is still the most effective place to search.

- I’m convinced that one must use the resources in person by consulting microfilms on site to find additional information about family members. Language skills are essential.

- Fortunately the USHMM staff is very responsive.
The International Tracing Service—while partially accessible via the USHMM it is not synonymous with it.

- Overview of ITS holdings, much of which is not digital

- One of the first endeavors of the Allies was to gather detailed information on the situation of the prisoners, forced laborers and refugees in Central Europe.

- The holdings contain original documents on the registration and care of the survivors after 1945, as well as documents the Allied forces were able to secure when they liberated (some of) the concentration camps, for example prisoner identity cards from the Buchenwald and Dachau camps. See next slide for more detail.

- Correspondence with survivors of Nazi persecution and their families, conducted as part of the process of clarifying their fates, constitutes another part of the holdings.

- Finally, the ITS stores numerous copies or microfilms of documents from other archives or public institutions, which it collected in order to meet its own tracing responsibilities.
  https://digitalcollections.its-aronlsen.org/

- U.S. Government designated USHMM as the “national depository for its digitized records.”
Contents of the ITS Files

All 30 million records are images. There is no full-text searching.

\textit{i.e., You cannot find the word Forced-Labor or Verheiratet in my PowerPoint file or Google.}

Access is made possible through the Central Names Index.

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|l|p{0.7\textwidth}|}
\hline
\textbf{Contents of the Bad Arolsen Archives} & \\
\hline
Records pertaining to an estimated 17.5 million people are archived in three broad collections: & \\
\hline
\textbf{Incarceration/Concentration Camp Collection} & Nazi records documenting the capture, deportation, and transfer of individuals to and between concentration and death camps. \\
& \textit{At least 10 million pages} \\
\hline
\textbf{Wartime / Forced-Labor Collection} & Nazi records relating to individuals sent to forced and slave labor camps. \\
& \textit{At least 6 million pages} \\
\hline
\textbf{Post-War / Migration Collection} & Records from the aftermath of the war — primarily interviews of displaced persons and lists and information on survivors and missing persons. \\
& \textit{At least 14 million pages} \\
\hline
\textbf{Source:} & Information provided by International Tracing Service, March 2007. \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}
The Zentrale Namenkartei (ZNK) (Central Name Index (CNI) comprises approximately 50 million cards relating to the fate of 17.5 million individuals persecuted by the Nazis and their Allies. As various nationalities and languages have mixed in the index, an alphabetic-phonetic filing system was chosen and made for the ITS.
Correspondence received from ITS.

This is a copy of a letter that had been sent in 1953 when my grandmother was seeking reparations.
Few of the many subcollections are online (including the one with Lichtmann’s death record—which lists him as married)

https://digitalcollections.its-arolsen.org/
ITS tracing service card from ITS website. This is one of the few online files

- [https://digitalcollections.its-arolsen.org/01020401/content/titleinfo/499512](https://digitalcollections.its-arolsen.org/01020401/content/titleinfo/499512)
Why you need to contact the ITS directly (or even better go to USHMM, DC):
Name lists from INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE (ITS) COLLECTION (ID: 45858) IN Holocaust Survivors and Victims Database (N=6197)

NAME LISTS FROM THIS COLLECTION (TOTAL: 11)

- Executions at unidentified Gross Rosen camps (ID: 45394)
- Individual Documents Stutthof (ID: 45972)
- Jewish internees on the island of Rhodes in 1940 and persons transferred from Rhodes to the Ferramonti Internment Camp 12-Jan-1942 (ID: 45400)
- Jewish prisoners in Friedland, subcamp of Gross Rosen (ID: 45395)
- Lenne Forced Labor (ID: 46034)
- List of Germans who died in Gross Rosen (ID: 45396)
- Names from death certificates issued for Polish Jewish forced laborers who died in Brieskow (ID: 45392)
- Parschnitz Forced Labor Transport (ID: 45391)
- Prisoners' registry, detachment Wolfsberg on 22.11.1944 (ID: 45399)
- Survivor children airlifted from Theresienstadt "camp-ghetto" to England post-war (ID: 45393)
- Tübingen Medical School Experiments (ID: 45398)
Summary and Conclusions

- I have a better understanding of the loss to my family during the Holocaust through spending time at the museum or on the USHMM website.
- The archives are inaccessible even to a technically sophisticated non-expert.
- If you are looking for information on family members, go to the Holocaust museum and/or email the ITS service. New information seems to become available periodically, presumably as more resources are digitized.
- I hope you have a better understanding of archives and digital resources and the luxury of full-text searching that we almost take for granted.
Other Holocaust relevant memorial sites

- Yad Vashem [ydvashem.org](https://ydvashem.org)
- Memorial de la Shoah (Paris, France) [http://bdi.memorialdelashoah.org/internet/jsp/core/MmsGlobalSearch.jsp](http://bdi.memorialdelashoah.org/internet/jsp/core/MmsGlobalSearch.jsp)
- Kazerne Dossin (Mechelen, Belgium) [https://www.kazernedossin.eu/EN/](https://www.kazernedossin.eu/EN/)
- Belgian Police Records [https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1477769](https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1477769)
- Das (German) Bundesarchiv Victims of the Persecution of Jews under the National Socialist Tyranny in Germany 1933 – 1945 [https://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/directory.html](https://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/directory.html)
- [Opfer der ns-euthanasie](https://www.ns-euthanasie.de/)
Additional websites for genealogical research


- Internet Archive Wayback machine [https://web.archive.org/](https://web.archive.org/)

- Gazeteer at Jewishgen.org [https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp](https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp)

- Ancestry.com (seach for keyword USHMM) for free databases [https://www.ancestry.com/cs/jewishgen-all](https://www.ancestry.com/cs/jewishgen-all)


- Soundex Coding Rules [http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/what_is_soundex_and_how_does_soundex_work_page2.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/what_is_soundex_and_how_does_soundex_work_page2.html)
Yad Vashem bonus—photo of Margot Holler who is still alive in Florida, and not interested in discussing that time of her life. Margot died December 24, 2018.