Guide to

MS 508

# Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women case files

Span Dates, 1922-1946 Bulk Dates, 1935-1940

45 inches (linear)



#### Processed by Susan Goodman Novick August 2006

Donated by Mark Hutman.

Citation: Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women case files, MS 508, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department University of Texas at El Paso

## **Biography or Historical Sketch**

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), founded in 1893 by social activist Hannah G. Solomon, is an organization which is dedicated to furthering human welfare, in the Jewish and general communities, locally, nationally, and internationally. One of the first activities of the organization was providing assistance with the large influx of immigrants to the United States beginning in the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The NCJW formed the Department of Immigrant Aid in 1903 to assist and protect new arrivals to the country, especially women, and it formed the Port and Dock Department at the request of the federal government to help find homes and jobs for new immigrants. The organization assisted women arriving alone and provided a permanent immigration aid station on Ellis Island. In addition, a network of NCJW representatives assisting immigrant girls grew to cover over 300 cities.

During the early 1900s, a national effort arose which resulted in diverting Jewish immigrants from the Eastern seaboard to the West. Known as the Galveston Movement, this effort resulted in an influx of new immigrants to Texas. Immigrants from Europe were also entering into Mexico, then migrating northward, hoping to enter the United States at the border. Not aware of the stringent immigration laws, many had to remain in border cities such as Cd. Juárez to await the next step. In 1917, a group of 78 women formed an El Paso affiliate of the NCJW, and soon afterward organized a Committee for Service to the Foreign Born for the purpose of aiding European immigrants living in Cd. Juárez. As part of the Americanization process, volunteers conducted classes in English and government. The foreign born were assisted in finding jobs and a special field worker was employed to assist those in need of counseling.

Fanny Hutman Zlabovsky began her work as Field Worker for the Committee for Service to the Foreign Born in 1920. Born in Kiev, Ukraine, Russia on April 4, 1877, she immigrated to the United States in 1881, and was admitted to an orphanage in New Orleans in 1883. By 1900, she was living with her mother, Pauline Hutman, in San Antonio as a roomer in the household of Jacob Zlabovsky. On September 2, 1902, she married Frank Zlabovsky, a retail merchant in San Antonio, and they moved to El Paso in 1900 and built a house at 1016 Olive Street.

Mrs. Zlabovsky worked for the El Paso section of the NCJW until the early 1940s, and kept the case files on those immigrants on whose cases she worked. The Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women Case Files include 239 case files that include correspondence in English and Yiddish with immigrants and their families as well as with officials at the national office of the NCJW, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and other national and international organizations that assisted immigrants in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. In addition to these case files, there are other items of general correspondence and reports spanning from 1922 to 1941.

## **Series Description or Arrangement**

The Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women case files are arranged in two series:

Series I: Case Files, 1922-1946, 30 linear inches (6 boxes)

Arranged alphabetically (and chronologically in each folder), this series includes correspondence and notes on individuals or families assisted by Fanny Zlabovsky in her role as Field Worker for the Committee on Service to the Foreign Born.

Series II: General Correspondence and Reports, 1922-1941, 3 linear inches (1/2 box)

Arranged chronologically, this series includes correspondence and reports from 1922 to 1941.

Fragile original documents, which have been copied and placed in the appropriate place in each case file, are arranged alphabetically in boxes 7, 8, and 9 (15 linear inches).

## **Scope and Content Notes**

The Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women case files collection is primarily composed of correspondence that Mrs. Zlabovsky wrote and received in her role as Field Worker for the Committee on Service to the Foreign Born.

The first series, Case Files, 1922-1946, contains 239 case files of individuals and families. The countries of origin for the individuals include Argentina, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Syria, Turkey, and Venezuela. The contents relate the process by which Mrs. Zlabovsky assisted immigrants and their families by obtaining affidavits and birth certificates, applying for immigration quotas, corresponding with consular officials in Mexico and abroad, and providing financial and social services assistance to immigrants who were living in Cd. Juárez. Several world-renowned scientists and academics were assisted by Mrs. Zlabovsky, and many changed their immigration status by staying overnight in Cd. Juárez. Included are letters from families of prospective immigrants with completed affidavits of support and correspondence with officials of national organizations helping to rescue European Jews (such as the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society of America and the National Coordinating Committee for Aid to Refugees and Emigrants Coming from Germany). Also included is correspondence from other NCJW chapters throughout the country and letters written in Yiddish.

The second series, General Correspondence and Reports, 1922-1941, contains general correspondence and reports from the El Paso chapter of the NCJW to the national organization as well as updates from the national office on pending immigration and

social services legislation. The reports provide information on health and education programs as well as statistics on how many trips were made to Cd. Juárez to distribute clothing and money and how many cases were pending or closed.

### **Provenance Statement**

Mark Hutman donated the Fanny Zlabovsky- National Council of Jewish Women case files to the University of Texas at El Paso Library in 2004.

# **Literary Rights Statement**

Permission to publish material from the Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women case files must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Fanny Zlabovsky-National Council of Jewish Women case files, MS 508, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

#### **Container List**

		Series I - Case				
		Files				
		1				
Box	File	Last Name	First Name	Dates	<b>Country of Origin</b>	Comments
1	1	Abisror	Leon	1930-1931	Morocco	deportation
1						academic and his
	2	Abrahamson	Ernest	1939-1940	Germany	fiancee (Edith Rodler)
1	3	Adler	Markus and Rosa	1937	?	visas
1	4	Alerhand	Masra	1938	Poland	refund of consular fee
						marriage certificate (Frank
	5	Alonzo	Matilda	1943	?	Hinkle)
	6	Altschuler	Gil	1943	?	information request
	7	Aronowitz	Clara	1927-1935	Russia/Germany	bonded case
	8	Aronstein	Georg	1938	Germany	affidavits [Kohlberg]
	9	Ayala	Isabel Carmen	1935	?	birth certificate
	10	Babad	Hirsch	1934	?	information request
	11	Baron	Marcel	1937	Germany	voluntary departure
	12	Barta	Emmanuel	1938-1940	Hungary	re Harmelin case
	13	Bartnowski	Chaim	1936-1939	Poland	affidavits; Yiddish letters
	14	Baum	Bernardo and Marla	1942	?	visas
	15	Beck	Helmut and Ruth	1937	Germany	change of status
	16	Bekenstein	Mordechai	1932	Poland	affidavit [Simon Kahn]
	17	Bendalin	Girses	1937-1938	Lithuania	affidavit [Bendalin, Goodman]
	18	Bereck	Estelle	1938	?	transport to New York
	19	Berg	Florence	1938	Germany	affidavit [Bernard Berg]
	20	Berg	Lothar	1938	Germany	affidavit [Bernard Berg]
	21	Blau	Mariette	1939	Austria	well-known scientist
	22	Blaugrund	Emanuel/Maurice	1931-1932	Slovakia	quota number [Blaugrund]
	23	Bloas/Bloy	Chaskiel and Rosa	1930-1932	Lithuania	quota number

		Bloom/Anseno				
	24	vitch	Morris	1931-1932	?	family history
						birth certificate;
	25	Borenstein	Pola Gerschbein	1930-1931	Lithuania	eventual divorce
	26	Borovsky	Bernard	1932	?	medical treatment
	27	Bruhl	Fritz	1938	Germany	visitor's visa
		Burstein				proof of
	28	(Rones)	Bella	1927-1933	Poland/China	citizenship;
	29	Caminer	Curt	1940-1941	Germany	visa
	30	Capomacchia	Margarite Marshon	1940	?	quota number
						problems returning from
	31	Carvel	Ida	1931-1933	Lithuania	Juárez
	32	Castanada	Placido	1938	Mexico	marriage certificate
	33	Cicourel	Nisson	1933	Turkey	divorce
	34	Cohen	Minnie	1928	?	desertion
	35	Cohen	Walter and Bertha	1938	Germany	affidavits
	36	Cohen	Yetta	1935	?	transport to Chicago
	37	Cremer	Fritz	1938	Germany	affidavits
	38	Cwi	Leopold	1937	Poland	affidavits
	39	Cytryn	Abraham	1936-1939	Poland	Yiddish letters; quota and visa
	40	Czapski	Gunter	1937	Germany	quota number
	41	D'Ancona	Ezio Levi	1940	Italy	academic; change of status
	42	Dannenbaum	Franz	1936-1937	Germany	affidavit [Edwin Wisburn]
	43	de Anda	Sebastian	1938	United States	birth certificate
	44	Deutsch	Leo	1938	Germany	transit to Mexico City
	45	Dimitzstein	Sara	1933	Poland	affidavits
2	1	Elegante	Paris	1939	?	affidavits; Yiddish letters
	2	Emanuel	Hans and Susie	1938	Germany	adoption
	3	Fainkujen	Isaac	1941-1943	?	visa
	4	Feldman	Sara	1936-1937	Lithuania	affidavit [Simon Kahn]
	5	Filurina	Rosa	1928-1929	Russia	desertion
	6	Fischer	Arthur	1938	?	travel visa
	7	Fisher	Howard	1937	Germany	change of status
	8	Flashner	Nathan	1937	Poland	return to Mexico
	9	Fleischman	Al (brother of)	1931-1932	Lithuania?	affidavits
	10	Fleischman		1928	?	sending money to wife

11	Fliesser	Werner	1937	Germany	change of status
12	Freise	Elfreide	1937	Germany	change of status
13	Fridberg	Horst Harry	1936-1937	Germany	change of status
				·	screenwriter (Mrs. Miniver);
14	Froeschel	Georg	1937	Austria	quota number
15	Fruehauf	George	1938	?	change of status
16	Gail	Alan (wife of)	1937	Germany	affidavits
17	Garakauskas	Moses	1935	Lithuania	passport renewal
18	Gechter	Jaime	1934-1938	?	border crossing card
19	Gechter	Sule	1929-1938	Lithuania	birth certificate; Yiddish letter
20	Glogau	Erna	1937	Germany	change of status
21	Goldberg	Abraham	1939	?	citizenship inquiry
22	Goldfinger	Michel	1931-1941	Poland	affidavits
23	Goldman	Jacob	1930-1931	?	border crossing card
					well-known economist; non-
24	Goldschmidt	Alfons	1934-1935	Germany	quota visa
25	Goldwein	Louis	1939	Germany	immigration to Mexico
26	Gorska	Necha	1931	?	arranging marriage
27	Gottdinner	Esther	1928-1930	Hungary?	visa extension
28	Gratch		1921	?	divorce
29	Greenberg	Maria	1936-1937	?	unpaid bills; Yiddish letter
30	Greenberg	Max	1934	?	case update
31	Gross	Eugene	1938	Hungary	quota number
32	Grosz	Alexander	1938	Hungary	quota number
33	Groth	Ilse	1937-1938	Germany	change of status
34	Grynberg	Jacob	1937	Poland	affidavits
35	Guralnick	Sam	1938-1940	Russia	affidavits
36	Gurevitch	Z.	1933-1934	Lithuania	Lithuanian letters
37	Gurfinkiel	Max	1941	Poland	Yiddish letters
38	Gutierrez	Mena Adelina	1929-1940	Mexico	marriage certificate
39	Hamburger	Simon	1937	Germany	change of status
40	Hara	Marcus	1929-1932	Syria	quota number
41	Harmelin		1939	Austria	legal payments
42	Hausmann	Alois-Oswald	1937	Germany	change of status
43	Hefter	Zaya	1929	Poland	passport
44	Heilbut	Kurt	1939	?	affidavit

	45	Heller Abraham		1937	Russia
	46	Herz	S.	1938-1939	Germany
					·
	47	Herzenberg	Alfred (friends of)	1938	Germany
	48	Himmel	Jacqueline	1934	?
	49	Hirsch	Rosa	1938	Germany
	50	Hirschbahn	Max	1939	Germany
	51	Hoffman		1940	Germany
	52	Horn	Hildegard and Herman	1938-1940	Germany
	53	Idovicius	Iselis	1931	Lithuania
	54	Israel	Espera	1929	?
	55	Jacobowitz	Esther	1929-1930	?
3	1	Joel	William and Anna	1932	?
	2	Jones	Ida Goetz	1940-1941	Latvia/Russia
	3	Kagan	Rebecca	1936-1946	Lithuania
	4	Kaimski	Elfriede	1938-1940	Germany/Poland
	5	Kaiser	Margarete	1938	Germany
			_		-
	6	Kallmannsohn	Israel	1936-1938	Germany
	7	Kamberg	Lube Klebenov	1931-1934	Latvia
	8	Kaplan	Benjamin	1931	?
	9	Kaplan	Harris	1931-1933	Poland?
	10	Kaplan	Ruth	1929-1930	Lithuania
	11	Karasick	William	1931	Russia
	12	Karkowsky	Moses	1936	?
	13	Karokowsky	Salomon and Bronia	1942	Russia
	14	Karolyi	Magdalena	1931	Hungary
	15	Karpel	Hans	1937	Germany
	16	Katz	Gabriele Alexander	1937	Germany
	17	Kaufman	Suzi	1937	Germany
	18	King	Ben (relative of)	1939	Poland
	19	Kinsky	Bruno	1937	Germany
	20	Kirman	Aria	1939-1940	Russia

	21	Klassen	Isaac	1936-1938	Canada	Canadian Mennonites
	22	Klemperer	Wolfgang (relative of)	1938	Austria	well-known aerodynamicist
	23	Klonigheim	Klara	1937	Germany	affidavit [Mathias]
	24	Kogan	Zieskel and Chana	1939-1940	Russia	Yiddish letters
	25	Kopolowitch	Fruma	1927	?	stranded in Mexico
	26	Kotlarchyk	Esther	1938	Poland	affidavit
						naturalization petition
	27	Kotowska	Sara	1938	Poland	[Simon Kahn]
	28	Kuntz	Joaquin	1942-1944	Romania	border crossing card
	29	Lebins	Dora	1936-1937	Lithuania	affidavits [Bendalin]
	30	Lehmann	Richard	1938-1939	Germany	affidavits
	31	Leiter	Bruno	1938	Germany	stateless person
	32	Lepa	Molly	1930	?	detained at bridge
	33	Leplin	Isaac Borisovich	1928	?	bond matter
	34	Levine	Sarah/Selma	1931-1932	?	looking for woman
	35	Libnik	Frieda and Solomon	1931	Poland	quota number
	36	Lichter	Abram	1931	Lithuania	passport extension
	37	Lieberg	Julius	1938	Germany	searching for relatives
	38	Lipman	Boris	1932-1936	Poland	affidavit; Yiddish letters
	39	Loewenberg	Richard	1936	Germany	affidavit [Edwin Wisbrun]
	40	Loewenheim	Trude (nee Kahn)	1936-1941	Germany	visa
	41	Loewenthal	Horst	1937	Germany	change of status
	42	Lowenheim	Leonard & Margaret	1937	Germany	change of status
		Maglinker				
	43	(Mogul)	Israel	1928	Lithuania	passport renewal
	44	Maislin	Salomon	1939	?	medical treatment
		Mandelberg-				
	45	Brodman	Solomon	1939	?	visa extension; Yiddish letter
	46	Margolis	Aaron	1937-1943	Russia	affidavits; Yiddish letters
	47	Martyn	Pauline	1931-1932	Austria	non-quota visa
	48	Mata	Mrs.	1937	?	going to Mexico City
	49	Matza	Anna	1931	?	verification of arrival in U.S.
	50	Mendelsohn	Sara	1937	Lithuania	affidavits
						stranded in L.A.; parents
	51	Mendoza	Luis	1936	?	in Cd. Juárez
	52	Milner/Milicov	Jake	1932	Poland	legal entry status
4	1	Moguel	Julian	1936	Lithuania	desertion case

2	Mogul	Victor	1929	Lithuania	sick, died
3	Mourad	Nousin	1943	?	border crossing card
4	Mueller	Anna	1938-1941	Germany	[Nordhaus, Schuster]
5	Nathan	Ella	1936	Russia	social services
6	Neufeldt	Elsie	1935	?	dental bill
7	Neugarten	Max	1938	Germany	affidavit [Edwin Wisbrun]
8	Nuernberg	Herbert	1937-1938	Germany	quota number
9	Odenwald	Robert	1937	Germany	change of status
10	Oppenheimer	Fritz	1938	Germany	affidavit
11	Oppenheimer	Alfred	1937	Germany	change of status
12	Ovaida	Robert	1934	?	burial of child
13	Ovidia/Ovadia	Avidor	1934-1938	Turkey	passport renewal
14	Perl	Aaron and Josef	1937-1939	Poland	affidavits
15	Philipowski	Max	1930	Poland	affidavits
					affidavits [Henry Kellen's first
16	Philipowsky	Julia	1936-1937	Lithuania	wife]
17	Pinchuk	Rafael and Sara	1941	Lithuania	affidavits
18	Polachek	Otto	1931	Argentina	case update
19	Pomeranz	Ethel	1936-1937	?	stranded in El Paso
20	Praes	Jacobo	1930	Venezuela	birth certificate
21	Proskauer	Hans	1939	?	case update
22	Pupkowicz	Gdalia	1939-1941	Poland	affidavit; Yiddish letters
23	Rabinowitz	Moise/Boris/Sarah	1929-1932	Russia	sad case; Yiddish letters
24	Ramras	Brandel, Nathan, Peretz	1938	Russia	birth certificates
25	Reisel	Emil	1935-1939	Poland/Nicaragua	affidavits [Gladstein, Rosen]
26	Rivas	Carmen	1931	?	reuniting family
	Robinowitz				affidavits;
27	(Roberts)	Isidor	1940-1942	Denmark	establishing
28	Robinson	Louis	1937-1938	Lithuania	birth certificate for visa
					affidavits and
29	Rom	Mary	1931-1938	Lithuania	financial assistance
30	Romberg	Herman	1938	Germany	affidavits [Mathias]
31	Rosen	Barusch Juda	1938	Poland	adoption
					follow up to settling in El Paso
32	Rosen	Lazar	1933	Germany	[Rosen]
33	Rosenberg	Bernard	1938	Germany	affidavits [Aronstein]
34	Rosenfeld	Hyman	1938-1939	Russia	affidavits

		Rosenfeld/Ro				
	35	mer	Ernest	1938	Austria	affidavit
	36	Rosenthal	Recha	1937-1938	?	information on location
	37	Rotburd	H.	1930	?	affidavits
	38	Rothenberg	Leon	1929	?	affidavit; Yiddish letters
	39	Sadowsky	Joseph	1938-1940	Russia	birth certificate
	40	Safdie	Jack	1933	Syria	affidavits
	41	Saltzman	Maurycy	1938-1939	Poland	affidavit; Yiddish letters
	42	Sandberg	Richard	1938	Germany	Calisher; affidavits
5	1	Saposnikov	Wolf	1932	Russia	affidavits
	2	Satosanicos	Sarah	1929	?	living in Cd. Juárez
	3	Schildman	Berta	1938	Germany	affidavit [Kohlberg]
						extension of stay; Yiddish
	4	Schimelfarb	Jacob	1937-1939	?	letters
	5	Schmerman	Noah	1938	Poland/Brazil	visa application
	6	Schneider	Genochas	1932	?	affidavits
	7	Schwartz	Aaron	1928-1929	?	passport renewal
						bringing in 38 family members
	8	Schwartz	Mayer	1938-1939	Hungary	[A. Schwartz]
	9	Seeling	Annemarie	1939	Germany	affidavits
	10	Seligman	Ruth	1938	Germany	quota number
	11	Selowsky	Heins	1937	Germany	affidavits
	12	Seton	Julia	1938	?	adoption case
						temporary visa to see son in
	13	Sheinfeld	Solomon	1936-1937	Russia	Delaware
	14	Shensul	Ruth	1939	?	information request
	15	Soel	David	1930-1931	?	financial assistance
	16	Sohn	Fritz	1937	?	change of status
	17	Sosnowski	Elisa	1929	Poland	passport extension
		Steifel	Josef	1939-1940	Germany	visas (2 files)
	20	Stern	Heinrich	1937-1938	Germany	affidavits
	21	Stern	Rebecca and Lazar	1937-1938	?	medical treatment
	22	Suchovesky	Menaze	1937-1940	Poland	affidavits; Yiddish letters
	23	Tankenoff	Meyer and Sarah	1929-1930	?	marriage problems
	24	Tatalias	Matheos and Elpiniki	1931-1932	Greece	quota number
	25	Tolias	Theodora	1930	Turkey	quota number
	26	Tolmansky	Joe	?	?	detained

	27	Ullman	Frederick	1936	Germany	change of status; affidavits
	28	Wagner	Fritz	1938	Germany	quota number
	29	Waissman	Julio	1939-1940	Russia	birth certificate
						whereabouts of
	30	Wasser	Sara	1937	?	daughter; Yiddish letter
		Weichselbau				
	31	m	Simon	1930-1931	Poland	quota number
		Weigel/Hoffm				·
	32	an	Abraham	1936	Poland	legal entry status
	33	Weil	Herman	1938	Germany	looking for relative
						deportation
	34	Weiner	Rose Henig	1930-1932	Hungary/Russia	(prostitute); border
	35	Weinstein	George	1930	?	birth certificate
	36	Weissberg	Abraham	1942	Poland	Sigmund Rosen; visitor's visa
						quota number; great thank
	37	Wolf	Ernest	1935-1936	Germany	you note
	38	Wolfes	Felix	1940	Germany	transit visa
						academic;
	39	Wolff	Reinhold	1936-1937	Germany	attorney;
	40	Wortmann	Lothar and Anita	1937	Germany	permanent visa
	41	Yosilovsky	Isaac	1931	?	letter to Mexico City reperson
6	1	Zickhardt	Herbert	1936	Germany	taking to interior of Mexico
	2	Zielonikwiat	Srul Syman, Esther	1939-1941	Poland	citizenship status
	3	Zlotnikow	Nathan	1929-1930	Russia	divorce
	4	Zuchoweizki	Menasse	1938	Poland	passport renewal
		Series II - 0	General Corresp	ondence a	and Reports	
			_			
Box	File	Folder Title	Date			
6	5	Correspondence	1922			
	6	Correspondence	1924			
	7	Correspondence				
	8	Correspondence	1927			
	9	Correspondence				
	10	Correspondence	1930			
	11	Correspondence	1931			

12	Correspondence	1932		
13	Correspondence	1933		
14	Correspondence	1934		
15	Correspondence	1935		
16	Correspondence	1936		
17	Correspondence	1937		
18	Correspondence	1938		
19	Correspondence	1939		
20	Correspondence	1941	•	
21	Correspondence	undated	•	

