

VHEC ARCHIVES FINDING AID

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FONDS/COLLECTION TITLE

Dunner family fonds

IDENTIFIER

RA011

EXTENT & MEDIUM

30.75 cm of textual records
262 photographs : black and white, colour
41 videocassettes
2 audio cassettes
13 objects

DATE

1917–1995

CREATOR

Dunner family

ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

The Danners are an extended family of Polish Jews living in Vancouver, British Columbia. Baruch Dunner (b. 1871; d. 1943) and Ruchel (Unger) Dunner (b. 1871; d. 1943) had six children in Kraków, Poland: Edouard Dunner (b. 1897; d. 1944), Heinrich "Henri" Dunner (b. 1898; d. 1944), Minna Dunner (b. 1900; d. 1977), Gisele "Gisa" Dunner (b. 1902; d. 1991), Leo Dunner (b. 1906; d. 1953) and Samuel Dunner (b. 1907; d. 1993).

SCOPE & CONTENT

Fonds consists of story drafts and manuscripts; photographic prints, negatives and slides; videocassettes; audio cassettes; vital and personal records; and correspondence relating to the lives of members of the Dunner family. Records detail their experiences before, during and after the Holocaust, as well as their involvement in works related to the Holocaust. Fonds has been arranged into the following series: Gisele Warren series (1917–[197-?]) and Barry Dunner series (1990–1995).

ARCHIVAL HISTORY

Accessions 2014.001 and 2016.011

IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION OR TRANSFER

Records were donated by Barry Dunner in 2014 and 2016. Twenty-eight Prisoner 88 VHS tapes made for Ark Films were found in storage within the VHEC's institutional records and added to the fonds in 2018.

ACCRUALS

Further accruals are possible.

LANGUAGE

German, English, Polish, French

SYSTEM OF ARRANGEMENT

Arrangement provided by the archivist.

RIGHTS

Donor relinquished rights to materials in fonds upon their donation to the VHEC but the fonds contains third-party materials for which copyright was not transferred. Researchers are responsible for determining the appropriate use or reuse of materials.

RULES OR CONVENTIONS

ISAD(G) informed by RAD

DATE OF DESCRIPTION

Prepared January 2017 by Sarika Kelm. Updated April, 2018 by Lorenzo Camerini and Shyla Seller.

Collection Contents

Gisele Warren series (RA011-01)

Series consists of story drafts and manuscripts, photographs, vital and personal records, grade reports, correspondence, travel diary, and autograph book. Series has been arranged into the following sub-series: Drafts and manuscripts sub-series ([194-]-[195-]), GW photographs sub-series (1918-[197-?]), Lorne and Gisele Warren personal records sub-series (1921-1954), GW school documents sub-series (1917-1918), GW career documents sub-series, Heinrich Dunner correspondence sub-series (1942), Israel trip documents sub-series (1974) and Lorne and Gisele Warren ephemera sub-series (1919-1943).

Drafts and manuscripts sub-series (RA011-01-01)

Sub-series consists of drafts and manuscripts of two fictional works by Gisele Warren: the English-language short story, "The Persecutors," and the German-language novel-length story, *Das Alte Lied oder Ein Gefaehrliches Spiel* [The Old Song or The Dangerous Game]. Both stories are based on Gisele's experiences as a Jew during the Second World War.

[The Persecutors drafts and manuscripts] (RA011-01-01-01)

File contains drafts and manuscripts of "The Persecutors" (originally titled "The Persecution") by Mrs. G. Warren. Although fictional, the twelve-page short story is based on Gisele's experiences as a Jew in France during the Second World War; the protagonist's running away from French police, for example, is based on a similar, real-life incident. File also contains manuscript submission to *Maclean's* magazine, as well as rejection letter and original envelope.

[Das Alte Lied oder Ein Gefaehrliches Spiel drafts and manuscripts] (RA011-01-01-02)

File contains several partial and complete drafts of *Das Alte Lied oder Ein Gefaehrliches Spiel* [The Old Song or The Dangerous Game], a novel-length work in German by Gisele Warren. File also contains two copies of final manuscripts. Although fictional, the novel is based on Gisele's experiences as a Jew during the Second World War.

GW photographs series (RA011-01-02)

Sub-series consists of photographs of Gisele Warren; her husband, Lorne Warren; her mother, Ruchel Dunner; her sister, Minna Dunner; as well as three group photos. Photos mostly chronicle Gisele's life in Vienna, Austria, and Paris, France, before and after the Second World War.

Lorne and Gisele Warren personal records sub-series (RA011-01-03)

Sub-series consists of birth, marriage and citizenship records for Gisele Warren, as well as for her husband, Lorne Warren.

Vital records (RA011-01-03-01)

File contains birth and marriage records for Lorne and Gisele Warren, as well as supporting documents, including name change documents for Gisele Warren. Some records may have been grouped together as supporting documents for Gisele's Canadian citizenship application.

Citizenship records (RA011-01-03-02)

Sub-series consists of documents pertaining to Polish, Austrian and Canadian citizenship for Gisele Warren.

GW school documents sub-series (RA011-01-04)

Sub-series consists of two grade reports for Gisele Warren from Privathandelsschule Alois Weiss, a commercial school in Vienna.

GW career documents sub-series (RA011-01-05)

Sub-series consists of document pertaining to Gisele Warren's work as a corsetiere.

Heinrich Dunner correspondence sub-series (RA011-01-06)

Sub-series consists of two letters addressed to Gisele Warren's brother, Heinrich "Henri" Dunner, as well as original envelopes. The name of the author of the letters is illegible.

Israel trip documents sub-series (RA011-01-07)

Sub-series consists of documents related to Warren and Gisele Warren's trip to Israel in May 1974, including passports belonging to Lorne and Gisele and a travel journal written in by Gisele.

Lorne and Gisele Warren ephemera sub-series (RA011-01-08)

Sub-series consists of papers collected by Lorne and Gisele Warren for the purposes of remembering particular people, places and events.

Autograph book (RA011-01-08-01)

Brown leather autograph book containing autographs, quotations, poems, drawings and personal messages from Gisele's family and friends.

Barry Dunner series (RA011-02)

Series consists of photographs, VHS tapes, Hi-8 tapes and audio cassettes to do with the production of the documentary *Prisoner 88*, audio and video related to Holocaust survivor Sigmund Sobolewski. Series also includes records documenting Barry Dunner's trip to Europe to visit his mother's (Else Dunner's) hometown, Bielsko-Biaża and Auschwitz, Kraków, Kasimierz, Podgórze, P?aszów and Warsaw, Poland, and Paris, France as well as artefacts collected by Dunner at various locations in Europe. Series has been arranged into the following sub-series: *Prisoner 88* records sub-series (1991-1994), Europe trip documents sub-series (1991), Artefacts (circa 194-) and "Auschwitz Album" copy prints sub-series [before 1994].

Prisoner 88 sub-series (RA011-02-01)

Sub-series consists of VHS tapes made during the production of *Prisoner 88*, finished copies of the documentary and recordings related to Sigmund Sobolewski. Sub-series also consists of black and white photographs and negatives from behind the scenes of *Prisoner 88*, including photographs of survivor Sigmund Sobolewski in a replica Auschwitz prison uniform and promotional stills from *Prisoner 88*.

Europe trip documents sub-series (RA011-02-02)

Sub-series consists of audio visual material produced by Barry Dunner during his trip to Europe in 1991, when he visited his mother's (Else Dunner's) hometown, Bielsko-Biaża and Auschwitz, Kraków, Kasimierz, Podgórze, P?aszów and Warsaw, Poland, and Paris, France. While touring Auschwitz, he met Sigmund Sobolewski, an activist and Polish Catholic survivor of Auschwitz.

Artefacts sub-series (RA011-02-03)

Sub-series is comprised of artefacts retrieved by Barry Dunner from Holocaust-related sites in Poland and the Czech Republic.

“Auschwitz Album” copy prints sub-series (RA011-02-04)

Sub-series is comprised of copy prints provided by Yad Vashem to Ark Films for use in the production of *Prisoner 88*. Copy prints are reproductions of originals in the Auschwitz Album in the custody of Yad Vashem.