Fernand Fisel Collection, Manuscript Group 163
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
1 box, 1 linear foot

Biographical Note
Fernand Fisel (July 21, 1924-November 3, 2010) was a French-born Jewish citizen, Holocaust Survivor, and Professor Emeritus of French at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. His father was killed at Auschwitz during the Jewish Holocaust, and Fernand Fisel came to the United States following World War Two.


While at IUP and for years after his retirement, Fisel sang in the IUP Chorale, and he became an avid runner. One of his former students said “Fernand Fisel was one of my French professors when I was a student at IUP. He was very passionate about his teaching. Fernand was my friend, as well, and we had many good discussions.” Fisel was a sought-after translator of printed material, who continued to do work for the translation center at IUP after retiring. As he continued to diligently contribute to his community, he was awarded Professor Emeritus status. He was a long-time member of and cantor for the Beth Israel Synagogue. Even after his retirement from IUP in 1991, Fisel was extremely active in teaching classic Hebrew, training many children for their bar and bat mitzvahs, and teaching biblical Hebrew to adult students. Fisel passed away in Indiana, Pennsylvania on November 3, 2010.

Scope and Content
The Fernand Fisel Collection consists of the recording and transcription of an oral history conducted with Fernand Fisel in 2008, and archival materials including artifacts collected by Fernand Fisel from the Jewish Holocaust during World War Two including the Star of David worn by his brother Eli Fisel.

Provenance
This collection was donated by Fernand Fisel in 2008-2010.

Restrictions
None, this collection is open to the public.
Processor
The collection was organized in 2013 and the finding aid was updated by the IUP Special Collections & University Archives on March 29, 2016.

Container List

Box 1 (5 folders)
1. Archival material (photocopies) donated by Fernand Fisel about the Jewish Holocaust including scan of the Star of David worn by his brother Eli Fisel, no date (1939-1945)
2. Oral History Interview of Fernand Fisel conducted by Harrison Wick on June 5, 2008, includes complete transcription and e-mail correspondence from Fernand Fisel about the interview
3. Oral History Interview of Fernand Fisel conducted by Harrison Wick on June 5, 2008, original audio cassette tape and audio CDs (another copy is available in Record Group 93)
5. Obituary and Funeral Card, Indiana, Pennsylvania, 2010-2011