



ZENKA BARTEK ARCHIVE

(BARTEK)

BARTEK

Zenka Bartek Archive

1912-2016

Name of Creator: Bartek, Zenka (1912-1997) writer and journalist

Extent: 4 Boxes

Administrative/Biographical History: Zenka Bartek was a writer and journalist; her journalism was largely literature reviews published in The Telegraph and her creative writing was largely poetry, published in The Women's Review of Books.

She was born and raised in the East End of London as Rachel Cohen, later taking the name Zenka Bartek after a Russian ballet dancer. Although she knew she was mainly attracted to women since her late teens, she married Hugh Gordon Porteus, whom she eventually left for a woman. Her friends included creatives like Quentin Crisp, T.S. Eliot, Brigid Brophy and A.L. Barker.

Her long-term partner was Countess Judith Karolyi. Together they lived in Vence and Tourrettes-sur-Loup, France for over twenty years before moving back to London in 1995.

Custodial History: Deposited with Bishopsgate Institute by Annabel Faraday, 12 February 2024.

Scope and Content: The Zenka Bartek Archive includes Bartek's personal papers and documents; a selection of Bartek's published literature reviews; correspondence to and from Bartek including from her long-term partner Judith Karolyi, Brigid Brophy, T.S. Eliot and Quentin Crisp; photographs of Bartek herself, previous lovers, family and friends; oral history transcript Bartek gave to Annabel Faraday in 1982. (1912-2016)

System of Arrangement:

No further arrangement required.

Language/scripts of material:

English

Access conditions:

OPEN

Copying conditions:

Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids:

Copy of handlist available in researcher's area.

Rules and Conventions:

Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

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|-------------------|---|------------------|
| BARTEK/1 | Personal papers | 1912-1997 |
| | Papers relating to Zenka Bartek including official documents and miscellaneous papers.
Please see file level descriptions for access | |
| BARTEK/1/1 | Official documents | 1912-1997 |
| | Official documents relating to the birth, life and death of Zenka Bartek. (1912-1997)
CLOSED | |
| BARTEK/1/2 | Miscellaneous papers | 1965-1997 |
| | Includes: - typescript letter and typescript document to Mrs Porteus [Zenka Bartek] from Peter J. Clark, relating to Bartek's astrological birth chart (16 December 1965) - funeral service for Zenka Bartek (13 June 1997) - pamphlet 'A Tribute to Zenka Bartek : Readings from the funeral service' (13 June 1997) - leaflet for Beit Klal Yisrael North Kensington Reform Synagogue [n.d.]
OPEN | |

Includes: - press cutting 'Recent Fiction' [reviews of 'The Bay of Noon' by Shirley Hazzard, 'The Killer' by Colin Wilson, 'The Kindling' by Janice Elliot, 'The Rock' by John Masters and 'A Garden of Earthly Delights' by Joyce Carol Oates, published by the Daily Telegraph [1p.] [18 June 1970] - press cutting, 'Poverty, Chastity and Obedience' [review of 'Against All Reason' by Geoffrey Moorhouse], by Zenka Bartek, published by the Daily Telegraph (1p.) (10 April 1969) - press cutting, 'A Genius Who Might Have Been?' [review of 'Zelda Fitzgerald: a Biography' by Nancy Milford], by Zenka Bartek, published by the Daily Telegraph, (1p.) (3 October 1970) - press cutting, 'Recent Fiction' [reviews of 'Several Perceptions' by Angela Carter, 'The Dakota Project' by Jack Beeching, 'The Birds by Tarjei Vessas, 'No Place for an Angel' by Elizabeth Spencer and 'The Vivero Letter' by Desmond Bagley'], by Zenka Bartek, published by the Daily Telegraph, (1p.) (1 August 1968) - press cutting, 'Horror without impact' [review of 'The Fixer' by Bernard Malamud], published by New Society, [1p.] (6 April 1967) - press cutting, 'Quiet and traditional' [review of 'The Paradox Players' by Maureen Duffy], published by New Society, [1p.] (21 September 1967) - press cutting, 'Three Worlds of a Yiddish Humorist' [reviews of 'My Father, Sholom Aleichem' by Marie Waife-Goldberg and 'Sofka' by Sofka Skipwith], published by the Daily Telegraph, [1p.] (16 January 1969) - press cutting, 'Dramatized games' [review of 'The Nice and the Good' by Iris Murdoch], published by The Time, [1p.] (27 January 1968) - press cutting, 'From German Rags to Manhattan Riches' [review of 'Our Crowd: the Great Jewish Families of New York' by Stephen Birmingham, [1p.] (30 May 1968) - press cutting, 'Recent Fiction' [reviews of 'This Day's Death' by John Rechy, 'Such Good Friends' by Louis Gould, 'Two Sisters' by Gore Vidal, 'A Start in Life' by Alan Sillitoe and 'Send War in Our Time, O Lord' by C.J. Driver], published by the Daily Telegraph, [1p.] (17 September 1970) - press cutting, 'Recent Fiction' [reviews of 'The Appeal' by Jerzy Andrzejewski, 'A Day

to Remember to Forget' by Rosalind Brackenbury, 'Levkas Man' by Hammond Innes, 'A Week Before Winter' by Peter Ferguson and 'Mr Bone's Retreat' by Margaret Forster], published by the Daily Telegraph, [1p.] (21 January 1971) - press cutting, 'Life at the Bottom' [review of 'Bury Me in My Boots' by Sally Trench], published by the Daily Telegraph, [1p.] (23 March 1968) - press cutting, 'Prodigy from Harlem' [review of 'The Furious Passage of James Baldwin' by Fern Marja Eckman], published by the Daily Telegraph [22 February 1968?] - press cutting, 'Beardsley on the Couch' [review of 'Black and White – A Portrait of Aubrey Beardsley' by Brigid Brophy], published by the Daily Telegraph, [1p.] (28 November 1968) - press cutting, 'Honey – almost too bad to be true...' [review of 'Honey' by Elizabeth Jenkins], published by the Evening Standard, [1p.] (February 1969) - press cutting, 'Outwards bound happening' [review of 'Corbie' by Robert Newman], published by New Society, [1p.] [1967?] - photocopied press cutting, 'Recent Fiction' [reviews of 'A Woman of Experience' by Alun Richards, 'The Hand-reared Boy' by Brian W. Aldiss, 'Strange Alphabet' by Alexis Lykiard, 'Sister Bear' by Herbert Burkholz and 'Contact Lost' by David Craig], published by the Daily Telegraph, [1p.] (22 January 1970) - typescript letter to Zenka Bartek from her editor J. Michael Ratcliffe at The Times, including an uncorrected proof of her review of 'Children at the Gate' by Lynn Reid Banks, [2pp] [1968?] - issue of 'Penguins Progress' which includes Bartek's review of 'Adam and Eve Pinch Me' by A. E. Coppard on page 29 [NB: Bartek is credited as Zenka Porteus] - photocopied press cutting, 'Left in the Lurch' [reviews of 'Mothers Alone: Poverty and the Fatherless Family' by Dennis Mardsen and 'Without a Wedding-Ring: Casebook for Unmarried Parents' by Jean Pochin], published by the Daily Telegraph, [1p.] (12 June 1969) - handwritten notes

OPEN

- BARTEK/3 Zenka's poems 1988-1996**
- Published and unpublished poems written by Zenka Bartek. Also includes correspondence from The Women's Review of Books relating to the publication of her poems. (1988-1996)
OPEN
- BARTEK/5 Oral history transcript 1982**
- Typed transcript Zenka Bartek's oral history taken by Annabel Faraday. Bartek discusses her life as a lesbian from childhood to adulthood, from WWI to the 1980s. (27pp) (30 October 1982)
OPEN
- BARTEK/6 Ackerman, John [1987]-1993**
- Papers, poems and press cuttings relating to the poet John Ackerman. ([1987]-1993)
OPEN
- BARTEK/7 Allan-Burns, Isobel 1963-1993**
- Correspondence to Zenka Bartek from Isobel Allan-Burns. Letters also relate to the Allan-Burns' partner Katherine Burdekin ('Kay'). (1963-1993)
OPEN
- BARTEK/8 Barker, A.L. 1968-1996**
- Correspondence and press cuttings relating to the author A.L. Barker, known to friends as 'Pat'. Includes letters from Barker to Bartek and letters from Barker and her partner Dorothy McClelland to Bartek and Judith Karolyi. (1968-1996)
OPEN
- BARTEK/9 Bodley, John 1993**
- Correspondence from John Bodley, publisher at Faber and Faber, to Zenka Bartek. (1993)
OPEN

- BARTEK/10 Brophy, Brigid** **1964-1995**
- Correspondence and press cuttings relating to author and literary critic Brigid Brophy. Includes postcards to Zenka Bartek and articles written by Brophy published in the New Statesman. (1964-1995)
OPEN
- BARTEK/11 Causse, Michéle** **1978-1994**
- Correspondence from French activist and author Michéle Causse to Zenka Bartek and Judith Karolyi. (1978-1994)
OPEN
- BARTEK/12 Chapman, Diana; Hibbert, Rosanna & Minorities Research Group** **c1964-1993**
- Papers, correspondence and poetry relating to Diana Chapman and Rosanna Hibbert of the Minority Research Group. Includes correspondence from Chapman to Bartek. (c1964-1993)
OPEN
- BARTEK/13 Ciao, Gianna** **1970**
- Two black and white photographs of photographer Gianna Ciao and one black and white photograph of Ciao and Zenka Bartek. (1970)
OPEN
- BARTEK/14 Cooper, Wynn** **c1944-1981**
- Photographs of Wynn Cooper, one of Zenka Bartek's girlfriends. Also includes her obituary published in the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians (ACTT) newspaper. (c1944-May 1981) NB: Cooper is mentioned on various pages of BARTEK/5
OPEN
- BARTEK/15 Cowap, Chris** **1971-1987**
- Correspondence and photographs relating to Chris Cowap. (1971-1987)
OPEN

- BARTEK/16 Crisp, Quentin** **1940-[1972]**
- Correspondence from and photograph of Quentin Crisp. (1940 – [25 December 1972])
NB: Crisp appears on page 24 of BARTEK/5
OPEN
- BARTEK/17 Demusiak, Jim** **1988-1993**
- Correspondence from Jim Demusiak to Zenka Bartek. (1988-1993)
OPEN
- BARTEK/18 Eliot, T.S.** **1943-1964**
- Correspondence from T.S. Eliot to Zenka Bartek (Mrs Porteus). (1943-1964)
OPEN
- BARTEK/19 Farrell, Kathleen** **1993**
- Correspondence from novelist Kathleen Farrell to Zenka Bartek. (1993)
OPEN
- BARTEK/20 Gascoine, Phil** **1973-1987**
- Correspondence from Phil Gascoine to Zenka Bartek. (1973-1987) NB: Gascoine appears on page 6 of BARTEK/5
OPEN
- BARTEK/21 Grigson, Geoffrey** **1968-1993**
- Correspondence and press cuttings relating to writer Geoffrey Grigson. (1968-1993)
OPEN
- BARTEK/22 Gunthorp, Dale** **1988-1997**
- Correspondence and a photograph relating to Dale Gunthorp. (1988-1997)
OPEN
- BARTEK/23 Herbert** **1948**
- Correspondence from Herbert to Zenka Bartek. (22 October 1948)
OPEN

BARTEK/24	Karolyi, Judith	1971-1997
	Correspondence and photographs relating to Judith Karolyi, Zenka Bartek's long-term partner. Includes photographs of Bartek and Karolyi together and correspondence from Karolyi to Bartek. (1971-1997) OPEN	
BARTEK/25	Leon	1939-1950
	Photographs and correspondence to Zenka Bartek from Leon. (1939-1950) OPEN	
BARTEK/26	Margot	1928-1932
	Photographs of Margot (also known as Margaret), Zenka Bartek's first girlfriend. Includes photos of Bartek and Margot together on holiday (1928-1932) NB: Margot is mentioned on various pages of BARTEK/5 OPEN	
BARTEK/27	Marie and Catherine	[n.d.]
	Correspondence from Marie and Catherine to Zenka Bartek. [n.d.] OPEN	
BARTEK/28	Michele	1995
	Correspondence from Michele to Zenka Bartek and Judith Karolyi. (9 December 1995) OPEN	
BARTEK/29	Mullen, Laura	1991
	Correspondence from poet Laura Mullen to Zenka Bartek. (1991) OPEN	
BARTEK/30	Nella	1965-1989
	Correspondence to Zenka Bartek from Nella. (1965-1989) OPEN	

BARTEK/31	Passano, Roy and John	1939-1982
	Correspondence and photographs relating to Roy Passano and his partner John. (1939-1982) OPEN	
BARTEK/32	Piper, John	1948
	Correspondence from painter and printmaker John Piper to Zenka Bartek. (11 October 1948) OPEN	
BARTEK/33	Porteus, Hugh Gordon	2016
	Photocopied press cutting, 'The devoted disciple of Wyndham Lewis', published in Standpoint Magazine, (6pp) (December/January 2016) NB: Zenka Bartek is mentioned on page 3 OPEN	
BARTEK/34	Theo	1932
	Black and white photograph of Theo at work as a builder. The photograph is signed 'To Zenka from Theo with my love'. (1932) NB: Theo is mentioned on page 6 of BARTEK/5 OPEN	
BARTEK/35	Miscellaneous	1981
	Miscellaneous correspondence sent to Zenka Bartek and her partner Judith Karolyi. (1981) OPEN	
BARTEK/36	Photographs of Zenka Bartek	c1920- c1995
	Photographs of Zenka Bartek, from childhood to adulthood. Includes photos of Bartek with her family and friends. (c1920-1995) OPEN	
BARTEK/37	Miscellaneous photographs	[1930s- 1940s]
	Photographs kept by Zenka Bartek depicting unknown friends. [1930s-1940s] OPEN	

BARTEK/38 Zenka Bartek's relatives

**1910s-
1990s**

Correspondence and photographs relating to
Zenka Bartek's relatives. (1910s-1990s)

OPEN

BARTEK/39 Scrapbook

**[1910s-
1940s]**

Scrapbook of photographs depicting Zenka
Bartek and her family. [1910s-1940s]

OPEN