

HANOCH GERSTEL PAPERS, 1854-1975
1999.52.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Hanoch Gerstel papers

Dates: 1854-1975

Accession number: 1999.52.1

Creator: Gerstel, Hanoch

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (1 box)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: The Hanoch Gerstel papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence files, photographic materials, printed materials, and sermons documenting the life of a Vienna-born pastor who was arrested by the Gestapo in Vienna and his family members in Austria, Sweden, and Hungary.

Languages: German, Swedish, French

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Hanoch Gerstel papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Lydia Gerstel donated the Hanoch Gerstel papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1999.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, February 2013

Biographical note

Friedrich Hugo (Hanoch) Gerstel (1899-1956) was born in Vienna to Carl and Theresia Gerstel. Although he was born into a Jewish family, he attended divinity school in Stockholm, became an evangelical Pastor, and engaged in missionary work. He married Ester Stolpe (1892-1984), and the couple had two daughters: Eva Lydia and Ruth Debora. In 1939 he returned to Vienna to visit his family and preach, but he was arrested by the Gestapo and spent ten months in prison. His sisters Charlotte Gerstel Engel and Edith Gerstel are believed to have been killed at Auschwitz and Chelmno. He worked with the Israelsmissionen Immanuel and the Swedish Society of Friends to the Jewish People, and he published a book honoring the establishment of the State of Israel. His family's name is sometimes spelled "Gerstl."

Scope and content of collection

The Hanoch Gerstel papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence files, photographic materials, printed materials, and sermons documenting the life of a Vienna-born pastor who was arrested by the Gestapo in Vienna and his family members in Austria, Sweden, and Hungary.

Biographical materials include birth certificates, a Ketubah and marriage certificate, a certificate of origin, a certificate documenting non-Jewish status, identification cards, and passports documenting the lives of Hanoch and Ester Gerstel, his father Carl Gerstel, and his grandparents Julius and Charlotte Gerstel.

Correspondence files include letters Hanoch Gerstel wrote to his wife while in a Gestapo prison in Vienna in 1940, letters he wrote from Stockholm to his family in 1943, and miscellaneous correspondence with his daughter Lydia, friends, and colleagues, and a poem dedicated to his sister Edith Elsa on what would have been her fiftieth birthday. Although some of his letters describe his sentencing in Vienna, they do not provide the reason for his arrest.

Photographic materials include a Gerstel family album and an album from relatives named Kesckes in Budapest. Additional photographs show Hanoch Gerstel with his family and divinity school classmates, Ester Gerstel with their daughter Lydia, Hanoch Gerstel's mother, and his brother and sister, Julius and Anne.

Printed materials include a 1941 pamphlet listing the statutes of the Swedish Mission Immanuel, a 1943 almanac listing Torah portions to be read each week for the year 1943-1944 and providing information about religious services in Sweden, and a 1948 issue of the Swedish magazine "Judisk Krönika."

The sermons were written by Hanoch Gerstel and comment on verses from the Old and New Testament. Most are in German and the rest are in Swedish. Dated sermons range from 1932 to 1941, but most are not dated.

System of arrangement

The Hanoch Gerstel papers are arranged as five series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1854-1972
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1940-1956
- Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1905-1975
- Series 4: Printed materials, 1941-1948
- Series 5: Sermons, approximately 1924-1956

Indexing terms

World War, 1939-1945 – Austria – Vienna – Prisoner and prisons – Correspondence.

Christian converts from Judaism.

Jews – Austria – 19th century.

Jews – Austria – 20th century.

Missionaries – Sweden.

Evangelicalism – Sweden – Clergy.

Evangelicalism – Sermons.

Theological seminaries – Sweden – Stockholm.

Holocaust victims' families – Sweden.

Vienna (Austria)

Stockholm (Sweden)

Budapest (Hungary)

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1854-1972

Box	Folder	
1	1	Gerstel, Carl, 1892
1	2	Gerstel, Ester, 1933-1934, 1941, 1972
1	3	Gerstel, Hanoch, 1902, 1933, 1939, 1951
1	4	Gerstel, Julius and Charlotte Löwy, 1854-1855, 1867

Series 2: Correspondence, 1940-1956

Box	Folder	
1	5-6	Letters from Hanoch Gerstel to Ester Gerstel, 1940 (2 folders)
1	7-10	Letters from Hanoch Gerstel to his family, 1943 (4 folders)
1	11	Miscellaneous Hanoch Gerstel correspondence, 1941-1943, 1950-1956

Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1905-1975

Box	Folder	
1	12	Ferrell, Trude, 1935, 1941
1	13	Gerstel, Anne, Julius, and Theresia, approximately 1920-1935
1	14	Gerstel, Ester, approximately 1930-1939
1	15	Gerstel, Hanoach, approximately 1905-1935
1	16	Gerstel family album, approximately 1916-1958
1	17	Gerstel family album, loose photographs, approximately 1916-1958
1	18	Hathaus Gerstl, approximately 1925
1	19	Kesckes family album, 1955-1968
1	20	Kesckes family album, loose photograph, 1975

Series 4: Printed materials, 1941-1948

Box	Folder	
1	21	"Stadgar för Svenska Missionen Immanuel," 1941
1	22	"Judisk Kalender: Almanack för Gudstjänster," 1943
1	23	"Judisk Krönika," 1948

Series 5: Sermons, approximately 1924-1956

Box	Folder	
1	24-28	Sermons, approximately 1924-1956 (5 folders)