

**SCHÖNBERGER FAMILY PAPERS, 1887-1967**  
**1988.108.192**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
Tel. (202) 479-9717  
e-mail: [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org)

**Descriptive summary**

Title: Schönberger family papers

Dates: 1887-1967

Accession number: 1988.108.192

Creator: Schönberger (Family : Vienna, Austria)

Extent: 1.4 linear foot (2 boxes, 4 oversize folders, 3 book enclosures)

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

Abstract: The Schönberger family papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, immigration files, photographic materials, printed materials, and French internment camp songs documenting the Schönberger family of Vienna; Helene and Bianka Schönberger's immigration to the United States aboard the *Hansa* in March 1939; and Moritz Schönberger's voyage aboard the *St. Louis*, return to Europe, internment in French concentration camps, and immigration to the United States in 1942.

Languages: German, English, French, Hungarian

**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), Schönberger family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Julie Klein, the daughter of Bianka Schönberger, donated the Schönberger family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1989.

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

Related materials: Julie Klein also donated a phonograph record (1988.108.20), a watercolor painting (1988.108.98), and a wallet (1988.108.145) to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, June 2014

### **Biographical note**

Moritz Schönberger (1887-1956) was born in Sárvár, Hungary, to Herman Schönberger and Julie Neuman Schönberger and established his career in advertisement painting first in Frankfurt am Main and then in Vienna. He was forced to sell his business following the Anschluss, and his German-born wife, Helene (nee Rosenthal, 1886-1973), and their daughter Bianka (1921-1981), immigrated to the United States aboard the *Hansa* in March 1939. Moritz tried to follow via Cuba aboard the *MS St. Louis* but was returned to Europe and disembarked in Belgium. He was arrested as an enemy alien in 1940 and sent to internment camps in France including St. Cyprien, Gurs, and Les Milles. With his family's help, he immigrated to the United States in October 1942 and changed his name to Morris.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The Schönberger family papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, immigration files, photographic materials, printed materials, and French internment camp songs documenting the Schönberger family of Vienna; Helene and Bianka Schönberger's immigration to the United States aboard the *Hansa* in March 1939; and Moritz Schönberger's voyage aboard the *St. Louis*, return to Europe, internment in French concentration camps, and immigration to the United States in 1942.

Biographical materials include identification papers, birth certificates, and school, employment, medical and military records documenting the Schönberger family.

Correspondence consists of a postcard from the *St. Louis* and a letter Moritz Schönberger wrote his family from Les Milles.

Immigration files include telegrams from Moritz Schönberger aboard the *St. Louis* and in French internment camps; *MS St. Louis* travel documents; correspondence with the American Consulate in Marseille, the State Department, and the Department of Immigration and Naturalization; affidavits; money orders; and a menu from the *Hansa*.

Photographic materials include Moritz Schönberger's photograph album from aboard the *St. Louis*, a large Schönberger family photograph album, and loose photographs of the Schönberger family and examples of Schönberger's advertisement work.

Printed materials consist of and 1939 and 1967 articles about the *St. Louis* and 1948 and 1949 advertisements for Schönberger's sign studio business.

Songs consist of lyrics to St. Cyprien camp songs "Ich kann sie nicht sehen, die Pyreneen" and "Kamaraden" as well as to Hans Heimler's "Die Erfüllung." Poetry consists of a Christmas poem written at Gurs, a poem

of welcome, and a poetry book full of little poems and autographs from friends, teachers, and family members.

### **System of arrangement**

The Schönberger papers are arranged as six series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1887-1945
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1939-1942
- Series 3: Immigration files, 1939-1946
- Series 4: Photographic materials, approximately 1920-1947
- Series 5: Printed materials, 1939-1967
- Series 6: Songs and poetry, approximately 1939-1949

### **Indexing terms**

St. Louis (Ship)

Gurs (Concentration camp)

Saint-Cyprien (Concentration camp)

Les Milles (France)

Concentration camp inmates--France.

World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue.

Jews--Hungary-- Sárovar.

Jews--Germany--Frankfurt am Main.

Jewish families--Austria--Vienna.

Austria--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Series 1: Biographical materials, 1887-1945**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1.1	Schönberger, Bianka, Passport and certificate of domicile, 1938-1939
1.2	Schönberger, Bianka, School records, 1932-1938
1.3	Schönberger, Helene, 1887, 1898, 1938, 1943
BE 1 1.37	Schönberger, Moritz, <i>MS St. Louis</i> travel diary, 1939 (2 folders)
1.4	Schönberger, Moritz, Employment and business records, approximately 1907-1919, 1938
1.5 OS 1- 2	Schönberger, Moritz, Identification papers, 1892, 1903-1909, 1938-1945 (3 folders)
1.6	Schönberger, Moritz, Medical records, 1940, 1945
1.7	Schönberger, Moritz, Military records, 1915-1918
1.8	Schönberger, Moritz, School and apprenticeship records, 1898, 1903-1908
1.9	Weiss, Leopold, business card, approximately 1940s

### Series 2 Correspondence, 1939-1942

Box/Folder	Title
1.10	Schönberger, Moritz, 1939, 1942

### Series 3: Immigration files, 1939-1946

Box/Folder	Title
1.11	Affidavits, 1939-1941
1.12	American Consulate, Marseille, 1941-1942
1.13	Department of State, 1941-1942
1.14	Dinner menu aboard the <i>Hansa</i> , 15 March 1939
1.15	Immigration and Naturalization, Schönberger, Bianka, 1942-1944
1.16	Immigration and Naturalization, Schönberger, Helene, 1942-1944
1.17	Immigration and Naturalization, Schönberger, Moritz, 1945-1946
1.18	Money orders, 1941-1942
1.19	<i>MS St. Louis</i> travel documents, 1939
1.20	Telegrams from Helene Schönberger to Moritz Schönberger at Les Milles, 1941-1942
1.21	Telegrams from Jacob Widder about Moritz Schönberger and the <i>St. Louis</i> , 1939
1.22	Telegrams from Moritz Schönberger from Vienna, aboard the <i>St. Louis</i> , Antwerp, Brussels, Gurs, Marseille, and Les Milles, 1939-1942
1.23	Widder, Jacob, 1940
1.24	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1941-1942
1.25	Miscellaneous folders and envelopes, approximately 1939-1945

### Series 4: Photographic materials, approximately 1920-1947

Box/Folder	Title
1.26	Business photographs, approximately 1929-1947
1.27	Family photographs, approximately 1920-1945
2.1	Large family album, approximately 1920-1939
1.28	Large family album, loose photographs, approximately 1920-1939
1.29	Large family album layout
BE 3	<i>MS St. Louis</i> photograph album, 1939
1.30	<i>MS St. Louis</i> photograph album, loose photographs, 1939

### Series 5: Printed materials, 1939-1967

Box/Folder	Title
1.31 OS 3	Clippings about the <i>MS St. Louis</i> , 1939, 1967 (2 folders)
1.32	Morris Schönberger Sign Studio advertisements, 1948-1949

**Series 6: Songs and poetry, approximately 1939-1949**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
OS 4	"An Meinem herzensguten, allerliebsten Schatz"
1.33	"Die Erfüllung," Hans Heimler, approximately 1939
1.34	"Ich kann sie nicht mehr sehen, di Pyreeneen!," Franz Schlesinger, approximately 1940
1.35	"Kamaraden!," Franz Schlesinger, approximately 1940
BE 2	Poesiebuch, 1934-1949
1.36	Weinacht Gurs, 1940