

**SPIEGEL FAMILY PAPERS, 1913-1949, UNDATED
1988.57.1**

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

Title: Spiegel family papers

Dates: 1913-1949 and undated

Accession number: 1988.57.1

Creator: Spiegel family

Extent: 16 folders

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

Abstract: The Spiegel family papers consists of correspondence and photographs concerning brothers, Leo, Sam, Max, David, Isaac, and Joshua and their families' experiences during the Holocaust and in the years immediately following. The correspondence is comprised of letters, postcards, and envelopes and was primarily sent to Sam, David, and Max in the United States by family and friends in Leipzig, Germany and the Soviet Union between 1938 and 1949. These documents largely described family member's emigration and eventual deaths in concentration camps. The photographs depict Jewish family life in prewar Leipzig and include several images of the Spiegel family and friends.

Languages: German, English

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), Spiegel family papers (1988.57.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Spiegel family papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1988 by Masha Spiegel.

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

Processing history: Colleen Benoit, November 2015

Biographical note

The Spiegel family comprises Gittel and Getzel Spiegel's six sons and their spouses: Leo (Sara Selmi), Joshua (Fanni), Isaac, David (Solla), Max (Bertha), and Sam. Originally from Poland, the Spiegel family moved to Leipzig, Germany in the 1920s. Upon the rise of the Nazi regime, the Spiegel brothers, along with their wives and children, fled to various part of the world. Isaac and Joshua fled to Israel; David, Sam, and Max immigrated to the United States, where David and Max later opened a fur store in Washington, D.C. and Sam settled in New York City; and Leo remained in Germany. In the 1940s, Leo was forced into conscribed labor in the Soviet Union and his wife, Sara was deported to Theresienstadt. They both perished sometime shortly thereafter. Around the time of their deportation, their children, Uri "Harry" (1924-1972) and Ruth (1930-1974), were sent to London and eventually immigrated to the United States aboard the *MS Stefan Batory* in 1947.

Scope and content of collection

The Spiegel family papers consist of correspondence and photographs. The correspondence is in the form of letters and postcards and was primarily received by Sam, David, and Max in the late 1930s and 1940s once they had all settled in the United States. The correspondence was largely written to the brothers from friends and family back in Germany detailing plans for emigration and their family's fate in concentration camps. Two postcards were sent to Sam from Leo, who was imprisoned in a work camp in the Soviet Union at the time. Several postcards were sent from Leo's wife Sara while she was still in Leipzig in 1940, presumably before her deportation. Among the correspondence are two letters from different United States members of Congress regarding the status of Uri and Ruth's visas for emigration. Also comprised in this collection is a photocopy of Uri's report card from religious school in 1934 and several envelopes, many of which were opened by Nazi censors.

The photographs document the Spiegel family's life before the Holocaust and include images of friends, family, and their Rabbi. Many of the photographs are of Uri as a child playing with friends and younger sister Ruth, and with his classmates between 1930 and 1932 at a public school in Leipzig. Two photographs of Gittel and Getzel and one of Leo are comprised in the collection.

System of arrangement

The Spiegel family papers are arranged as two series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1938-1949 and undated
- Series 2: Photographs, 1913-1935 and undated

Indexing terms

Spiegel, Uri.

Spiegel, Ruth.

Spiegel, Leo.

Spiegel, Max.
Spiegel, Sam.
Spiegel, David.
Spiegel, Gittel.
Spiegel, Getzel.

School children—Germany—Leipzig—1930-1940.
Holocaust survivors--United States.
Jews—Germany—Leipzig—1930-1940.
Holocaust victims.
World War, 1939-1945—Conscript Labor—Soviet Union.
Kindertransports (Rescue operations)--England.

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.
Leipzig (Germany).
Washington, D.C.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Correspondence, 1938-1949 and undated

Folder	Title
1	Correspondence regarding Uri and Ruth Spiegel's United States visas, 1946
2	Envelopes, 1939-1941
3	Letters and postcards received by David Spiegel, 1941-1942
4	Letters and postcards received by Max Spiegel, 1938-1941
5	Letters and postcards received by the Spiegel family, 1941-1949 and undated
6	Postcard certifying a tree planted to honor Leo Spiegel's marriage in Palestine, undated
7	Postcard received by Uri Spiegel, 1948
8	Postcards received by Sam Spiegel, approximately 1940
9	Report card for Uri Spiegel, 1934

Series 2: Photographs, 1913-1935 and undated

Folder	Title
10	Family friends, undated
11	Gittel and Getzel Spiegel, 1913 and 1935
12	Leo Spiegel, undated
13	Rabbi Feldman, 1934
14	Unidentified people, 1920 and undated
15	Uri and Ruth Spiegel, 1932
16	Uri Spiegel, 1930-1931 and undated