

HANA AND CHARLES BRUML PAPERS, approximately 1880-2001 1989.303.57

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

Descriptive summary

Title: Hana and Charles Bruml papers

Dates: approximately 1880-2001

Accession number: 1989.303.57

Creator: Bruml, Hana, 1922-2000

Additional creator: Bruml, Charles, 1912-1998

Extent: 2.0 linear feet (2 boxes, 1 oversize box, 7 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The Hana and Charles Bruml papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, personal narratives, photographic materials, printed materials, and Theresienstadt materials documenting Hana and Charles Bruml from Czechoslovakia, their families, their survival in Theresienstadt and Auschwitz, and their immigration to the United States after the Holocaust.

Languages: Czech, 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), Hana and Charles Bruml papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Hana and Charles Bruml and Ruth Kraemer donated the Hana and Charles Bruml papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1989, 2000, 2001, and 2011. Accessions previously cataloged as 2000.354.1, 2001.3, and 2011.445.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Custodial history: Hana and Charles Bruml made the 1989 donation directly. Ruth Kramer made the 2000 and 2001 donations as the executor of the Brumls' estate. In 2011, Kraemer donated five additional items in her own name that Hana Bruml had bequeathed her.

Related material: Separate oral history interviews with Hana Bruml and Charles Bruml (1990.355.1 and 1990.344.1) and separate video oral history interviews that form part of the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History collection can also be viewed onsite at the Museum. Hana and Charles Bruml also donated two drafting tools from Theresienstadt (1989.303.16 and 1989.303.17), wooden tile and toy created at Theresienstadt (1989.303.19 and 1989.303.20), watercolor (1989.303.21), spoon, burlap bag, and skirt from Auschwitz (1989.303.22 through 1989.303.24), concentration camp inmate uniform caps from Buna and Auschwitz (1989.303.25 a and b), homemade Czech badges (1989.303.26 and 1989.303.27), Mittelbau concentration camp scrip (1989.303.28 through 1989.303.35), trunk (1989.303.53), two Star of David badges (1989.303.54 and 1989.303.55), metal triangle bathroom pass from the Sackisch-Kudowa labor camp (1989.303.56), two drawings from Theresienstadt (1992.124.1 and 1992.124.2), a shirt and lab coat from Theresienstadt (2001.3.2 and 2001.3.3), two more Star of David badges (2001.3.4 and 2001.3.5), a sketch of inmates in a food line (2001.3.6), and 28 pieces of scrip from Theresienstadt (2001.3.7 through 2001.3.34). Charles Bruml is featured in the Museum's series of identification cards given to visitors to the Permanent Exhibition.

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, December 2014

Biographical note

Hana Bruml (1922-2000) was born Hana Müller in Prague to metal smith and plumber Richard Müller (1885-1942) and Hedwig Müller (nee Zappner, 1891-1942). She was deported to Theresienstadt in 1942 and transferred to Auschwitz in 1944. Her first husband, Rudolf Schiff (1919-1943), was killed at Auschwitz, and her parents are believed to have been killed there as well. She worked in slave labor at Kudowa-Sackisch, a sub-camp of Gross-Rosen, and was liberated in May 1945 when her SS guards deserted her work gang. She changed her name to Hana Suk after the war and met Charles Bruml in Prague. She immigrated to the United States after the war and studied psychology at George Washington University.

Charles Bruml (1912-1998) was born Karel Bruml in Prague to shoe factory owner Jindrich Bruml (1882-?) and his wife Irma Bruml (nee Schindler, 1886-?). He was deported in 1941 to Theresienstadt, where he worked in the technical department, and then transferred to Auschwitz, where he painted numbers on prisoner uniforms. He survived a death march to Gleiwitz and a transfer to Dora-Nordhausen on an open coal wagon, and finally arrived at Bergen-Belsen, where he was liberated in the spring of 1945. He immigrated to the United States in 1946 and married Hana Müller. His uncle Richard Bruml was the secretary of the Social Democratic Party in Pilsen, was jailed at Schloss Nr. 1 in Rottenburg am Neckar for his political involvement, and died May 1942. Karel Fischer was Richard Bruml's brother in law and was an officer in the Austrian army in World War I. He was summoned to Theresienstadt as a specialist in

transportation and put in charge of road building in Theresienstadt and of the railroad from Buhusovice to Terezin. He survived, along with his wife and mother.

Scope and content of collection

The Hana and Charles Bruml papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, personal narratives, photographic materials, printed materials, and Theresienstadt materials documenting Hana and Charles Bruml from Czechoslovakia, their families, their survival in Theresienstadt and Auschwitz, and their immigration to the United States after the Holocaust.

Biographical materials consist of birth, marriage, and death certificates; school records; identification papers; displaced persons records; and immigration and citizenship records documenting the Bruml family (Hana, Charles, Irma, Jindrich, Otto, and Richard), the Müller family (Richard and Hedwig), the Schiff family (Karel, Marta, Richard, Rudolf), Karel Fischer, and Bruno Mandl. This series also includes family trees; correspondence documenting efforts to trace the fates of member of the Müller, Schindler, Raiman, and Epstein families; immigration materials; and an untitled list of names including Karel Fischer's.

Correspondence files primarily comprise letters exchanged between Hana and Charles Bruml during the months between her immigration to the United States in May 1946 and their marriage at the end of the year. Additional postwar correspondence with family members, friends, and colleagues relates Holocaust experiences, documents immigration plans, and shares information about psychological investigations. A handful of 19th century letters to Julie Fraenkel convey birthday wishes from her husband and son. A postcard and letter from Karel Fischer document his World War I service in Przemyśl and postwar experiences in Vladivostok. Letters and telegrams document Richard Bruml's political imprisonment in Rottenburg am Neckar in 1941 and 1942 and his death. Postcards from Otto Bruml describe his life in Theresienstadt in 1943.

Personal narratives relate the Holocaust and immigration experiences of Charles Bruml, Edith Lowy, and three unidentified survivors. The narratives describe prewar life in Czechoslovakia, survival in Theresienstadt, Auschwitz, and the Skarżysko-Kamienna labor camp, and arrival in New York after the war.

Photographic materials consist of prewar and postwar photographs of family members and friends. This series also includes a photograph album, *Kultura v Terezine*, created by George Lauscher and documenting a memorial exhibition about Theresienstadt.

Printed materials include May 1945 copies of *21 Army Group News Bulletin* and *Die Mitteilungen*, as well as clippings, articles, and speeches about the Holocaust. This series also includes an unbound copy of the pamphlet *Jak si terezínští heftlinkové představovali, že bude vypadat československé státní zřízení*, and a copy of an American Temperance Society display order form.

Theresienstadt materials comprise photostats and photocopies of drawings and maps of Theresienstadt, a road project for a street leading to a crematorium, and a report about food supplies and deaths at Theresienstadt dated March 1942. The drawings and maps were prepared by Charles Bruml in his role in the technical department at Theresienstadt.

System of arrangement

The Hana and Charles Bruml papers are arranged as six series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1892-1999
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1856-1987
- Series 3: Personal narratives, approximately 1945-1987
- Series 4: Photographic materials, approximately 1880-2001
- Series 5: Printed materials, approximately 1945-1991
- Series 6: Theresienstadt materials, approximately 1942

Indexing terms

Auschwitz (Concentration camp)
Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)
Kudowa-Sackisch (Concentration camp)
Gleiwitz I (Concentration camp)
Dora (Concentration camp)
Bergen-Belsen (Concentration camp)
Skarzysko-Kamienna (Concentration camp)

Jews--Czech Republic--Prague.
Holocaust survivors--New York.
Holocaust survivors--Washington (D.C.)
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Personal narratives.
Political prisoners--Germany--Rottenburg am Neckar.
World War, 1914-1918--Participation, Jewish.
Women psychologists.

Prague (Czech Republic)
United States---Emigration and immigration--20th century.
Czechoslovakia--Emigration and immigration--20th century.

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1892-1999

Box/Folder	Title
1.1-1.3	Bruml, Charles, 1936, 1945-1947, 1952-1953 (3 folders)
1.4-1.5	Bruml, Hana, 1941-1952, 1999 (2 folders)
1.6	Bruml, Irma, 1945
1.7	Bruml, Jindrich, 1945-1946
1.8	Bruml, Otto, 1938-1944
1.9	Bruml, Richard, 1939-1942
1.10	Fischer, Karl, 1941
1.11	Mandl, Bruno, 1937
1.12	Müller, Hedwig, 1897-1905, 1915
1.13-1.15, OS 1	Müller, Richard, 1892-1914, 1919-1925, 1930, 1945 (4 folders)

1.16	Schiff, Karel, 1941
1.17	Schiff, Marta, 1941
1.18	Schiff, Richard, 1941
1.19	Schiff, Rudolf, 1939-1941
1.20	Efforts to trace lost relatives, 1942-1946
1.21, OS 2	Family trees, approximately 1941-1996 (2 folders)
1.22	Immigration, 1946-1951
1.23	Name list with addresses, approximately 1942
1.24	Miscellaneous, approximately 1942-1943

Series 2: Correspondence, 1856-1987

Box/Folder	Title
1.25	Bondy, Adolf, Helen, And Burt, 1926
1.26-1.27	Bruml, Charles to Bruml, Hana, 1946 (2 folders)
1.28	Bruml, Charles to Schindler, Emil, 1943
1.29-1.33	Bruml, Hana to Bruml, Charles, 1946 (5 folders)
2.1	Bruml, Hana with Kovač, Damian, 1966-1967
2.2	Bruml, Hana with Matějček, Zdeněk, 1966-1987
2.3	Bruml, Hana with Schanzer, Ida, 1945-1946
2.4	Bruml, Hana with Vogel, Richard, 1946
2.5	Bruml, Hana with Žlab, Zdeněk, 1963, 1968
2.6	Bruml, Hana, Miscellaneous, 1945-1946
2.7	Bruml, Otto, 1943
2.8	Bruml, Richard, 1941-1942
2.9	Fischer, Karl, 1915, 1920
2.10	Fraenkel, Daniel and Max, 1856-1871
2.11	Marek, Hanus, 1946
2.12	Miscellaneous, approximately 1922-1952

Series 3: Personal narratives, approximately 1945-1987

Box/Folder	Title
2.13	"Concentration Camp - Skarzysko Kamienna," by Edith Lowy, 1984
2.14	"It is January 28, 1987. I did not go to work. . .," 1987
2.15	"First small insights from a little guy in New York," 1946
2.16	"From notes and memory of Terezin numbers," post 1945
2.17	"Transport to Terezin," by Charles Bruml, post 1945

Series 4: Photographic materials, approximately 1880-2001

Box/Folder	Title
2.18	Bruml, Bob and Joy, 1975
2.19	Bruml, Charles and Hana, approximately 1946-1990
2.20-2.21	Family photographs, approximately 1880-1946 (2 folders)
3	Kultura v Terezine photo album created by George Lauscher, post 1945
2.22	Müller and Zappner families, approximately 1880-1930
2.23	Reproductions of artwork, approximately 2001
2.24	Reproductions of family photographs, approximately 2001
2.25	Schindler and Bruml families, approximately 1910-1930
2.26	Wedding couple, approximately 1941

Series 5: Printed materials, approximately 1945-1991

Box/Folder	Title
OS 6	<i>21 Army Group News Bulletin</i> , No. 12, 11 May 1945
2.27	American Temperance Society display order form, approximately 1950
2.28	Articles and speeches, approximately 1981-1991
2.29, OS 3, OS 7	Clippings, approximately 1946-1989 (3 folders)
2.30	Jak si terezínští heftlinkové představovali, že bude vypadat československé státní zřízení, 1945
OS 4	<i>Die Mitteilungen</i> , Sonder Ausgabe, 9 May 1945

Series 6: Theresienstadt materials, approximately 1942

Box/Folder	Title
2.31, OS 5	Theresienstadt drawings, maps, and report about food supplies and deaths, approximately 1942 (2 folders)