

PETER AND BERTA VICTOR PAPERS, approximately 1900-1991

1990.114.74

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

Title: Peter and Berta Victor papers

Dates: approximately 1900-1991

Accession number: 1990.114.74

Creator: Victor, Peter, 1920-1993.

Additional creator: Victor, Berta, 1917-1988.

Extent: 1.1 linear feet (2 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The Peter and Berta Victor papers consist of an autograph book, biographical materials, correspondence, printed materials, restitution files, and writings documenting Peter and Berta Victor, their families, and their lives in Berlin, Vienna, Shanghai, and the United States.

Languages: German, English, Japanese

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), Peter and Berta Victor papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Peter Victor donated the Peter and Berta Victor papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1990, 1992, 1994, and 2004. Accessions previously cataloged as 1990.277, 1992.A.0112, 1994.A.0076, and 2004.524.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

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

Related materials: Peter Victor also donated three 1936 Berlin Olympics admission tickets (1990.227.1 and 1992.194), a wallet (2004.524.2), bag (2004.524.3), briefcase (2004.524.4), four yarmulkes (2004.524.5, 2004.524.6, 2004.524.10, and 2004.524.11), a hat (2004.524.12), tablecloth (2004.524.13), blanket (2004.524.14), crocheted tablecloth pattern (2004.524.15), tallit and bag (2004.524.16 and 2004.524.17), and a cigarette case with box (2004.524.18) to the Museum.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, May 2014

Biographical note

Peter Victor (1920-1993) was born in Munich to food dye company owner Carl Victor and his wife, Elsa Victor (nee Alexander), and his family moved to Berlin when he was four years old. He fled to Shanghai in May 1939, and his parents followed in June. Carl Victor died in 1940 and Elsa Victor in 1942. Following Pearl Harbor, Peter lived in the Hongkew district and held a variety of jobs including at a stationery store, swimming pool, and bookbinder, and, following liberation, as a dispatcher for a United States Army Air Force motor pool. He sailed for the United States aboard the *Marine Adder* in December 1947 and lived in San Francisco for two years. He married Berta Niedermann in Chicago in 1951, and the couple settled in Washington, D.C.

Berta Victor (1917-1988) was born in Vienna to Joseph Niedermann and Anna Neidermann (nee Scheier). She immigrated to the United States in 1938 and settled in Chicago. Her sister Helen Berman (Helly) also immigrated to Chicago, her younger sister Melanie (Mella) survived the war by moving between Spain and France and immigrated to the United States after the war, and her brother Ulrich (Ulli, aka John Carlisle) survived the war in England. Their parents fled to Brussels and were last heard from in 1942. They are believed to have been deported and killed.

Scope and content of collection

The Peter and Berta Victor papers consist of an autograph book, biographical materials, correspondence, printed materials, restitution files, and writings documenting Peter and Berta Victor, their families, and their lives in Berlin, Vienna, Shanghai, and the United States.

The autograph book belonged to Peter Victor and contains a handful of entries from friends and family members.

Biographical materials consist of family trees; identification papers; birth, marriage, and death certificates; affidavits; employment records; and letters of recommendation documenting Peter and Berta Victor, Peter's relatives, their pre-war lives in Germany and Austria, Peter's time in Shanghai, and their immigration to the United States.

Correspondence includes postcards and letters between Peter and Berta Victor and their family members and friends in Germany, Shanghai, and America during and after the war. The correspondence documents family news and emigration plans.

Photographs depict Peter Victor and his family and friends in Germany, Shanghai, and America.

Printed materials include two American Red Cross First Aid textbooks, a book about Japanese prints, a Berlin map and brochure, clippings about the Holocaust, and picture postcards depicting scenes in Hawaii, Sacramento, Paris, and Colorado.

Restitution files consist of correspondence, affidavits, and forms documenting Peter Victor's efforts to receive restitution for his family's lost property, the interruption of his education, the cost of his passage to Shanghai, and the death of his parents in Shanghai.

Writings include poems by Carl and Peter Victor as well as a sales description of a meat processing practice and instructions for serving a Viennese dinner.

System of arrangement

The Peter and Berta Victor papers are arranged as seven series:

- Series 1: Autograph book, 1934-1936
- Series 2: Biographical materials, 1906-1990s
- Series 3: Correspondence, 1927-1991
- Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1900-1991
- Series 5: Printed materials, 1933-1968
- Series 6: Restitution files, 1940-1990
- Series 7: Writings, approximately 1926-1930s

Indexing terms

Jews--Germany--Berlin.

Jews--Austria--Vienna.

Jewish refugees--China--Shanghai.

Jewish refugees--Illinois--Chicago.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Reparations.

Vienna (Austria)

Berlin (Germany)

Brussels (Belgium)

Hongkou Qu (Shanghai, China)

Shanghai (China)

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Autograph book, 1934-1936

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Autograph book, 1934-1936

Series 2: Biographical materials, 1906-1990s

Box	Folder	Title
1	2	Adler Familien-Stammbuch, approximately 1906
1	3	Adler, Margot and Werner, 1939
1	4	Adler, Rebecca and Erich, 1906, 1939, 1953, 1959-1960, 1970
1	5	Victor, Berta, 1933-1938, 1944 (2 folders)
OS	1	(see also oversized folder)
1	6	Victor, Carl and Elsa, 1939-1947
1	7	Victor, Peter, approximately 1938-1957
1	8	Victor family tree, approximately 1990s

Series 3: Correspondence, 1927-1991

Box	Folder	Title
1	9	Adler, Rebecca and Erich, 1957-1970
1	10	American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, approximately 1990-1991
1	11	Langfelder, Hedy, 1948
1	12-17	Neidermann family, 1927, approximately 1938-1947, 1992 (6 folders)
1	18	Victor, Berta, from friends, 1937-1949
1	19	Victor, Carl and Elsa, 1939
1	20	Victor, Peter and Berta, from friends, 1953, 1959, 1968
1	21	Victor, Peter, from "Bee" (letter and photograph that accompanied a cigarette case), 1947
1	22	Victor, Peter, from friends, 1947-1948
1	23	Victor, Peter, from Victor, Berta, 1948-1951
1	24	Victor, Peter, to friends in Shanghai, never sent, 1947-1948
1	25	Miscellaneous, approximately 1947-1954

Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1900-1991

Box	Folder	Title
1	26	Victor, Carl and Elsa, approximately 1930s
1	27	Victor, Peter, approximately 1931-1949
2	1-11	Victor family album, approximately 1900-1991 (11 folders)

Series 5: Printed materials, 1933-1968

Box	Folder	Title
2	12	<i>American Red Cross First Aid Text-book</i> , 1933
2	13	<i>American Red Cross First Aid Text-book</i> , Revised, 1940
2	14	Berlin map and brochure, 1968
2	15	Clippings, 1945
2	16	<i>Japanese Prints and Their Creators</i> , Adolphe Leibowitz, 1935
2	17	Picture postcards: Hawaii, Sacramento, Paris, and Colorado, approximately 1940s-1960s

Series 6: Restitution files, 1940-1990

Box	Folder	Title
2	18-21	Correspondence, affidavits, and forms, 1940, 1952-1971, 1990 (4 folders)

Series 7: Writings, approximately 1926-1930s

Box	Folder	Title
2	22	Bischoff, Adolf, "Verkaufsanweisung," approximately 1930s
2	23	Victor, Carl, Poem, 1926
2	24	Victor, Peter, Poem, 1931
2	25	"Wiener Tisch," approximately 1930s

Oversize

Folder	Title
1	Victor, Berta, certificate from Das Germium, 1933