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MAX AMICHAÏ HEPNER PAPERS, 1918-1989
1990.307.13

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: Max Amichai Heppner papers

Dates: 1918-1989

Accession number: 1990.307.13

Creator: Heppner, Max Amichai, 1933-

Extent: 3.0 linear feet (5 boxes, 5 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The Max Amichai Heppner papers consist of address books and calendars, correspondence, lessons and notes, personal and travel narratives, photographs, printed materials, scrapbooks titled "Remembrance of the Holocaust," subject files, and writings documenting the Heppner family from Berlin, their prewar refuge in Amsterdam, their wartime refuge on Harry and Dina Janssen's farm, their liberation, their immigration to the United States, and their efforts to assist and publicly recognize the Janssen family.

Languages: Dutch, English, German, and 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), Max Amichai Heppner papers, 1990.307.13, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Max Amichai Heppner donated the Max Amichai Heppner papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1990, 1991, 1997, and 2015. The accessions formerly

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cataloged as 1991.226 and 1997.A.0173 and the 2015 accretion have been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: Max Amichai Heppner also donated a storage trunk (1990.307.2), metal munitions box (1990.307.3), a blanket (1990.307.4), a rucksack (1990.307.5), moustache brushes (1990.307.6), shaving materials (1990.307.7), pencils (1990.307.8), wallets (1990.307.9), knives (1990.307.10), a bench (1990.307.11), a Star of David patch (1990.307.12), a sewing basket (1991.226.10), a sketchbook (1991.226.12), maps he owned or created (1991.226.13-17, .49-58, and .99), a handkerchief (1991.226.18), a dictionary (1991.226.22), a prayer book (1991.226.29), and a handbell (1991.226.105) to the Museum. The Museum also holds an oral history interview conducted with Heppner on February 1, 1990 (1990.343.1). An oral history interview conducted with Heppner on October 6, 1995 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive can also be viewed onsite at the Museum. The Museum's library holds a copy of Heppner's book, *I Live in a Chickenhouse*. Heppner's cousin, Ernst Heppner, also donated archival materials to the Museum.

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, March 2015, revised December 2016

Biographical note / Administrative history

Max Amichai Heppner was born in Amsterdam in 1933 to art dealer and art historian Albert Heppner (1900-1945) and his wife Irene (nee Kramer, 1904-1997), who had emigrated from Berlin earlier in the year. The family fled persecution in Amsterdam in 1942 along with Heinz and Elli Graumann and their son Michael, but their plans to be smuggled into the free zone in France failed. They moved from place to place before finding shelter in a chicken coop on Harry and Dina Janssen's farm in Zeilberg-Deurne. They were liberated in September 1944, and Albert Heppner died of liver failure in 1945. Max and Irene Heppner immigrated to the United States in 1946 and settled in Cleveland.

Scope and content of collection

The Max Amichai Heppner papers consist of address books and calendars, correspondence, lessons and notes, personal and travel narratives, photographs, printed materials, scrapbooks titled "Remembrance of the Holocaust," subject files, and writings documenting the Heppner family from Berlin, their prewar refuge in Amsterdam, their wartime refuge on Harry and Dina Janssen's farm, their liberation, their immigration to the United States, and their efforts to assist and publicly recognize the Janssen family.

Address books and calendars include wartime calendars and address books used by the Heppner family to keep track of friends and family members and to note important events.

Correspondence primarily consists of letters exchanged between Irene Heppner in Ohio and Ans and Frans Burbach in the Netherlands after the war exchanging news and handling ongoing financial and legal matters. This series also includes correspondence with relatives and friends in England and the United States after liberation describing wartime experiences, liberation, plans for future, and news of Albert's death in 1945.

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Lessons and notes include a notebook containing Max Heppner's English lessons in the front and personal narratives in Dutch and English about the Heppner family's hiding and liberation in the back; loose pages of notes and lessons from the notebook; a coloring book containing poems and drawings; pages of song lyrics and notes (many of which are hand-illustrated) that had been kept inside the coloring book; Albert Heppner's notes about the meanings of certain German abbreviations; a handmade Dutch-German dictionary; and an empty pad of paper whose cover Albert Heppner had decorated. These records document Max Heppner's continued education in hiding as well as the family's use of the German, Dutch, and English languages.

Personal and travel narratives include Albert's description of his early life, Hitler's rise to power, antisemitism, and the German occupation of the Netherlands. This series also includes travel narratives describing Ans and Frans Burbach's trips to France, Italy, and the United States after the war.

Photographs depict Max Heppner, his parents, and their friends and also include a portfolio of photographs of artwork by Rembrandt and Adriaen Brouwer that Albert Heppner created for a comparative study.

Printed materials primarily consist of maps Max Heppner clipped out of German, English, and Dutch language newspapers for study. This series also includes advertisements taken out by the Heppner family in Dutch newspapers thanking the Janssen family for their protection during the Holocaust and bidding their friends farewell as they left for America as well as a copy of the June 2, 1945 issue of *Ons Vrije Nederland*.

Max Heppner created his scrapbook in fifteen sections that are roughly chronological and thematic. The sections retain titles Heppner's original titles.

"The Shadow of Hitler" includes Albert Heppner's doctoral degree certificate, photocopies of an art history article by Heppner and Max Heppner's birth certificate, postcards depicting Amsterdam, a 1918 military document, illustrated letters and poems by Albert Heppner, Albert and Irene Heppner's wedding menu, ration books, and a satirical recipe based on ration coupons.

"Persecution" includes a clipping showing a map and a brief timeline of the Holocaust, illustrated notes and letters, correspondence with family in Ohio about plans to emigrate, a photograph and letter about Albert Heppner's art business, and an identification card and certificate related to Albert Heppner's participation in the Jewish Council.

"Flight and in Hiding" includes a New Year's card, a Red Cross form letter from Frans Burbach, an English lesson, and an illustrated note.

"Poems in Hiding" includes poems written by members of the Heppner, Graumann, and Janssen families while the Heppner family was hiding on the Janssen farm.

"Liberation" includes a safe conduct flier air-dropped by the Allies, German and Dutch scrip and currency, clippings of maps, ration tickets, and notes.

"Remergence" includes a description of a dream Max had, Dutch registration certificates, and correspondence with family members and friends.

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“New Work Attempt” includes correspondence document Albert Heppner’s efforts to restart his career.

“Reconnections” includes a clipping about the death of the Graumann’s son, a photocopy of an advertisement about Germany’s capitulation in Holland, Albert Heppner’s correspondence with friends, and certificates documenting the good conduct and trustworthiness of the Heppner family.

“Last Journey” includes correspondence, certificates, and notes documenting the death of Albert Heppner as well as school records documenting Max Heppner’s continued education in Amsterdam.

“Farewell to Holland” includes identification papers, travel papers, correspondence, and affidavits of support documenting Max and Irene Heppner’s immigration to the United States.

“New Start in the U.S.” includes a map, clippings, notes, and letters about Max and Irene Heppner’s arrival in the United States and Irene’s job at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

“Settling Old Accounts” includes correspondence about retrieving and repairing Albert Heppner’s art collection and pursuing insurance claims.

“Joining the Mainstream” includes certificates and letters of recognition documenting academic, extracurricular, military, and professional accomplishments of Max Heppner.

“Returns to the Past” include a travel permit and photocopies of citizenship documents for Max Heppner, clippings about the Heppner family’s experiences in the Netherlands, correspondence with and about the Janssen family, insurance claims, a letter from a foster child sponsored in Hong Kong, and two newsletters from Max Heppner and his wife.

“Remembrances” includes testimony in support of and recognition of the Janssen family, correspondence with the Janssen family, correspondence about a foster child sponsored in Colombia, photocopies of Max Heppner’s passport, notes, a child’s drawings, and clippings about Max Heppner.

Subject files include affidavits documenting the Heppner family’s experiences during the Holocaust and attesting to their good conduct; correspondence documenting Dr. Bernhard Degenhart, who was accused of confiscating artworks belonging to Albert Heppner; and correspondence documenting the Heppner family’s efforts to provide the Janssen family with farm equipment and to have their heroism recognized.

Writings primarily consist of articles and monographs by Albert Heppner about artists Adriaen Brouwer and Rembrandt, Dutch art, religious art, and Jewish art collectors. This series also includes a brief play and a brief personal narrative by Max Heppner, a short story about Max Heppner by family friend Ans Burbach, and three volumes of letters of instruction written for Max Heppner by Jaap Soetendorp, a rabbinical student who was hiding on a farm near Heppner.

System of arrangement

The Max Amichai Heppner papers are arranged as nine series:

- Series 1: Address books and calendars, 1940-1946
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1944-1967
- Series 3: Lessons and notes, circa 1942-1945
- Series 4: Personal and travel narratives, 1945-1969
- Series 5: Photographs, circa 1935-1947
- Series 6: Printed materials, 1942-1946
- Series 7: Scrapbooks titled "Remembrance of the Holocaust," 1918-1989
- Series 8: Subject files, 1945-1988
- Series 9: Writings, 1930-1989 (bulk 1930-1945)

Indexing terms

Jews--Germany--Berlin.

Jewish refugees--Netherlands--Amsterdam.

Jewish children in the Holocaust--Netherlands.

Hidden children (Holocaust)--Netherlands--Deurne.

Hiding places--Netherlands--Deurne.

National socialism and art.

Holocaust survivors--Correspondence.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Personal narratives.

Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Deurne (Netherlands)

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Address books and calendars books, 1940-1946

Box/Folder	
1.1	Address book, 1944
1.2	Address book, circa 1944
1.3	Calendar, 1940
1.4	Calendar, 1944
1.5	Calendar, 1945
1.6	Calendar, 1945
1.7	Calendar, 1945-1946
1.8	Wall calendar, 1944

Series 2: Correspondence, 1944-1967

Box/Folder	
1.9-1.14, 2.1-2.10	Burbach, Ans and Frans, 1946-1965 (16 folders)
2.11	Cohn, Dorothea, Hans, and Stephan, 1944-1945
2.12	Heppner, Albert, 1945
2.13	Heppner, Irene, 1944-1945
2.14-2.16, 3.1-3.5	Heppner, Irene, 1946-1967 (8 folders)
3.6	Heppner, Max, 1947-1954
3.7	Landau, Ludwig and Bertie and Ellen Rosenthal, 1945
3.8	Mannheimer, F., 1960
3.9	Mautner, Franz H., 1950
3.10	Condolences on the death of Albert Heppner, 1945
3.11	Relatives and friends of the Heppner family, 1945
3.12	Miscellaneous, 1946-1966

Series 3: Lessons and notes, circa 1942-1945

Box/Folder	
3.13	Coloring book with poems and drawings, circa 1942-1945
3.14	Decorated cover of a pad of paper, circa 1943
3.15	English lessons and personal narratives, circa 1942-1945
3.16	English lessons and personal narratives, Loose notes, circa 1942-1945
3.17	German news abbreviations, circa 1943
3.18	Handmade Dutch-German dictionary, circa 1942-1945
3.19	Song lyrics, notes, and telegram tariffs (kept in a coloring book), circa 1942-1945

Series 4: Personal and travel narratives, 1945-1969

Box/Folder	
3.20	<i>Persecuted by Hitler - Rescued from Hitler</i> , 1945
OS 6	<i>From Amsterdam to Nice and back</i> , 1950
3.21	<i>Three weeks trip to France</i> , 1951
3.22	<i>Seeing the States</i> , 1955
3.23	<i>To Arnasco in the bungalow Casa di Pietro</i> , 1966
3.24	<i>Trip to America</i> , 1969

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Series 5: Photographs, circa 1935-1947

Box/Folder	
3.25	Heppler family and friends, circa 1935-1947
3.26	Portfolio comparing Rembrandt and Adriaen Brouwer artwork, circa 1930s

Series 6: Printed material, 1942-1946

Box/Folder	
OS 1	Heppler family thanks and farewell, 1944, 1946
4.1-4.2, OS 2	Maps clipped from newspapers, circa 1942-1945 (2 folders, see also oversize folder 2)
OS 3	<i>Ons Vrije Nederland</i> , 1945 June 2

Series 7: Scrapbooks, 1918-1989

Box/Folder	
4.3, OS 4	The Shadow of Hitler, 1918-1954 (see also oversize folder 4)
4.4	Persecution, circa 1941-1943
4.5	Flight and in Hiding, circa 1944
4.6	Poems in Hiding, circa 1942-1945
4.7	Liberation, 1908, 1938-1945, 1988
4.8	Remergence, 1944-1945
4.9	New Work Attempt, 1945
4.10	Reconnections, 1945
4.11	Last Journey, 1945-1947
4.12	Farewell to Holland, 1945-1946
4.13	New Start in the U.S., circa 1946-1951
4.14	Settling Old Accounts, 1947-1950, 1981
4.15, OS 5	Joining the Mainstream, 1948-1949, 1956-1963, 1976 (see also oversize folder 5)
4.16	Returns to the Past, 1953, 1962-1967, 1974
4.17	Remembrances, circa 1975-1989

Series 8: Subject files, 1945-1988

Box/Folder	
4.18	Affidavits, 1945
4.19	Degenhart, Dr. Bernhard, 1947
4.20	Janssen family recognition, 1977-1981, 1988
4.21-4.24	Janssen family tractor, 1961-1968 (4 folders)

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Series 9: Writings, 1930-1989 (bulk 1930-1945)

Box/Folder	
4.25	Burbach, Ans, <i>Maxie's Logeerparty</i> , 1937
4.26	Heppner, Albert, <i>Brouwer's Influence on Rembrandt</i> , 1941
4.27	Heppner, Albert, <i>Cornelis Decker's Innenbaumdarstellungen</i> , circa 1930s-1945
4.28	Heppner, Albert, <i>Eine Haarlemsche Schule von Weber-Darstellungen</i> , circa 1930s-1945
4.29	Heppner, Albert, <i>Inventaris Bibliothek</i> , circa 1930s-1945
5.1	Heppner, Albert, <i>Joodsche Kunst verzamelaars van Beteekenis</i> , vol I, circa 1930s-1945
5.2	Heppner, Albert, <i>Joodsche Kunst verzamelaars van Beteekenis</i> , vol II, circa 1930s-1945
5.3	Heppner, Albert, List of publications, 1930-1941
5.4	Heppner, Albert, Notes and drawing, circa 1930s-1945
5.5	Heppner, Albert, Partial manuscript, circa 1930s-1945
5.6-5.8	Heppner, Albert, <i>Religieuze Schilderkunst in Holland's Bloeydperk</i> , circa 1930s-1945 (3 folders)
5.9-5.11	Heppner, Albert, <i>Schilderyen Kyken</i> , circa 1930s-1945 (3 folders)
5.12	Heppner, Albert, <i>Spannung auf der Versteigerung</i> , circa 1930
5.13	Heppner, Max, <i>De Bedrigger Bedrogen</i> , circa 1942-1945
5.14	Heppner, Max, <i>The Submersers: An Eyewitness Account of the Holocaust</i> , 1989
5.15-5.17	Soetendorp, Jaap, <i>Brieven aan een Jonge Vriend</i> , circa 1943 (3 folders)