

FRITZ GLUCKSTEIN PAPERS, 1942-1948
1991.141.9

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

Title: Fritz Gluckstein papers

Dates: 1942-1948

Accession number: 1991.141.9

Creator: Gluckstein, Fritz, 1927-

Extent: 0.4 linear foot (4 folders)

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

Abstract: The Fritz Gluckstein papers include identification papers, permits, and immigration papers for Fritz Gluckstein, a certificate documenting his father's receipt of a World War I veteran's medal, two photographs of Fritz Gluckstein and his family, and an announcement for the first Passover seder held in Berlin since 1932.

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), Fritz Gluckstein papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Fritz Gluckstein donated the Fritz Gluckstein papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1991, 1997, 2000, 2005, 2009, and 2012. The accessions

formerly cataloged as 1997.45, 2000.434.1, 2005.362.1, 2009.254.1, and 2012.166.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: Fritz Gluckstein also donated two Star of David badges (1991.141.4 and 1991.141.5) to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The Museum also holds three oral history interviews conducted with Fritz Gluckstein on January 10, 1988 (1993.A.0095.24), April 26, 1992 (1992.A.0129.20), and October, 5 2000 (2000.372). An oral history interview conducted with Fritz Gluckstein on March 10, 1997 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at 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, July 2015

Biographical note

Fritz Gluckstein is the son of a Jewish father and a Christian mother, Georg and Hedwig Gluckstein. He was born January 24, 1927, in Berlin, where his father, a lawyer by training, served as a district judge. Following the Nazi seizure of power, Georg was dismissed from his judgeship. He then went to work for the Jewish community, serving as their legal advisor. Since the family belonged to a liberal synagogue and was identified with the Jewish community, Fritz was considered a non-protected *Mischling* or *Geltungsjude*. The family survived World War II in Berlin, owing in part to the assistance provided by Hedwig's Christian sister, Elfriede Dressler, who helped to look after Fritz and provided the family with extra food.

In 1942 the Glucksteins were forced to move to the neighborhood around the Oraniensburgerstrasse synagogue, but shortly thereafter, their apartment was bombed, forcing the family to relocate a second time. In 1943 their apartment was again hit by Allied bombs, and they were forced to seek shelter in the Jewish hospital. At this time Fritz was working on a demolition and cleanup crew. One day, he was assigned to work at Eichmann's Gestapo headquarters in the Reich Security Main Office, along with other Mischlinge. Surprisingly, for the four days he worked there, he was supervised by a sympathetic SS officer, Second Lieutenant Ernst Henning von Hardenberg. In the fall of 1944, Fritz and his father were conscripted into a labor battalion made up of Jewish husbands of Christian wives and Mischlinge. Their job was to demolish partly-destroyed buildings and to clear rubble after bombing raids. Later, they were tasked with building defensive barriers around the city to slow the Soviet advance.

After the liberation the family remained in Berlin. Because Georg did not want to learn a new legal system at his age, he and Hedwig decided against emigration. Georg resumed his judicial career and also served as a chairman of the new Jewish community's assembly of representatives. Fritz immigrated on his own to the United States where he studied veterinary medicine.

(Source: Summary of oral history interview conducted with Fritz Gluckstein on April 26, 1992, 1992.A.0129.20)

Scope and content of collection

The Fritz Gluckstein papers include identification papers, permits, and immigration papers for Fritz Gluckstein, a certificate documenting his father's receipt of a World War I veteran's medal, two photographs of Fritz Gluckstein and his family, and an announcement for the first Passover seder held in Berlin since 1932.

Fritz Gluckstein materials include a 1942 report card; 1942-1944 permits and notices documenting Gluckstein's employment, release from the Rosenstrasse holding camp, use of the S-Bahn, and exclusion from military service; and authorization, identification, and travel papers documenting Gluckstein's immigration to the United States.

Georg Gluckstein material include a 1935 certificate documenting Gluckstein's award of the World War I Ehrenkreuz für Frontkämpfer medal and a 1942 envelope addressed to Gluckstein from Deutsche Bank.

An August 1945 photograph depicts Fritz, Georg, and Hedwig Gluckstein in Berlin, and a 1947 photograph depicts Fritz Gluckstein in Zeven.

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The papers also include a notice for the first Passover seder to be held in Berlin since 1932. The seder was to take place on April 15, 1945, at the Schoenberg, Rathaus, at Rudolf Wilde Platz.

System of arrangement

The Fritz Gluckstein papers are arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: Fritz Gluckstein papers, 1942-1948

Indexing terms

Jews--Germany--Berlin.

Jewish children in the Holocaust--Germany--Berlin.

Children of interfaith marriage--Germany--Berlin.

Forced labor--Germany--Berlin.

Berlin (Germany)

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Fritz Gluckstein papers, 1942-1948

Folder	
1	Fritz Gluckstein materials, 1942-1948
2	Georg Gluckstein materials, 1935, 1942
3	Photographs, 1945, 1947
4	Seder announcement, 1945