

**SIEGFRIED AND ALMA SELIGMANN FAMILY PAPERS, 1938-1941**  
**1991.153**

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

Title: Siegfried and Alma Seligmann family papers

Dates: 1938-1941

Accession number: 1991.153

Creator: Seligmann family

Additional creators: Seligmann, Siegfried, 1881-1973.  
Seligmann, Alma, 1892-1986.  
Lowenstein, Ursula Seligmann, 1923-

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (8 folders)

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

Abstract: The Siegfried and Alma Seligmann family papers consist of biographical materials, camp documents, and emigration and immigration records documenting the Seligmanns' journey aboard the *SS St. Louis*, return to Europe and brief stay in Belgium, internment in France, and immigration to the United States via Lisbon.

Languages: German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, 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), Siegfried and Alma Seligmann family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Ursula Seligmann Lowenstein donated the Siegfried and Alma Seligmann family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1991.

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, January 2014

### **Biographical note**

Ursula Lowenstein was born in Ronnenberg, Germany in 1923 to cattle dealer Siegfried Seligmann and his wife Alma. Siegfried was sent to Buchenwald during Kristallnacht and purchased tickets for the *SS St. Louis* with his wife and daughter upon his release. When the ship was returned to Europe, the Seligmans disembarked in Belgium and lived in Brussels until the German invasion. Siegfried was arrested as an enemy alien and transported to the internment camp at Les Milles, France. Alma and Ursula followed him to France to try to find him but were arrested in Paris and detained in the internment camp at Gurs. In 1941 they received their visas for the United States, were reunited in Marseilles, and sailed from Lisbon for New York that November. They arrived in America just days before the Pearl Harbor attack, settled in Washington, DC, and were reunited with Ursula's sister, Else (1920-2003), who had succeeded in immigrating to America on her own in 1939.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The Siegfried and Alma Seligmann family papers consist of biographical materials, camp documents, and emigration and immigration records documenting the Seligmans' journey aboard the *SS St. Louis*, return to Europe and brief stay in Belgium, internment in France, and immigration to the United States via Lisbon.

Biographical materials include identification papers, German and Belgian registration certificates, and vaccination certificates.

Camp documents include lyrics to the Gurs and St. Cyprien camp song "Ich kann sie nicht mehr seh'n die Pyrénéen," a summons to appear in Gurs, and a certificate of good conduct from Les Milles.

Emigration and immigration records include correspondence documenting support the family received as refugees in Belgium and their efforts to obtain American visas and book passage to the United States as well as travel documents from their journeys aboard the *St. Louis* and the Portuguese ship *Colonial* that brought them to the United States.

### **System of arrangement**

The Siegfried and Alma Seligmann family papers are arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1938-1941
- Series 2: Camp documents, 1940-1941
- Series 3: Emigration and immigration records, 1939-1941

**Indexing terms**

Lowenstein, Ursula Seligmann, 1923-  
Seligmann, Alma, 1892-1986.  
Seligmann, Siegfried, 1881-1973.

Gurs (Concentration camp)  
Les Milles (Concentration camp)  
St. Louis (Ship)

Jews--Germany--Ronnenberg.  
Jews, German--Belgium.  
Jews, German--France.  
Concentration camp inmates--France--Gurs.  
Concentration camp inmates--France--Les Milles.  
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Songs and music.

Germany--Emigration and immigration--History--1933-1945.  
United States--Emigration and immigration--History.  
Ronnenberg (Germany)  
Brussels (Belgium)  
Les Milles (France)  
Gurs (France)  
Lisbon (Portugal)

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Series 1: Biographical materials, 1938-1941**

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Certificate of relinquishment of Siegfried Seligmann's driver's license and letter of reference for Seligmann from the mayor of Ronnenberg, 1938-1939
1	2-3	Identification papers, 1939-1941 (2 folders)
1	4	Medical inspections and vaccinations, 1941
1	5	Registration certificates, 1939

**Series 2: Camp documents, 1940-1941**

Box	Folder	Title
1	6	Gurs camp song lyrics, Gurs summons, and Les Milles certificate of good conduct, 1940-1941

**Series 3: Emigration and immigration records, 1939-1941**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	7	Correspondence, 1939-1941
1	8	Travel documents and itinerary, 1939-1941