

LIESL JOSEPH LOEB PAPERS, 1938-1993 (bulk 1938-1945)
1991.164.118

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Liesl Joseph Loeb papers

Dates: 1938-1993 (bulk 1938-1945)

Accession number: 1991.164.118

Creator: Loeb, Liesl Joseph

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Liesl Joseph Loeb papers consist of correspondence files, emigration and immigration files, *MS St. Louis* files, photographs, and printed materials documenting the Joseph family's departure from Germany and voyage on the *St. Louis*, the Passenger Committee's work to find refuge for the ship's passengers, and the Joseph family's arrival in England and immigration to the United States.

Languages: German, English, Spanish, French, Dutch

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), Liesl Joseph Loeb papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Liesl Joseph Loeb donated the Liesl Joseph Loeb papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1991 and 2003. The accession previously numbered 2003.58.1 has been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: In 1991, Liesl Joseph Loeb also donated an architectural rendering of the floor plan of the *MS St. Louis*, cataloged as 1991.164.116, and three of her own childhood drawings from aboard the ship, cataloged as 1991.164.117. In 2003 she donated a floral evening dress worn aboard the *MS St. Louis*, cataloged as 2003.58.2. The Museum also holds an oral history interview conducted with Liesl Loeb in 1998 (RG-50.462*0065, 1997.A.0441.65). An oral history interview conducted with Liesl Loeb in 1996 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation 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, November 2013

Biographical note

Liesl Joseph Loeb (1928-2013) was born in Rheydt, Germany, to Josef Joseph (1882-1945) and Lilly Salmon Joseph (1901-1993). Her father was a lawyer and member of the Social Democratic Party, and he was arrested during Kristallnacht. Liesl hid with her mother with their upstairs tenants the following night while their property was destroyed, and then moved in with Lilly's relatives in Bonn. The Josephs sailed to Havana aboard the *MS St. Louis* in May, and Josef Josephs chaired the passenger committee. When the ship was returned to Europe, the Josephs disembarked at Antwerp and then traveled to England with Morris Troper, the head of the Joint Distribution Committee, and his family. The Josephs rented an apartment in London, although Liesl boarded with the Whittington family in Clifton during the Blitz and Josef was interned on the Isle of Man as an enemy alien. The Josephs immigrated to the United States in 1940, settling in Philadelphia. Josef's sister and one of his nephews perished in concentration camps as did Lilly's mother and two sisters.

Scope and content of collection

The Liesl Joseph Loeb papers consist of correspondence files, emigration and immigration files, *MS St. Louis* files, photographs, and printed materials documenting the Joseph family's departure from Germany and voyage on the *St. Louis*, the Passenger Committee's work to find refuge for the ship's passengers, and the Joseph family's arrival in England and immigration to the United States.

Correspondence includes letters and postcard from Josef Josephs to his family while he was interned as an enemy alien as well as with fellow former passengers of the *St. Louis*, such as Herbert Manasse and Ernst Vendig, and with officials who tried to help passengers aboard the *St. Louis*, such as Morris C. Troper of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The correspondence describes conditions in the internment camp on the Isle of Man and documents the Josephs efforts to immigrate to the United States, obtain reimbursement for the Cuban landing permits that were denied by the Cuban government, and recovery of belongings shipped to Cuba. This series also includes Josef Joseph's open letter to Joseph Goebbels as well as an appeal to the German Jewish immigrant community in the United States to establish a fund to aid orphaned and displaced children that *Aufbau* declined to publish. A handful of the correspondence in this series consists of photocopies or transcriptions from the 1990s.

Emigration and immigration files include German documents clearing the Josephs family for emigration and listing the possession they intended to take, correspondence documenting the Josephs' arrangements for Cuban transit visas and travel to Cuba aboard the *St. Louis*, messages from the American Consulate General in London regarding the Josephs' plans to immigrate to the United States, and two records indicating the Josephs' considered emigrating to the Dominican Republic.

MS St. Louis records primarily consist of announcements, reports, and telegrams. The telegrams documenting communications between the Passenger Committee and organizations including the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Hamburg-America Passagierlinie, A.G. (HAPAG), the German-Jewish Aid Association (Hilfsverein), and Hias-Ica-Emigration Association (HICEM), the American and British governments, and the press as the Passenger Committee and Captain Schroeder tried to negotiate a safe haven for the ship's passengers. The announcements and reports document efforts by the Passenger Committee, Captain Schroeder, and the ship's crew to keep the passengers informed of developments. This series also includes Cuban immigrant identification cards for the Josephs family, an excerpt from Josef Joseph's diary describing the journey, and a copy of the ship's passenger list.

Photographs depict the Josephs family, Fritz Buff, Edie Babich, and Ilse, Karl, and Selma Simon aboard the *St. Louis*.

Printed materials include British, German, Swiss, and Dutch newspaper clippings documenting the *St. Louis'* return to Europe, a newspaper clipping containing Josef Joseph's thanks to those who helped the *St. Louis* passengers find temporary refuge, and an informational brochure for refugees in England.

System of arrangement

The Liesl Joseph Loeb papers are arranged as five series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1939-1993 (bulk 1939-1945)
- Series 2: Emigration and immigration, 1938-1940
- Series 3: *MS St. Louis* records, 1939
- Series 4: Photographs, 1939
- Series 5: Printed materials, approximately 1939-1940

Indexing terms

St. Louis (Ship)

Jews--Germany--Rheydt.

Jewish refugees--Great Britain.

Jewish refugees--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

Cuba--Emigration and immigration--Government policy--20th century.

Germany--Emigration and immigration--Government policy--20th century.

Isle of Man.

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Correspondence, 1939-1993 (bulk 1939-1945)

Box	Folder	Title
1	1-2	Joseph, Josef, 1939-1945 (2 folders)
1	3	Joseph, Josef, Open letter to Joseph Goebbels, approximately 1940
1	4	Joseph, Josef, while interned as an enemy alien, 1940
1	5	Joseph, Liesl and Guggenheim, Flora, 1939
1	6	Yad Vashem letter announcing Gustav Schroeder had been honored as Righteous Among the Nations, 1993

Series 2: Emigration and immigration, 1938-1940

Box	Folder	Title
1	7	Cuba, 1939
1	8	Dominican Republic, 1938-1939
1	9	Leaving Germany, 1939
1	10	United States, 1940

Series 3: *MS St. Louis* records, 1939

Box	Folder	Title
1	11	Cuban immigrant identification cards for the Joseph family, 1939
1	12	Excerpt from Josef Joseph's diary, 1938
1	13	Incoming telegrams, 1939
1	14	Outgoing cables, 1939
1	15	Outgoing cables, Drafts, 1939
1	16	Passenger Committee announcements, 1939
1	17	Passenger Committee announcements, Drafts, 1939
1	18	Passenger Committee reports, 1939
1	19	Passenger Committee reports, Drafts, 1939
1	20	Passenger list, 1939
1	21	Shipboard communications from Captain Schroeder, 1939
1	22	Shipboard communications from crew, 1939
1	23	Miscellaneous communications, 1939

Series 4: Photographs, 1939

Box	Folder	Title
1	24	<i>MS St. Louis</i> , 1939

Series 5: Printed materials, approximately 1939-1940

Box	Folder	Title
1	25	Clippings, 1939 (see also Oversize Folder 1)
1	26	<i>While you are in England: Helpful Information and Guidance for Every Refugee</i> , approximately 1940

Oversize materials

Folder	Title
1	Clippings, 1939 (see also box 1, folder 25)