

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
Finding Aid
RG-10
Small Collections

RG-10.451
1991.172.1

Title: Fred Schiller Collection, 1935-1948.

Extent: 10 documents. 5 photoprints: b&w.

Provenance: The collection were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Fred Schiller in 1991.

Restrictions on access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on use: No restrictions on use.

Organization and arrangement: Arrangement is thematic.

Language: Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Portugese, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, and Spanish.

Preferred citation: Standard citation for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collections Division, Archives Branch.

Biographical/Historical note: Miroslav (Fred) Schiller was born on Jan. 3, 1910 in Zagreb, Yugoslavia (now Croatia). He became a jazz musician and traveled throughout Europe and the Mediterranean. He returned to Zagreb to witness the beginnings of the Nazi rise to power. Shortly after, he fled to Split, Yugoslavia (now Croatia) which was in the Italian zone of occupation. Because they were in danger of deportation, his parents soon joined him. Because of a flood of refugees, the Italian authorities dispersed the refugees to islands in the Adriatic Sea. Schiller and his parents were sent to the island of Korcula. Towards the end of World War II, they traveled to Bari and reached the mainland in Oct. 1943. Once there, Schiller worked as a liason officer for the British. When the British moved north, he became an interpreter for the American Air Force and then later the British Army. He later moved to Rome, Italy, where he worked for the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and then the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. He obtained a visa for the Dominican Republic, which necessitated a stop-over in New York. He thought that any stay in the United States would increase his chances of obtaining an American immigration quota number. Eventually he did receive a quota number, and once he became an American citizen, he brought his parents to the United States as well.

Scope and content note: The papers consist of photographs of Miroslav (Fred) Schiller, his friends, and fellow members of a jazz band; identification cards; visas; applications; and a bill passed by the United States House of Representatives for the relief of Fred Schiller.

Inventory

1. 1 photoprint: b&w. Photograph of a jazz band playing on the Yugoslavian Cruise ship, Kraljica Maria. Fred Schiller is playing the drums, ca. 1935. 2 3/8 x 3 5/16 in.
2. 1 photoprint: b&w. Photograph of a jazz combo. The first on the right is Fred Schiller. Rab, Yugoslavia, 1939. 4 x 5 11/16 in.
3. Document giving Miroslav Schiller permission to travel to the Italian zone. Issued by the Croatian government. Stamped and signed by the Italian Consulate General, 1941 May 5. In Serbo-Croatian and German.
4. 1 photoprint: b&w. Photograph of a group of Jewish internees in an Italian confinement on the Island of Korcula. Fred Schiller is the person on the right. 3 7/16 x 2 7/16.
5. 1 photoprint: b&w. Photograph of a group of Jewish internees in an Italian confinement on the Island of Korcula. Fred Schiller is the first person on the right. 2 3/8 x 3 7/16 in.
6. Document issued to Miroslav Schiller by the 76 H.A.A. Regiment RHQ of the British military. It states: "This is to certify that the bearer is employed by the British Military Authorities and by the nature of his duties is permitted to be out after curfew." Signed by the regiment lieutenant. Photograph of holder affixed, 1943 Sept. 10. In English.
7. Identification card issued to Miroslav Schiller by the United States Army Fifteenth Air Force. It states that Miroslav Schiller was originally from Zagreb, Yugoslavia and resided at Via Piave 93, Bari, Italy, and was employed as an office worker (an interpreter). Photograph of holder affixed and thumbprint inside. Signed by the permit officer, 1944 Feb. 21. In English and Italian.
8. Pass issued to Miroslav Schiller by the HQ Lombardia Region of the Allied Military Government. It allows Miroslav Schiller, employed by the War M.D. Division, to enter the headquarters during official hours. Signed by the division chief, 1945 Oct. 15. In English and Italian.
9. Identification card issued to Fred Schiller by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Italy. It states that Fred Schiller is employed by the

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- American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee as a Traffic Assistant. Photograph of holder affixed. Signed by the AJDC personnel office, 1947 Feb. 1. In English.
10. Identification card issued to Miroslav Schiller by the International Committee of the Red Cross. Contained in it is a visa from the Consulate of Brazil to visit Brazil for ninety days. On back, Italian visa. Photograph of holder affixed. In Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, and Polish.
 11. Visa issued to Miroslav Schiller by the Brazilian Consulate. It gives the holder permission to live in Brazil for nine months. It lists Schiller's profession as a music professor. Photograph of holder affixed. Signed by the Consul, 1946 Oct. 20. In Portuguese.
 12. Identification document issued to Miroslav Schiller by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Photograph of holder affixed. Signed by the Minister of Foreign affairs in Rome, Italy, 1946 Nov. 29. In Italian.
 13. Application for a Nonimmigrant Visa, issued to Miroslav Schiller by the American Foreign Service. It allows the holder to travel into the United States en route to the Dominican Republic. Photograph of holder affixed. Signed by Robert A. Griggs, Vice Consul of the United States, 1947 May 16. In English.
 14. 1 photoprint: b&w. Photograph of Fred Schiller after his arrival in the United States. Taken at Times Square, New York City ca. 1947. 3 1/16 x 4 1/4 in.
 15. Document, Bill, issued by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in regards to Miroslav (Fred) Schiller. It states, "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that for the purposes of the immigration and naturalization laws, the alien Miroslav (Fred) Schiller who entered the United States on October 4, 1947, for a temporary stay shall, upon the payment of the required head tax, be held and considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence. Upon the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper quota-control officer to deduct one number from the quota for Yugoslavia for the first year that such quota is available, 1948 Feb. 4. In English.