

PETER FEIGL PAPERS, 1930-1994
1992.59

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Peter Feigl papers

Dates: 1930-1994

Accession number: 1992.59

Creator: Feigl, Peter, 1929-

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 Peter Feigl papers consist of correspondence, diaries, identification papers, photographs, printed materials, and photocopies documenting Feigl's wartime experiences in summer camps, children's homes, and schools in Condom (Gers), Le Chambon-sur-Lignon (Haute-Loire) and Figeac (Lot), his teachers and classmates there, his escape to Switzerland, immigration to the United States, memorials to the deportations of Jews from France at Drancy, and the work of American Friends Service Committee with Jewish refugees in France.

Languages: French, English, German

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), Peter Feigl papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Peter Feigl donated the Peter Feigl papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1992, 1995, 2008, and 2014. Accessions previously cataloged as 1992.175, 1995.A.0374, 1995.A.0965, and 2008.391.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Custodial history: Peter Feigl's first diary went missing in 1943, but he recuperated it in 1987 from David Diamant, who either received it from Jacques Kupermintz in 1946 or purchased it in the late 1940s at a flea market in the south of France. Diamant included the diary in his 1986 volume *Par-delà les barbelés: lettres et écrits des camps et des prisons de France, lettres jetées des trains de déportation, écrits d'Auschwitz, créations journalistiques, littéraires et artistiques*. The photocopied reference materials from the Archives of the American Friends Service Committee were duplicated by Peter Feigl and donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993. The Archives of the American Friends Service Committee holds the originals.

Related archival materials: Peter Feigl also donated a copy of David Diamant's *Par-delà les barbelés* and a copy of Jacques Durin's *Drancy 1941-1944*, both of which can be found among the library's holdings. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds an oral history interview conducted with Peter Feigl on August 23, 1995 (RG-50.030*0272). An oral history interview conducted with Peter Feigl on April 18, 1997 that form 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, January 2014, revised September 2015

Biographical note

Peter Feigl was born Klaus Feigl in 1929 in Berlin to mechanical engineer Ernst Feigl (1888-1942) and Agnes Feigl (nee Bornstein, 1904-1942). The Feigls moved to Prague in 1936, Vienna in 1937, and then Brussels in 1938. Ernst was arrested following the German invasion of Belgium, and Peter and his mother left for France with Agnes' stepmother, Flora Bornstein. They were briefly interned at Gurs, tried to escape to Spain, and ended up at Auch (Gers). Meanwhile Ernst had been interned at St. Cyprien and Gurs but was released on medical leave. While Peter was attending a summer camp at Château Montéléone in Condom (Gers) in 1942, his parents were deported via Le Vernet and Drancy to Auschwitz and killed. Peter's caregivers arranged to send him to the United States, but the children's transport was cancelled following the Allied landing in North Africa. In January 1943 he was moved to the Les Grillons children's home in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon (Haute-Loire) under the guidance of Daniel Trocmé. In September he was moved to College Champollion, a boarding school in Figeac (Lot). In May 1944, the Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE) arranged for his escape into Switzerland. He immigrated to the United States in July 1946 with the help of relatives who had escaped in 1941.

Scope and content of collection

The Peter Feigl papers consist of correspondence, diaries, identification papers, photographs, printed materials, and photocopies documenting Feigl's wartime experiences in summer camps, children's homes, and schools in Condom (Gers), Le Chambon-sur-Lignon (Haute-Loire) and Figeac (Lot), his teachers and classmates there, his escape to Switzerland, immigration to the United States, memorials

to the deportations of Jews from France at Drancy, and the work of the American Friends Service Committee with Jewish refugees in France.

Correspondence includes letters from Peter and his parents in France to his mother's stepmother, Flora Bornstein, in New York dated 1941 and 1942 describing their efforts to escape Europe, Peter's life in children's homes in France, and their concerns about food. This series also includes later correspondence addressed to Peter from Flora (signed "Alala"), Anneli and Joseph Blumberg (Flora's daughter and her husband), Siegmund Kleczewer (Peter's uncle in London), and S.E. Gersone, with whom Peter lived in Switzerland after his arrival in 1944, as well as correspondence from aid agencies that helped Peter emigrate after the war.

The collection includes two diaries kept by Peter Feigl, the first at a summer camp in Condom (Gers) and at the Les Grillons children's home in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, and the second at the College Champollion boarding school in Figeac. He began the first diary upon learning that his parents had been deported, dedicated the diary to them, and included a photograph of each of them. The diaries describe his daily life in France, a failed attempt to send him to the United States, his reactions to learning news about the war, and his escape to Switzerland.

Identification papers include two Swiss identification documents for Peter Feigl, one documenting his refugee status and one documenting his identity.

Photographs depict Peter Feigl, his classmates and teachers, and his surroundings in Berlin, Brussels, France, and Switzerland. Locations include Auch, Marseille, Château Montéléone, Condom, Talloires, and Lötschental. The series includes a portrait of Daniel Trocmé and photographs of a visit André Trocmé made to Les Grillons.

Printed materials include photocopied and original documentation about Jean Patrick Lebel's film *Cite de la Muette*, the Drancy Camp Historic Museum, and the Conservatoire Historique du Camp de Drancy.

Reference materials from the Archives of the American Friends Service Committee consist of photocopies Peter Feigl made of 1942 documents held by the Archives of the American Friends Service Committee. The documents include telegrams, reports, letters, memoranda, and a diary entry recording the Friends' work with Jewish refugees in France, deportations, Andre Trocmé, Marc Boegner, Pierre-Marie Théas, Ross McClelland, Donald A. Lowrie, Burritt M. Hiatt, children's colonies, and Rivesaltes.

System of arrangement

The Peter Feigl papers are arranged as six series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1944-1953
- Series 2: Diaries, approximately 1942-1995
- Series 3: Identification papers, 1945-1946
- Series 4: Photographs, 1930-1945
- Series 5: Printed materials about Drancy memorials, approximately 1986-1994
- Series 6: Reference materials from the Archives of the American Friends Service Committee, approximately 1993

Indexing terms

Feigl, Ernst, 1888-1942.

Feigl, Agnes, 1904-1942.

American Friends Service Committee.

Drancy (Concentration camp)

Jews--Germany--Berlin.

Jews, German--France.

World War, 1939-1945--Refugees--France.

France--History--German occupation, 1940-1945.

Jewish children in the Holocaust--Diaries.

Condom (Gers, France)

Le Chambon-sur-Lignon (France)

Figeac (France)

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Correspondence, 1944-1953

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Aide aux Emigrés, 1948-1949
1	2	Blumberg, Anneli and Joseph, 1944-1946
1	3	Bornstein, Flora, 1945-1947
1	4	Feigl, Peter, Ernst, and Agnes, 1941-1942
1	5	Gersonde, S.E., 1944-1946
1	6	Kleczewer, Siegmund, 1944-1945, 1950-1953
1	7	Schweizer Hilfswerk für Emigrantenkinder/ Ecole d'Humanité, 1945-1946
1	8	Schweizerisches Rotes Kreuz, Kinderhilfe, 1945-1946
1	9	Miscellaneous, 1945-1950

Series 2: Diaries, approximately 1942-1995

Box	Folder	Title
1	10	Journal adressé à ses parents, appartenant à Feigl Pierre, Le 27 août 1942, 1942-1943
1	11	Journal adressé à ses parents, English translation, 1982
1	12	Journal adressé à ses parents, Photograph copy, approximately 1995
1	13	Journal quotidien de l'année 1944-1945, 1944
1	14	Journal quotidien de l'année 1944-1945, English translation, approximately 1982

Series 3: Identification papers, 1945-1946

Box	Folder	Title
1	15	Feigl, Peter, 1945-1946

Series 4: Photographs, 1930-1945

Box	Folder	Title
1	16	André Trocmé's visit to les Grillons, 1943
1	17	Brussels, 1938
1	18	Classmates and teachers at Les Grillons, 1943-1944
1	19	Feigl, Peter, as a baby in Berlin, 1930
1	20	Feigl, Peter, in Bern, 1945
1	21	Feigl, Peter, with other students at the Quaker summer colony at Talloires, France, 1941 summer
1	22	Feigl, Peter, with other students in Caillols, France, 1943 January
1	23	France, 1941-1943
1	24	Landscapes and scenery, approximately 1943
1	25	Lötschental valley in Switzerland, approximately 1945
1	26	Trocmé, Daniel, 1943

Series 5: Printed materials about Drancy memorials, approximately 1986-1994

Box	Folder	Title
1	27	Printed materials about Drancy memorials, approximately 1986-1994

Series 6: Reference materials from the Archives of the American Friends Service Committee, approximately 1993

Box	Folder	Title
1	28	Reference materials from the Archives of the American Friends Service Committee, approximately 1993