

**BLUMENTHAL FAMILY PAPERS, 1901-approximately 1993 (bulk 1901-1956)
1993.104.11**

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

Title: Blumenthal family papers

Dates: 1901-approximately 1993 (bulk 1901-1956)

Accession number: 1993.104.11

Creator: Blumenthal (Family : Hüttengesäß, Germany)

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (12 folders and 1 small box)

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

Abstract: The Blumenthal family papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, emigration and immigration papers, and photographs documenting the Blumenthal family from Hüttengesäß; Albert, Alice, and Ellen Blumenthal's immigration to the United States before World War II; and Bernhard Blumenthal's deportation to Theresienstadt during the Holocaust.

Languages: German, English, French

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), Blumenthal family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Ellen Sehgal donated the Blumenthal family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993. The accession formerly cataloged as 1995.A.0369 has been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: An oral history interview conducted with Ellen Sehgal on October 19, 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, September 2015

Biographical note

Bernhard Blumenthal (b. 1863, Germany) was a farmer born in Hüttengesäß, Germany (a district in Ronneburg). He had four children, Sophie (b. 1894), Theodor (b. 1892), and Albert Blumenthal (1896-1972). Bernhard was imprisoned for one year in Wolfenbüttel, deported from Frankfurt am Main in August 1942 to Theresienstadt, transferred to Treblinka the following month, and murdered. Albert Blumenthal was a shoe salesman in Frankfurt am Main and had served as a medic in Italy during World War I. He immigrated to the United States with his wife, Alice Blumenthal (1900-1985), and their young daughter, Ellen Blumenthal, in December 1938. His brother Theodor fled to Argentina with his wife and two sons before the war, and their sister Sophie suffered from a thyroid condition and was murdered during her hospitalization. Bernhard Blumenthal's cousin, Joseph Sinsheimer, also perished in the Holocaust.

Scope and content of collection

The Blumenthal family papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, emigration and immigration papers, and photographs documenting the Blumenthal family from Hüttengesäß; Albert, Alice, and Ellen Blumenthal's immigration to the United States before World War II; and Bernhard Blumenthal's deportation to Theresienstadt during the Holocaust.

Biographical materials include Albert Blumenthal's identification papers and World War I military papers; Alice and Ellen Blumenthal's immunization records; tracing documents attesting to Bernhard Blumenthal's imprisonment and deportation; a copy of Sophie Blumenthal's birth certificate; real estate records documenting Blumenthal family property in Hüttengesäß; photocopies of French travel papers documenting Suzanne Jacoby's stay in France and eventual immigration to the United States with her parents, Otto and Regina Jacoby; and photocopies of tracing materials documenting the deportations of Ilse, Leopold, and Susanne Löwy, and Hans, Irma, Anna, and Kurt Gerstl to Theresienstadt and beyond. (It is unclear how the Jacoby, Löwy, and Gerstl families related to the Blumenthal family.)

Correspondence includes letters from Bernhard Blumenthal and Josef Sinsheimer in Wolfenbüttel and Frankfurt am Main to Albert Blumenthal asking for help emigrating, fearing deportation, and reporting on their health and news from family members and friends. This series also includes two postwar letters from Hüttengesäß acquaintances describing events during the Holocaust and reporting on postwar life in Germany.

Emigration and immigration papers document the Blumenthal family's immigration to the United States and include affidavits of support from Marion Berkley, Julian Kahn, and Samuel J. Bloomingdale; German

certificates clearing the Blumenthal family for emigration; luggage inventory and insurance documents; and a preliminary citizenship application for Albert Blumenthal.

The collection includes a copy print of a photograph of Bernhard, Sophie, Theodor, and Julia Blumenthal with Theodor and Julia's sons in approximately 1939 and a photograph of Tana Henle, the daughter of family friends of Albert and Alice Blumenthal. The Henles perished in the Holocaust because although Tana's parents had visas, they were not able to obtain a visa for baby Tana.

System of arrangement

The Blumenthal family papers are arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1901-approximately 1993 (bulk 1901-1956)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1939-1949
- Series 3: Emigration and immigration papers, 1938-1939
- Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1939

Indexing terms

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)

Jews--Germany--Ronneburg (Hesse).

Jews--Germany--History--1933-1945.

Prisons--Germany--Wolfenbüttel.

World War, 1914-1918--Participation, Jewish.

Ronneburg (Hesse, Germany)

Germany--Emigration and immigration--History--1933-1945.

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1901-approximately 1995 (bulk 1901-1956)

Folder	
1, and a small box	Blumenthal, Albert, 1918-1919, 1930-1938
2	Blumenthal, Alice, 1901, 1912, 1938
3	Blumenthal, Bernhard, 1956
4	Blumenthal, Ellen, 1935
5	Blumenthal, Sophie, 1956
6	Blumenthal family property, 1948
7	Jacoby, Suzanne, [1939-1941], approximately 1993
8	Löwy and Gerstl family tracing materials, [1947], approximately 1993

Series 2: Correspondence, 1939-1949

Folder	
9	Blumenthal, Bernhard, and Sinsheimer, Josef, 1939-1941
10	Postwar correspondence from Hüttengesäß acquaintances, 1946, 1949

Series 3: Emigration and immigration papers, 1938-1939

Folder	
11	Affidavits, travel papers, and citizenship documents, 1938-1939

Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1939

Folder	
12	Blumenthal, Bernhard, Sophie, Theodor, and Julia, and Henle, Tana, approximately 1939