

SONJA SCHULMANN SCHWARTZ PAPERS, 1919-1988
1993.124.19

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

Title: Sonja Schulmann Schwartz papers

Dates: 1919-1988

Accession number: 1993.124.19

Creator: Schwartz, Sonja Schulmann, 1927-

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 Sonja Schulmann Schwartz papers consist of an autograph book, diary, biographical materials, Dachau letter, photographic materials, and subject files documenting the Schulmann, Golnick, and Klarmann families. The collection focuses on Sonja's father, his birth in a small town in Belarus, his capture as a German prisoner during World War I and subsequent release, the establishment of his family in Germany, his imprisonment in Dachau, and his immigration to the United States with Sonja.

Languages: German, English, Russian

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), Sonja Schulmann Schwartz papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Sonja Schulmann Schwartz donated the Sonja Schulmann Schwartz papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993 in memory of her parents, Frieda Lilienstern Schulmann and Hirsh (Harry) Schulmann. The accession previously cataloged as 1995.A.0367 has been incorporated into this collection.

Related archival materials: Sonja S. Schwartz also donated a briefcase (1993.124.18) and two nineteenth century prayer books (1993.124.14 and 1993.124.15) to 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, February 2014

Biographical note

Sonja Schulmann Schwartz was born in 1927 in Marburg, Germany, to Russian-born Hirsch (Harry) Schulmann (b. 1893) and Frieda Lilienstern Schulmann (1896-1936). Frieda died of pneumonia as a result of insufficient available medical care. Hirsch was briefly imprisoned at Dachau following Kristallnacht and immigrated to the United States in 1939 with Sonja using an affidavit of support provided by his cousin, Abraham Pianin, from Youngstown, OH. Frieda's sister, Irma Golnick, was deported from Kassel, Germany, to the Riga ghetto in December 1941 with her husband Simon and their children Vera, Horst, and Werner. Simon was transferred to an unknown location in December 1943 and perished. Vera is believed to have perished at Auschwitz in 1944. Irma, Horst, and Werner Golnick survived Stutthof. Frieda's other sister, Berta Klarmann, was also deported to Riga along with her daughter, Rita, in December 1941, and both are believed to have perished at Auschwitz. Berta's husband Samuel Klarmann was imprisoned at Buchenwald and perished in July 1940.

Scope and content of collection

The Sonja Schulmann Schwartz papers consist of an autograph book, diary, biographical materials, Dachau letter, photographic materials, and subject files documenting the Schulmann, Golnick, and Klarmann families. The collection focuses on Sonja's father, his birth in a small town in Belarus, his capture as a German prisoner during World War I and subsequent release, the establishment of his family in Germany, his imprisonment in Dachau, and his immigration to the United States with Sonja.

The autograph book belonged to Sonja Schulmann and contains signatures, poems, and dedications from her friends and family dating from 1937-1945. Sonja Schulmann's diary contains a single entry dated 1939 that documents her arrival in the United States.

Biographical materials include Hirsch Schulmann's identification papers, birth and marriage certificates, identification and military papers, and prisoner of war and employment records documenting his World War I service for Russia, time as a prisoner of war in Germany, and work as a merchant. This series also includes a Yad Vashem entry for Frieda Schulmann, a family history for Hirsch Schulmann's father, a vaccination certificate for Sonja Schulmann, and a certificate indicating that Irma Golnick was a concentration camp survivor.

The collection includes a letter Hirsch Schulmann wrote his daughter while imprisoned in Dachau in which he encourages her to leave Germany on the first children's transport available.

Photographic materials depict members of the Schulmann, Golnick, and Klarmann families and the Schulmann home in Marburg. This series also includes a 1972 *Time* magazine article featuring an image of Hirsch Schulmann with a group of Russian prisoners in Germany during World War I.

Subject files document Hirsch and Sonja Schulmann's immigration to the United States and the erection of a Holocaust memorial in Neustadt. Emigration and immigration materials include an affidavit created for an unsuccessful plan to escape to South Africa, the affidavit that allowed the Schulmanns to come to America, and the packing list of belongings they brought with them. Neustadt materials include correspondence with the city of Neustadt, clippings about the unveiling of the Neustadt memorial, and a photograph of the memorial.

System of arrangement

The Sonja Schulmann Schwartz papers are arranged as five series:

- Series 1: Autograph book and diary, 1937-1945
- Series 2: Biographical materials, 1919-1988 (bulk 1919-1945)
- Series 3: Letter from Hirsch Schulmann in Dachau, 1939
- Series 4: Photographic materials, approximately 1933-1972 (bulk approximately 1933-1940)
- Series 5: Subject files, 1936-1976

Indexing terms

Golnick, Irma.

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Golnick, Irma.

Jews--Germany--Marburg.

Jews--Germany--Kassel.

Jews, Russian--Germany.

World War, 1914-1918--Jewish participation.

World War, 1914-1918--Prisoners and prisons.

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

Holocaust memorials--Germany--Neustadt in Hessen.

Marburg (Germany)

Neustadt in Hessen (Germany)

Germany--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

Photographs.

Autograph albums.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Autograph book and diary, 1937-1945

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Autograph book, 1937-1945
1	2	Diary, 1939

Series 2: Biographical materials, 1919-1988 (bulk 1919-1945)

Box	Folder	Title
1	3	Golnick, Irma, 1945
1	4	Schulmann, Frieda Lilienstern, Yad Vashem "Page of Testimony," 1988
1	5-6	Schulmann, Hirsch, 1919-1939 (2 folders)
1	7	Schulmann, Jankel, 1939
1	8	Schulmann, Sonja, 1938

Series 3: Letter from Hirsch Schulmann in Dachau, 1939

Box	Folder	Title
1	9	Letter from Hirsch Schulmann to his daughter from Dachau, 1939

Series 4: Photographic materials, approximately 1933-1972 (bulk approximately 1933-1940)

Box	Folder	Title
1	10	Golnick family, approximately 1938
1	11	Klarmann family, approximately 1935-1940
1	12	Schulmann family, approximately 1933-1936
1	13	Schulmann, Hirsch, in a World War I era photograph used with a <i>Time</i> magazine article, 1972

Series 5: Subject files, 1936-1976

Box	Folder	Title
1	14	Emigration and immigration, 1936-1939
1	15	Gedenkstätte für die Opfer der Gewaltherrschaft in Neustadt, 1975-1976