

**WILLIAM MALSH PAPERS, 1915-approximately 1993 (bulk 1937-1941)
1994.A.0027.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: William Malsh papers

Dates: 1915-approximately 1993 (bulk 1937-1941)

Accession number: 1994.A.0027.1

Creator: Malsh, William, 1913-1994

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 William Malsh papers consist of letters his parents sent him from Düsseldorf describing their efforts to escape Nazi Germany. Additional correspondence with his uncles Ernst and Eugene Malsch document Ernst's escape to Shanghai and Eugene's efforts to help the family immigrate. The collection also contains a photograph and brief biographical sketch of William's parents and a World War I postcard from William's father to Eugene.

Languages: German, English

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), William Malsh papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: William and Rebecca Malsh donated the William Malsh papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993 and 1997. The accession previously cataloged as 1997.A.0278 has been incorporated into this collection.

Related materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds a letter written by Franklin P. Shaw that describes William Malsh's contribution to the liberation of Buchenwald (1995.A.0042).

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, March 2016

Biographical note / Administrative history

William Malsh (1913-1994) was born Wilhelm Malsch in Düsseldorf to Paul (1885-1941?) and Amalie (nee Samuel, 1889-1941?). He changed his name to Malsh after immigrating to the United States in 1937 with the help of his uncle, Eugene Malsch, who had immigrated in 1890. Malsh lived in Corona, Chicago, and Los Angeles, enlisted in the Army in 1942, and commanded a Military Intelligence Interrogation team at the end of the war. His father and uncle, Ernst Malsch (b. 1887), were imprisoned at Dachau and Sachsenhausen respectively after Kristallnacht. His parents perished in the Holocaust, but sources differ as to whether they were sent to Theresienstadt, Łódź, or Auschwitz. Uncle Ernst managed to escape Germany to Shanghai in 1939.

Scope and content of collection

The William Malsh papers consist of letters his parents sent him from Düsseldorf describing their hopelessness and their efforts to escape Nazi Germany. Coded language in letters from November and December 1938 refers to Paul Malsch's imprisonment in Dachau, letters from summer 1939 document work William expected to receive from Carl Laemmle, letters from the spring of 1940 reflect his parents' reaction to news of his engagement, and an October 1941 letter reveals their expectation that they would shortly be moving to an unknown location. Additional correspondence with his uncles Ernst and Eugene Malsch document Ernst's escape to Shanghai and Eugene's efforts to help the family immigrate. The collection also contains a photograph and brief biographical sketch of William's parents and a World War I postcard from William's father to Eugene.

System of arrangement

The William Malsh papers are arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: William Malsh papers, 1915-approximately 1993 (bulk 1937-1941)

Indexing terms

Jews--Germany--Düsseldorf.

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

Jewish refugees--New York (State)--New York.

Jewish refugees--China--Shanghai.

Düsseldorf (Germany)
Shanghai (China)

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: William Malsh papers, 1915-approximately 1993 (bulk 1937-1941)

| Box/ Folder | |
|----------------|--|
| 1.1 | Biography and photograph, approximately 1993 |
| 1.2 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1937 Jan-Feb |
| 1.3 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1937 Mar-Apr |
| 1.4 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1937 May |
| 1.5 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1937 Jun |
| 1.6 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1937 Jul-Aug |
| 1.7 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1937 Sep-Oct |
| 1.8 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1937 Nov-Dec |
| 1.9 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1938 Jan-Feb |
| 1.10 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1938 Mar-Apr |
| 1.11 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1938 May-Jun |
| 1.12 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1938 Jul-Aug |
| 1.13 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1938 Sep-Oct |
| 1.14 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1938 Nov-Dec |
| 1.15 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1939 Jan-Feb |
| 1.16 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1939 Mar-Apr |
| 1.17 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1939 May-Jun |
| 1.18 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1939 Jul |
| 1.19 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1939 Aug |
| 1.20 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1939 Sep-Oct |
| 1.21 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1939 Nov-Dec |
| 1.22 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1940 Jan-Mar |
| 1.23 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1940 Apr-Jun |
| 1.24 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1940 Jul-Dec |
| 1.25 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1941 Jan-Jun |
| 1.26 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, 1941 Jul-Nov |
| 1.27 | Malsch, Paul and Amalie, to Malsh, William, fragments and undated, approximately 1937-1941 |
| 1.28 | Malsch, Ernst, 1937-1941 |
| 1.29 | Malsch, Eugene and Fanny, 1915, 1938-1940 |
| 1.30 | Miscellaneous correspondence, 1935-1941 |

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| 1.31 | Documents relating to financial support for Paul Malsch's planned emigration, 1937 |
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