

LUCIEN DREYFUS PAPERS, 1903-1944
1994.A.0112

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Lucien Dreyfus papers

Dates: 1903-1944

Accession number: 1994.A.0112

Creator: Dreyfus, Lucien, 1882-1943

Extent: 1.5 linear foot (7 folders, 3 book enclosures)

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

Abstract: The Lucien Dreyfus papers primarily consist of five parts of a seven-part diary written by Lucien Dreyfus from 1940 to 1943. An intelligent and discerning man, Lucien used his diary to document his intellectual and social life as a refugee in the south of France, his observations on the rise of anti-Semitic laws and violence, his cardiac condition, his daughter's family and their emigration to the United States, and his efforts to retrieve his confiscated property. The diary includes information about Lucien's students, his opinions about the limited utility of assimilation in fighting antisemitism, and rumors circulating about the terrible conditions in concentration camps in France and murder in the killing centers in Poland. The last entry dates just one month before Lucien's arrest and deportation to Auschwitz. Cahier C, page 17, contains an entry from July 4, 1942 concerning Dreyfus' knowledge of 700,000 Jews killed in Poland. A September 1943 entry describes letters received from persons in the Drancy concentration camp.

The diary notebooks are labeled A through G, but the covers for volumes E and F have not been recovered. Several of the volumes begin part of the way through composition books Lucien had used in the 1920s and 1930s to enumerate lists of books and copy passages from them, so his diary does not span the entire length of every composition book.

The collection also includes a 1903 composition titled "Heine und das Judentum"; a lesson book dated July 1943; and a file containing general information about Dreyfus and his deportation to Auschwitz.

Languages: French, German, Hebrew, Yiddish

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), Lucien Dreyfus papers, 1994.A.0112, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Jon and Monique Allen donated the Lucien Dreyfus papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1994. Monique Allen is Lucien Dreyfus' granddaughter.

Custodial history: The donation was originally anonymous, but the donors were identified in August 2012. Archives staff added a folder of photocopies from various sources containing biographical information on Dreyfus and his fate at Auschwitz.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Biographical note

Lucien Dreyfus (1882-1943) was born in Westhouse, France (at the time, Westhausen, Germany) to Jonas and Rose (Levy) Dreyfus. His education included rabbinical training in Colmar, Bouxwiller, and Berlin, and he received degrees in history and languages. He pursued a career in education, first as a professor at the Saint-Jean and later Kléber high schools in Strasbourg. He and his wife Marthe (1883-1943, born in Benfeld, France) had one daughter, Mariette (1914-1999). Mariette married Jacques Schumacher (1907-1962), son of the high rabbi of Nice, and had one daughter, Monique, in 1936. Lucien wrote numerous articles in major newspapers, Zionist reviews, and Jewish community publications, and he denounced the rise of Nazism and the influence of fascism in Alsace. Following the evacuation of Strasbourg in 1939, he was granted teaching positions in Poitiers and then Nice, but he was fired following the Jewish statutes of October 1940. He began working at the ORT school in Nice, his son-in-law worked for the Comité d'assistance aux réfugiés (CAR), and his daughter worked for the Unitarian Service Committee in Marseilles. His daughter's family immigrated to the United States from Casablanca aboard the *Serpa Pinto* in June 1942. They accompanied a Quaker-organized transport of refugee children and settled in Iowa. Lucien and his wife moved to Clans in the French Alps in summer 1943. They were arrested on October 25, 1943, transferred to Gestapo headquarters in Nice for one night and then to Drancy. They were deported on November 20, 1943 to Auschwitz, where they were murdered.

Scope and content of collection

The Lucien Dreyfus papers primarily consist of five parts of a seven-part diary written by Lucien Dreyfus from 1940 to 1943. An intelligent and discerning man, Lucien used his diary to document his intellectual and social life as a refugee in the south of France, his observations on the rise of anti-Semitic laws and violence, his cardiac condition, his daughter's family and their emigration to the United States, and his efforts to retrieve his confiscated property. The diary includes information about Lucien's students, his

opinions about the limited utility of assimilation in fighting antisemitism, and rumors circulating about the terrible conditions in concentration camps in France and murder in the killing centers in Poland. The last entry dates just one month before Lucien's arrest and deportation to Auschwitz. Cahier C, page 17, contains an entry from July 4, 1942 concerning Dreyfus' knowledge of 700,000 Jews killed in Poland. A September 1943 entry describes letters received from persons in the Drancy concentration camp.

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The collection also includes a 1903 composition titled "Heine und das Judentum"; a lesson book dated July 1943; and a file containing general information about Dreyfus and his deportation to Auschwitz.

System of arrangement

The Lucien Dreyfus papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Dreyfus, Lucien, 1882-1943.

Drancy (Concentration camp)

Jews--France--Strasbourg.

Jewish refugees--France--Nice--Diaries.

Nice (France)

Clans (Alpes-Maritimes, France)

France--Emigration and immigration.

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Diaries.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Lucien Dreyfus collection, 1903-1944

Box/Folder	Title
1 of 9	"Heine und das Judentum," 1903 Nov. 21
2 of 9	Diary, 1925 Jan. 22 - 1928 Aug. 8
3 of 9	Diary, 1928 Aug. 10 - 1936 Jan. 10
BE 1	Diary, (Cahier A), 1925 Oct. - 1941 May 7
BE 2	Diary, (Cahier B), 1941 May 8 - 1942 June 14
BE 3	Diary, (Cahier C), 1936 Jan. 16 - 1942 Aug. 23
4 of 9	Diary, (Cahier D), 1942 Aug. 24 - 1942 Nov. 13

5 of 9	Diary, (Cahier E?), 1942 Nov, 18 - 1943 Feb. 15
6 of 9	Diary, (Cahier F?), 1943 Feb 21 - 1943 Jun. 30
7 of 9	Diary, (Cahier G), 1943 Aug. 1 - 1943 Sept
8 of 9	Lesson book, 1941 July
9 of 9	General information on Lucien Dreyfus