

KLAUS LANGER PAPERS, 1938-1942
1994.A.0322

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

Title: Klaus Langer papers

Dates: 1938-1942

Accession number: 1994.A.0322

Creator: Langer, Klaus, 1924-

Extent: 0.1 linear feet (1 folder)

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

Abstract: The Klaus Langer papers include color copies of pages of Klaus (later Yakob or Jacob) Langer's diary as well as a typed transcript of a letter written by Klaus's father, Erich, to his son between November 1941 and April 1942. Klaus began his diary shortly after his bar mitzvah in March 1937 while living in Essen, Germany. In his diary Klaus writes about daily life, family, friends, and his involvement in a Zionist organization. The color copies in this collection include entries from 1938, in which Klaus begins writing about the political situation happening around him, including his reaction to Kristallnacht. After Kristallnacht, the entries describe his family's efforts to leave Germany and the challenges they faced trying to immigrate. In the letter sent to Klaus by his father, Erich describes the family's emigration attempts, the death of his wife, and the impending transport east. The letter was saved by neighbors and given to Klaus after the war.

Languages: 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), Klaus Langer papers (1994.A.0322), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Yakob Langer donated the Klaus Langer papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1994.

Separate material: An oral testimony of Yakob Langer reading excerpts from his diary was catalogued separately (1994.A.0322.2 | RG Number: RG-90.058.0001).

Related material: Translations of Klaus Langer's diary are included in the book *Salvaged Pages*, by Alexandra Zapruder, [New Haven] Yale University Press, c2002, pages 13-36 (D804.48 .S33 2002). Erich's letter to Klaus is referenced and partly translated in *Jewish Responses to Persecution: 1941–1942*, by Jürgen Matthäus, [Lanham, Md] AltaMira Press in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2010.

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

Processing history: Morgan Voth, July 2019

Biographical note

Klaus (later Yakob or Jacob) Langer was born on April 12, 1924 to Erich (1882-1942) and Rose (d. 1941) in Gleiwitz, Upper Silesia (currently Poland). After several moves, Klaus, his parents, and his grandmother Mina (d. 1942) settled in Essen, Germany, in 1936. Klaus was a member of a Zionist youth group and, at times, his membership was a source of conflict with his parents. During Kristallnacht, Erich was arrested and the family decided it was time to leave Germany. Klaus and his family desperately attempted to emigrate from Germany, but with each attempt they were met with internal and external obstacles. Through the Aid to Jewish Youth (Jüdische Jugendhilfe), Klaus was able to escape Germany on September 2, 1939 for Denmark. In 1942 he settled in Palestine and changed his name from Klaus to Jacob. His mother died from an infection in September 1941 and his father was deported to the Izbica Lubelska camp in April 1942 and likely sent to either Bełżec or Sobibór. His grandmother was sent to Theresienstadt in July 1942 and was later deported to Minsk where she perished.

Scope and content of collection

The Klaus Langer papers include color copies of pages of Klaus (later Yakob or Jacob) Langer's diary as well as a typed transcript of a letter written by Klaus's father, Erich, to his son between November 1941 and April 1942. Klaus began his diary shortly after his bar mitzvah in March 1937 while living in Essen, Germany. In his diary Klaus writes about daily life, family, friends, and his involvement in a Zionist organization. The color copies in this collection include entries from 1938, in which Klaus begins writing about the political situation happening around him, including his reaction to Kristallnacht. After Kristallnacht, the entries describe his family's efforts to leave Germany and the challenges they faced trying to immigrate. In the letter sent to Klaus by his father, Erich describes the family's emigration attempts, the death of his wife, and the impending transport east. The letter was saved by neighbors and given to Klaus after the war.

System of arrangement

The Klaus Langer papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Person:

Langer, Klaus.

Topical Subject:

Kristallnacht, 1938.

World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives.

Geography:

Essen (Germany)

Genre/Form:

Diaries.

Correspondence.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Klaus Langer papers, 1938-1942

Folder	Title
1 of 1	Klaus Langer papers, 1938-1942