

**LOTHAR KAHN PAPERS, approximately 1900-2004
1995.125.14**

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

Title: Lothar Kahn papers

Dates: approximately 1900-2004

Accession number: 1995.125.14

Creator: Hane, Louis, 1910-1979

Extent: 0.3 linear foot (3 folders)

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

Abstract: The Lothar Kahn papers consist of biographical materials, a personal narrative, and photographs documenting Louis Hane, born Lothar Kahn, of Lollar, Germany, his marriage to Maria Dort, who was not Jewish, the forced labor he performed in Berlin during the Nazi period, and his family's immigration to the United States in 1946.

Languages: English, 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), Lothar Kahn papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Herbert Hane donated the Lothar Kahn papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1995, 1996, and 2004. Accessions previously cataloged as 1996.A.0379 and 2004.540 have been incorporated into this collection.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, February 2016

Biographical note

Louis Hane (1910-1979) was born Lothar Kahn in Lollar, Germany, to Albert and Regina Kahn and had an older sister named Leni. He became a Social Democrat after World War I and started working for his father's oil supply business in 1928. In 1933 he married Maria Dort, who was not Jewish. He was imprisoned at the Osthofen concentration camp for three weeks in August 1933 as a political prisoner because of his party affiliation and because he was suspected of publishing an anti-Nazi poem. He was forced out of his job in 1935 and found a new position in Berlin. His sister fled to Brazil in 1936, his mother died in 1937, and his father was imprisoned for three weeks in Buchenwald in 1939 and joined Leni in Brazil in 1940. Louis worked or performed slave labor in Berlin for Siemens-Bauunion, Siemens-Halske, Siemens-Schuckert, C. Pose Nachf., and at the Scheffler Moving Company. He was briefly arrested in 1943 during the Fabrikaktion (Factory Action). After the Russian Army liberated Berlin, he rejoined his family in Lollar, and they immigrated to America in 1946.

Scope and content of collection

The Lothar Kahn papers consist of biographical materials, a personal narrative, and photographs documenting Louis Hane, born Lothar Kahn, of Lollar, Germany, his marriage to Maria Dort, who was not Jewish, the forced labor he performed in Berlin during the Nazi period, and his family's immigration to the United States in 1946.

Biographical materials include a birth certificate, identification papers, a report card, employment records, registration documents, and a testimony of character documenting Louis Hane's childhood in Giessen, his work in Berlin, and his immigration to the United States.

Louis Hane's personal narrative is titled *Super Against My Will (Hauswart Wider Willen): A Memoir of Pre and World War II Germany*. He wrote it in German in the 1970s after his retirement, but the copy in this collection is an English translation by his son Herbert Hane, who also included his own edits and comments. The memoir describes Louis' childhood in Lollar, working for his father's oil supply business, and marrying Maria Dort. He describes his three week imprisonment at the Osthofen concentration camp in 1933 as a political prisoner; being forced out of his job in 1935; moving to Berlin, and the voluntary work and forced labor he performed there at Siemens-Bauunion, Siemens-Halske, Siemens-Schuckert, C. Pose Nachf., and at the Scheffler Moving Company; his arrest in 1943 during the Fabrikaktion and release the following day; the liberation of Berlin by the Red Army; his reunion with his family in Lollar; denazification; and his family's immigration to the United States in 1946.

Photographs depict Louis' grandparents, Levi and Susanne Lowenstein; his father, mother, and sister, Albert, Regina, and Leni Kahn; his wife Maria Dort; and his sons, Wolfgang, Herbert, and Juergen.

System of arrangement

The Lothar Kahn papers are arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: Lothar Kahn papers, approximately 1900-2004

Indexing terms

Jews--Germany--Lollar.

Jews--Germany--Berlin.

Political prisoners--Germany--Osthofen.

Forced labor--Germany--Berlin.

Interfaith marriage--Germany.

Lollar (Germany)

Berlin (Germany)

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

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Lothar Kahn papers, approximately 1900-2004

Folder	
1	Biographical materials, 1926-1928, 1939-1946, 1956
2	Personal narrative, approximately 2004
3	Photographs, approximately 1900-1945