

GEORG AND MARGARETHE WEISS FAMILY PAPERS, 1938-1940 AND UNDATED 1995.49.9

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

Title: Georg and Margarethe Weiss family papers

Dates: 1938-1940 and undated

Accession number: 1995.49.9

Creator: Weiss, Georg, 1886-?

Additional creator: Weiss, Margarethe, 1890-?

Extent: 0.3 linear feet (4 folders)

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

Abstract: The Georg and Margarethe Weiss family papers include two passports ("Reisepass") issued in Vienna, Austria, to Georg and Margarethe Weiss and affidavits and correspondence from Louis Weiss regarding his support of Georg and Margarethe's immigration to the United States. Louis was not related to the Weiss family. The collection also includes a diary written by Peter Weiss, Georg and Margarethe's son, from 1938-1940. Peter began his diary when he fled to Belgium in 1938 and his last entry was in June 1940, after arriving in the United States. In his diary Peter writes about boy scouts, leaving for Belgium, daily life in a DP camp in Belgium, leaving for England, developments of the war, his fears for his family, the process of his parent's immigration to the United States, and immigrating to the United States through Canada. The diary includes photographs and newspaper clippings. The collection also includes a translation of the diary.

Languages: German, French, 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), Georg and Margarethe Weiss family papers (1995.49.9), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Lillian Weiss, Peter's wife, donated the Georg and Margarethe Weiss papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1995. The accessions previously numbered 1995.49 and 1996.A.0023 have been incorporated in this collection.

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, November 2018.

Biographical note

Georg Weiss (b. 1886, later George) was born in Austria and married Margarethe Weiss (née Fuerst, b. 1890, later Margaret). They had one son, Peter (1918-1990) and lived in Vienna, Austria where Georg worked as a beer exporter and Margarethe worked as a milliner. Peter left for Belgium in 1938 at the urging of his uncle, who lived in Belgium. Shortly after crossing the border, Peter was stopped and taken to a DP camp in Belgium. In 1939 he was taken to the Kitchener DP camp in England. Meanwhile, Georg searched for people in the United States with the same last name and contacted several people in New York asking for their help. Louis Weiss was a lawyer in New York and did not know Georg or his family, but he answered Georg's letter and became the family's sponsor. Georg and Margarethe received their immigration paperwork in December 1939 and immigrated to the United States from Brussels in early 1940. Peter received his paperwork in May and immigrated to the United States through Canada in May 1940 and was reunited with his parents in New York. Peter settled in the Washington, D.C. area and served in the United States Army. He married Lillian in 1948 and they had two sons, Martin and Irwin.

Scope and content of collection

The Georg and Margarethe Weiss family papers include two passports ("Reisepass") issued in Vienna, Austria, to Georg and Margarethe Weiss and affidavits and correspondence from Louis Weiss regarding his support of Georg and Margarethe's immigration to the United States. Louis was not related to the Weiss family. The collection also includes a diary written by Peter Weiss, Georg and Margarethe's son, from 1938-1940. Peter began his diary when he fled to Belgium in 1938 and his last entry was in June 1940, after arriving in the United States. In his diary Peter writes about boy scouts, leaving for Belgium, daily life in a DP camp in Belgium, leaving for England, developments of the war, his fears for his family, the process of his parent's immigration to the United States, and immigrating to the United States through Canada. The diary includes photographs and newspaper clippings. The collection also includes a translation of the diary.

System of arrangement

The Georg and Margarethe Weiss family papers is arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Weiss, Georg.
Weiss, Margarethe.
Weiss, Peter.

Refugee camp--Belgium.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945).

Jewish refugees--Belgium.

Brussels (Belgium)

Vienna (Austria)

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--1933-1945.

Diaries.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Georg and Margarethe Weiss family papers, 1938-1940 and undated

Folder	Title
1 of 4	Passports, 1939
2 of 4	Immigration, 1939
3 of 4	Diary, 1938-1940
4 of 4	Translation, undated