

JACOBSON FAMILY LETTERS, 1938-1989
1995.A.0196.2

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Jacobson family letters

Dates: 1938-1989

Accession number: 1995.A.0196.2

Creator: Jacobson (Family : Bamberg, Germany)

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (5 folders)

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

Abstract: The Jacobson family papers contain letters and telegrams between the Ostermann and Jacobson families documenting the Jacobson family's attempts to immigrate to the United States; two American Joint Distribution Committee press releases and a letter documenting the voyage of the MS *St. Louis*; a photocopy of a letter Erich Jacobson wrote to his family from Dachau concentration camp in 1938; a newspaper clipping announcing Erich Jacobson's death in 1952; and a photocopy of a clipping memorializing the MS *St. Louis*.

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), Jacobson family papers (1995.A.0196.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Rudolph Jacobson donated the Jacobson family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1995 and 2000. The accessions formerly cataloged as 1995.A.0196 and 2000.225 have been incorporated into 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: Michael Folkerts, March 2015, revised by Julie Schweitzer, January 2019

Biographical note

Rudolph Jacobson was born Rudolf Cohen in 1933 in Insterburg (East Prussia), Germany. His parents divorced the following year, and his mother, Margarethe (Greta, 1908-?), married Erich Jacobsohn (1902-1952). The family moved to Bamberg, where Erich was employed by the Herman Teitz Company. Rudolph's half-brother, Thomas Michel was born in 1938. Rudolph recalls an incident during his childhood when he was watching a military parade and a German guard held him up as an example of Germany's future because he was blond as a child. During Kristallnacht Rudolph's stepfather was arrested and sent to Dachau. He was released only after Margarethe had purchased tickets on the MS *St. Louis* and secured Cuban landing permits thereby proving their intention to leave Germany. The Jacobsons set sail aboard the MS *St. Louis* on May 13, 1939. When the ship was forced to return to Europe, the family was given refuge in Holland. They went first to Rotterdam and later were interned in the Heijplatte. In November 1939 the family's quota number came up allowing them to immigrate to the United States. In late January 1940, after receiving sponsorship and money for the journey from Erich's cousin, Fanny Osterrman, they sailed from Rotterdam to America. They landed in Hoboken, New Jersey on February 9, 1940 and changed their last name to Jacobson.

Scope and content of collection

The Jacobson family papers contain letters and telegrams between the Ostermann and Jacobson families documenting the Jacobson family's attempts to immigrate to the United States; two American Joint Distribution Committee press releases and a letter documenting the voyage of the MS *St. Louis*; a photocopy of a letter Erich Jacobson wrote to his family from Dachau concentration camp in 1938; a newspaper clipping announcing Erich Jacobson's death in 1952; and a photocopy of a clipping memorializing the MS *St. Louis*.

System of arrangement

The Jacobson family letters are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Jacobson, Erich, 1902-1952.
Jacobson, Margarethe, 1908-?
Jacobson, Thomas Michel, 1938-
Jacobson, Rudolph, 1933-
Ostermann, Fannie.

St. Louis (Ship)
Dachau (Concentration camp)

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

Germany--Emigration and immigration--History--1933-1945.

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

Rotterdam (Netherlands)

Antwerp (Belgium)

Bamberg (Germany)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Jacobson family papers, 1938-1989

Folder	Title
1	Correspondence, 1939
2	Newspaper clippings, 1952, 1989
3	Telegrams, 1938
4	American Joint Distribution Committee, 1939
5	Dachau letter, 1938 (photocopy)