

ALFRED AND ELLEN LEWIS PAPERS, approximately 1910-1959
1995.A.0250

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: Alfred and Ellen Lewis papers

Dates: approximately 1910-1959

Accession number: 1995.A.0250

Creator: Alfred and Ellen Lewis

Extent: 1 box, 1 oversize folder

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

Abstract: The Alfred and Ellen Lewis papers document the journey of Alfred Lewy and Ellen Katz, two German Jews who immigrated with their families to Shanghai, China soon after the Kristallnacht. Documents include passports, registration cards, correspondence with the Consulate General, and other documents obtained in both families' pursuit of a visa, first to China and later to the United States. Also included are copies of the Shanghai Jewish Chronicle (Shanghai Echo), a German newspaper published for Jewish refugees in China.

Languages: English, German, Chinese

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: Alfred and Ellen Lewis papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Alfred and Ellen Lewis papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Museum in 1993 by Ellen Lewis.

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, August 2015

Biographical note

Alfred Lewy (1908-1991) was born in Berlin to Moritz and Frieda Lewy. At the time of Hitler's rise to power, Alfred owned a wholesale import/export business. Due to the rise of anti-Semitic laws, however, his business was taken from him, and Alfred looked for ways to leave the country. After failing to gain a visa to the United States and Paraguay, Alfred and his parents eventually obtained passage to Shanghai, China. They left on a Japanese ship out of Naples in April 1939, and arrived in May of the same year. While living in Shanghai, both Moritz and Frieda died. Alfred soon married Ellen Katz, who he met in the Shanghai ghetto, and both left for the United States in 1947. The couple settled in New York City, and changed their last name to Lewis.

Ellen Katz (1923 -) was born to Martin and Edith Katz in Berlin, Germany. She was a student at the time of the Kristallnacht, when her parents decided that the family must leave Germany. They moved to Shanghai in June of 1939. While in Shanghai, Ellen worked when she could, but her family carried on mainly from the assistance given by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Ellen met and married Alfred Lewy, and sailed for the United States in 1947. Her mother died in Shanghai, but her father was able to immigrate to the United States soon after Alfred and Ellen.

Scope and content of collection

The Alfred and Ellen Lewis papers contain primarily documents obtained by both families in their immigration to Shanghai and later the United States. Each series is separated by individual, beginning with Alfred Lewy and then Ellen Katz, followed by each set of parents. The documents contained in the collection a variety of paperwork needed to leave Germany, including passports, police registration forms, correspondence with Consulate Generals to obtain visas, certificates of conduct, and documents concerning the military service of Moritz Lewy and Martin Katz. Other documents concerning immigration to the United States includes medical documents such as vaccination booklets, affidavits, verification forms and visa applications. Also included are several copies of the German newspaper Shanghai Jewish Chronicle (later Shanghai Echo), which was a newspaper published for Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

System of arrangement

The Alfred and Ellen Lewis are arranged as five series:

- Series 1: Alfred Lewy, 1938-1959
- Series 2: Ellen Katz Lewis, 1938-1959
- Series 3: Moritz and Frieda Lewy, 1915-1940
- Series 4: Martin and Edith Katz, 1910-1959
- Series 5: Publications, 1945-1947

Indexing terms

Lewis, Alfred
Lewis, Ellen Katz
Lewy, Moritz
Lewy, Frieda
Katz, Martin
Katz, Edith

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Jewish refugees--China--Shanghai.
Jewish refugees--Government policy--United States.
Jewish refugees--Germany--Berlin.
Jewish newspapers--China--Shanghai.
Jews--Persecutions--Germany.

Hongkou Qu (Shanghai, China)
Shanghai (China)
Berlin (Germany)
Germany--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.
United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.
China--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Alfred Lewy, 1938-1959

Folder	Title
1	Aid organizations, 1947
2	Biographical sketch, undated
3	Business stationary, undated
4	Consulate General correspondence, 1938-1947
5	Identity cards, 1939-1945
6	Medical documents, 1947
7	Passport, 1939
8	Police registration, 1939
9	Reparation claim, approximately 1959

Series 2: Ellen Katz Lewis, 1938-1959

Folder	Title
10	Biographical sketch, undated
11	Certificates of conduct, 1938
12	Clearance certificate, 1939
13	Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, 1947
14	Medical documents, 1947

15	Passport, 1939
16	Reparations claim, approximately 1959

Series 3: Moritz and Frieda Lewy, 1915-1940

Folder	Title
17	Biographical sketch, undated
18	Identification cards, 1939
19	Military documents, 1915-1934
20	Passports, 1940
21	Police registration, 1940

Series 4: Martin and Edith Katz, 1910-1959

Folder	Title
22	Affidavit in lieu of passport, 1950
23	Affidavit of support, 1947-1948
24	Biographical sketch, undated
25	Certificates of conduct, 1938
26	Form letter, 1950
27	Identification card, approximately 1940
28	Jewish community organizations, 1939-1945
29	Letters of employment, 1948-1949
30	Military documents, approximately 1910-1934
31	Police registration, 1939
32	Reparation claim, approximately 1959
33	Tax documents, 1939-1950
34	Vaccination booklet, 1950
35	Verification forms, 1947-1948
36	Visa application, 1939
37	Welcome note, 1949

Series 5: Publications, 1945-1947

Folder	Title
38	Shanghai Jewish Chronicle, 1945-1947 [see oversized folder]

Oversized

Folder	Title
1	Shanghai Jewish Chronicle, 1945-1947