

WALTER AND ERNA BRUNELL PAPERS, 1938-1942
1995.A.0297

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: Walter and Erna Brunell papers

Dates: 1938-1942

Accession number: 1995.A.0297

Creator: Walter Brunell

Extent: 20 folders

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

Abstract: The Walter and Erna Brunell papers contain primarily correspondence related to Walter and Brunell's attempts to emigrate from Germany in the late 1930s. The correspondence is with various relatives and aid organizations related to their attempts to obtain visas from the United States. Other documents include passports, transit visas, and other various documents related to their immigration.

Languages: German, English, Spanish, Dutch

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: Walter and Erna Brunell papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Walter and Erna Brunell papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993 by their daughter, Adele Obodov.

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

Walter Brunell (1891-1962) and his wife Erna lived in Cologne, Germany where they experienced anti-Semitic persecution following the Nazi rise to power following 1933. They had two children; Adele lived in England from 1939 to 1944, while Ernst immigrated to the United States in 1939. While living in Cologne, Walter corresponded with various relatives in the United States, as well as Jewish aid organizations in an attempt to work with the American consulate and obtain a visa to immigrate to the U.S. They traveled from Berlin to Lisbon in 1941 in an attempt to emigrate, but could not leave. They instead moved to Barcelona for a year until they could obtain the appropriate paperwork and immigrated to the United States in 1942.

Scope and content of collection

The Walter and Erna Brunell papers contain primarily correspondence concerning the couple's efforts in obtaining visas to immigrate to the United States. These include telegrams with their son, Ernst Brunell, living with a relative in Jackson Heights, New York. Other correspondence is with Jewish aid agencies, consulates of foreign governments, and transportation services. The immigration series contains items related to their travel from Germany, including passports while they lived in Spain, transit visas to Lisbon, and various transportation tickets and documents related to their travel to Lisbon and later the United States.

System of arrangement

The Walter and Erna Brunell papers are arranged as two series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1938-1941
- Series 2: Immigration, 1941-1942

Indexing terms

Brunell, Walter
Brunell, Erna
Brunell, Ernst
Brunell, Norman

American Express Company
Deutsche Afrika-Linien
German Jewish Aid Committee

Jews--Germany--Cologne.
Jewish refugees--Germany--Cologne.
Jewish refugees--Portugal--Lisbon.
Jewish refugees--Spain--Barcelona.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Refugees--Germany.

Cologne (Germany)

Lisbon (Portugal)
Barcelona (Spain)
United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Correspondence, 1938-1941

Folder	Title
1	American Consul in Stuttgart, 1938-1941
2	American Express Company, 1940
3	Beratungsstelle des Hilfsvereins der Juden in Deutschland, 1939-1941
4	Brunell, Ernst, 1940-1941
5	Brunell, Norman, 1938
6	Comité Duitische Vluchtelingen Enschede, 1938
7	Deutsche Afrika-Linien, 1941
8	Elberfeld, W., 1938
9	German Jewish Aid Committee, 1939
10	Germany Emergency Committee, 1939
11	Hch. Maximilian Hoffmann, 1940-1941
12	Israelitischer Oberrat, 1939
13	Telegrams, approximately 1940-1941
14	Various incoming, 1938-1941
15	Various outgoing, 1938-1940

Series 2: Immigration, 1941-1942

Folder	Title
16	Berlin to Lisbon, 1941
17	Passports, 1942
18	Receipts, 1941
19	Transit visas, 1941-1942
20	Transportation passes, 1942