

RUDOLF ABRAHAM PAPERS, 1938-1947
1995.A.0335.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Rudolf Abraham papers

Dates: 1938-1947

Accession number: 1995.A.0335.1

Creator: Rudolf Abraham

Extent: 13 folders

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

Abstract: The Rudolf Abraham papers contain correspondence and other items related to Rudolf Abraham. A Jewish man from Germany, he was arrested and taken to Sachsenhausen before being freed and fleeing to Shanghai, where he eventually procured a visa to travel to the United States. Included in the collection are primarily correspondence from family and friends, as well as identification papers including a passport, identity cards, and citizenship certificate.

Languages: German, 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: Rudolf Abraham papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Rudolf Abraham papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Rudolf Abraham in 1993 and 1996. These donations were given two separate

accession number: 1995.A.0335 and 1996.19 respectively. These collections have since been merged, and can be located under the accession number 1995.A.0335.1.

Related archival materials: The USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive houses an oral history given by Rudolf Abraham.

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, September 2015

Biographical note

Rudolf Abraham (1908-2003) was born in Dürboslar, Germany to Marcus and Bertha (nee Kaufmann), where Marcus owned and operated a butcher shop. The business thrived until Hitler came into power, and anti-Semitic laws were passed outlawing Jewish businesses. Some family members were able to flee the country, but Rudolf was unable to obtain a visa. During the Kristallnacht, he was arrested and sent to Sachsenhausen. He was held there until his family arranged for his release in December of 1938. Upon his release, Rudolf stayed in Cologne and worked with a travel agency in securing passage to Shanghai, China. He was successful, and was employed as a butcher while he lived in Shanghai. He was able to obtain his visa and arrived in the United States in August of 1940. He moved to New York join his cousin, Siegfried Abraham, who immigrated to the United States in 1936. There, he met and married Meta Goldman not soon after his arrival.

Scope and content of collection

The Rudolf Abraham papers contain primarily correspondence from family and friends to Rudolf Abraham and his wife, Meta. The letters from family come from both Rudolf and Meta's parents, and Rudolf's grandmother Johanna Kaufmann. Other letters come from friends living in Shanghai after Rudolf left, and some relate to a stamp collection that Rudolf was entrusted to sell. Additional items in the collection include various identification documents such as identity cards, passport, and a citizenship certificate. Also included are a Jewish calendar and two small notes.

System of arrangement

The Rudolf Abraham papers are arranged as two series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1940-1947
- Series 2: Identification and personal items, 1938-1941

Indexing terms

Abraham, Rudolf
Abraham, Meta
Abraham, Siegfried
Abraham, Marcus
Abraham, Bertha
Friedlander, Anneliese
Kaufmann, Johanna
Spitzer, Trude
Kaufmann, Julius

Sachsenhausen (Concentration camp)

Jews--Germany.
Jewish refugees--China--Shanghai.

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

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Correspondence, 1940-1947

Folder	Title
1	Abraham, Marcus, 1941
2	Envelopes, 1940-1947
3	Friedlander, Anneliese, 1941
4	Friends from Shanghai, 1941
5	Goldman family, 1940-1941
6	Kaufmann, Johanna, approximately 1941
7	Spitzer, Trude, 1941
8	Stamp collection, 1940-1941

Series 2: Identification and personal items, 1938-1941

Folder	Title
9	Citizenship certificate, 1939
10	Identity cards, 1940
11	Jewish calendar, 1938-1939
12	Note stubs, 1941
13	Passport, 1938