

METZL FAMILY PAPERS, 1942, UNDATED
1995.A.0408

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: Metzl family papers

Dates: 1942 and undated

Accession number: 1995.A.0408

Creator: Fleischner, Metzl, and Orlik families

Extent: 7 folders

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

Abstract: The Metzl family papers consists primarily of correspondence received by Josephine "Fini" Metzlova (née Fleischner) and her husband, Leo Metzl from their extended family in 1942. These letters detail their family's preparations for transport from Pardubice, Czech Republic to Theresienstadt and is the last known correspondence from any of the family members. Most of the letters are written by Josephine's mother, Martha Fleischner (née Reiss), though one is from Josephine's aunt and some are written between the couple. Also included in the collection is a report card for their daughter, Alenka and identification papers issued to Josephine.

Languages: Czech, 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: (Identification of item), Metzl family papers (1995.A.0408), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: The Metzl family papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1993 by their distant relatives, Walter and Anita Schwarz. Part of the collection was separated and given the accession number 2000.589.1 but has since been reunified under the accession number 1995.A.0408.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Colleen Benoit, November 2015

Biographical note

Leo Metzl is the son of Regina Metzl (née Reiss). He married Josephine "Fini" Fleischner, daughter of Martha Fleischner. In July 1935 the couple had a daughter, Alenka Klara Metzlova. In 1942, the Metzl family was living in Prague, Czech Republic where Alenka was attending school and Josephine was hospitalized and fighting terminal cancer. Josephine later died from her illness in Prague. Leo and Alenka were transported to a camp in Eastern Europe, where they perished.

Scope and content of collection

The Metzl family papers consists almost entirely of correspondence written to Leo and Josephine Metzlova from members of Josephine's family in 1942. The majority of the letters are from Josephine's mother, Martha Fleischner. Three letters in this collection are written by Fini to Leo and her parents. Other correspondents include the couple's young daughter, Alenka and Fini's aunt, Josephine Orlik. Also comprised is a school report card for Alenka, and identification cards issued to Fini, one of which entitled her to free public transportation in the city of Prague due to her illness.

All of the letters in this collection document the extended family's preparations for their transport from Pardubice, Czech Republic to Theresienstadt during late November and early December 1942. Letters from Martha report her and her husband's deportation instructions and transport numbers as she receives them from authorities. Her correspondence further describes the process of packing and shipping their belongings and cooking food to take with them on the transport. In each letter, she describes the family's emotional state as they prepare for departure. The letter from Josephine Orlik, written on the eve of her deportation, serves as a farewell to the Metzl family and includes her transport numbers and instructions as well.

System of arrangement

The Metzl family papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Metzl, Leo.
Metzlova, Josephine Fleischner.
Metzlova, Alenka.
Fleischner, Martha Reiss.
Orlik, Josephine Reiss.
Orlik, Hugo.

Theresienstadt (Concentration Camp).

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Czech Republic.

Prague (Czech Republic).
Pardubice (Czech Republic).

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: The Metzl family papers, 1942 and undated

Folder	Title
1	Fleischner, Martha, 1942
2	Identification cards for Josefa Metzlova, 1942
3	Metzlova, Alenka, 1942 and undated
4	Metzlova, Josephine, 1942
5	Orlik, Josephine, 1942
6	School Report Card, 1942
7	Unidentified Correspondent, 1942