

**ERNEST R. STIEFEL PAPERS, approximately 1938-1996
1996.A.0134**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Ernest R. Stiefel papers

Dates: approximately 1938-1996

Accession number: 1996.A.0134

Creator: Stiefel, Ernest R., 1921-2010

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Ernest R. Stiefel papers include photocopies of emigration and expropriation documents, Jüdische Kultusvereinigung and Jüdischer Kulturbund documents, and personal narratives describing the Nazi persecution of the Stiefel family from Frankfurt am Main; German and international barriers to German emigration; and the confiscation of money, property, and possessions of family members who emigrated from Germany and of those who stayed behind.

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: (Identification of item), Ernest R. Stiefel papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Ernest R. Stiefel donated the Ernest R. Stiefel papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1996. The accessions formerly cataloged as 1996.A.0320, 1996.A.0335, 1996.A.0436 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: Julie Schweitzer, October 2015

Biographical note

Ernest R. Stiefel (1921-2010) was born Ernst Stiefel in Frankfurt to Arthur (1879-1942) and Frieda Stiefel (1889-1942). His brother Siegfried immigrated to the United States in October 1938, and Ernest followed in July 1940, via Siberia, Manchuria, Korea, and Japan, and settled in Seattle. He served in the US Army and Air Force from 1943 to 1946, working as an intelligence officer in Europe, before returning to Seattle to work as an accountant and business advisor. His maternal grandmother, Amalie Strauss (1862-1949), left Germany for Montevideo in February 1941. His parents were deported east, towards Lublin, in May 1942 and killed.

Scope and content of collection

The Ernest R. Stiefel papers include photocopies of emigration and expropriation documents, Jüdische Kultusvereinigung and Jüdischer Kulturbund documents, and personal narratives describing the Nazi persecution of the Stiefel family from Frankfurt am Main; German and international barriers to German emigration; and the confiscation of money, property, and possessions of family members who emigrated from Germany and of those who stayed behind.

Emigration and expropriation documents consist of photocopies of original materials documenting the processes the Nazis used to confiscate money and property Ernest and Siegfried Stiefel and Amalie Strauss as they prepared to emigrate from Germany and from Arthur and Frieda Stiefel who remained behind. Records include correspondence and forms from offices such as the Jüdische Gemeinde Frankfurt, Amtsgericht Frankfurt, Zollfahndungsstelle, Finanzamt Frankfurt, Oberfinanzpräsident Kassel, Oberbürgermeister, American Consulate Stuttgart, Hilfsverein, and Auswärtiges Amt as well as Ernest's passport, a family tree, affidavits of support, and travel papers.

Jüdische Kultusvereinigung and Jüdischer Kulturbund documents consist of photocopies of notices informing Jewish residents of new rules, flyers for cultural programs such as concerts, and Ernest Stiefel's Kulturbund membership card.

Personal narratives include of three narratives by Stiefel recounting his family's persecution under Nazi Germany: one drawing from his parents letters from Germany to America in 1940 and 1941, one describing his grandmother's emigration from Germany to Montevideo, and one describing his own immigration to the United States. These narratives describe the major events in his family's lives and his parents' unsuccessful efforts to immigrate to the United States and fears about deportation, and they painstakingly detail the bureaucratic obstacles he, his brother, and his grandmother had to overcome in order to emigrate and the multiple ways the Nazi government confiscated his family's money, property, and possessions.

System of arrangement

The Ernest Stiefel papers are arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Emigration and expropriation documents, approximately 1938-1996
- Series 2: Jüdische Kultusvereinigung and Jüdischer Kulturbund documents, approximately 1939-1996
- Series 3: Personal narratives, 1988, 1996

Indexing terms

Jews--Germany--Frankfurt am Main.

Jewish refugees--Washington (State)--Seattle.

Jewish refugees--Uruguay--Montevideo.

Holocaust survivors--Washington (State)--Seattle--Personal narratives.

Jewish property--Germany--Frankfurt am Main.

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

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

Frankfurt am Main (Germany)

Montevideo (Uruguay)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Emigration and expropriation documents, approximately 1938-1996

| Box | Folder | |
|------------|---------------|--|
| 1 | 1 | Amtsgericht Frankfurt am Main file 52 UR 217-218/56 about establishing death certificates for Arthur and Frieda Stiefel, 1941-1996 |
| 1 | 2 | Devisenstelle file B 1/41-31, Amalie Strauss, 1941, (photocopies), approximately 1996 |
| 1 | 3 | Devisenstelle file U 488-40, Ernst Stiefel, 1940, (photocopies), approximately 1996 |
| 1 | 4 | Stiefel, Arthur, 1939-1942, 1950, (photocopies), approximately 1996 |
| 1 | 5-7 | Stiefel, Ernest, 1939-1941, (photocopies), approximately 1996 (3 folders) |
| 1 | 8 | Stiefel, Siegfried, 1938-1941, (photocopies), approximately 1996 |
| 1 | 9 | Stiefel family, 1938-1940, (photocopies), approximately 1996 |
| 1 | 10 | Strauss, Amalie, 1939-1941, (photocopies), approximately 1996 |

Series 2: Jüdische Kultusvereinigung and Jüdischer Kulturbund documents, approximately 1939-1996

| Box | Folder | |
|------------|---------------|---|
| 1 | 11 | Jüdische Kultusvereinigung of Frankfurt notices about rules for Jews, 1940, (photocopies), 1940, approximately 1996 |
| 1 | 12 | Jüdischer Kulturbund cultural programs, 1939-1940, (photocopies), approximately 1996 |

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| 1 | 13 | Jüdischer Kulturbund membership card for Ernst Stiefel, 1939, (photocopy), approximately 1996 |
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Series 3: Personal narratives, 1988, 1996

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|--|
| 1 | 14 | From my parents (sic) letters, July 1940 to November 1941, by Ernest Stiefel, 1996 |
| 1 | 15 | Our Grandmother, Amalie Strauss, by Ernest Stiefel, 1988 |
| 1 | 16 | The Story of my Emigration, by Ernest R. Stiefel, 1988 |