

CHARLES LAUFER PAPERS, 1904-1977
1996.A.0372.1

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

Title: Charles Laufer Papers

Dates: 1904-1977

Accession number: 1996.A.0372.1

Creator: Charles Laufer

Extent: 1.3 linear feet (1 document box and 3 oversize boxes)

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

Abstract: The Charles Laufer papers measure 1.3 linear feet and date from 1904-1908, 1916-1944, 1956-1966, and 1971-1977. The collection contains biographical materials, correspondence, education and employment records, subject files, and two scrapbooks. Documents include birth, marriage, and death certificates, divorce papers, work and travel papers, passports, military papers, correspondence among Laufer and his family and friends documenting emigration efforts, school certificates, apprenticeship records, a resume, forms, clippings, programs, a brochure, a passenger list, receipts and two scrapbooks. The scrapbooks contain clippings and photographs about Laufer's boxing career, photographs of Laufer and his family and friends, and postcards mailed among Laufer and his family and friends. Subjects include Laufer's boxing achievements, his expulsion from Germany in 1938 and his immigration to America, and the pension Laufer's mother received as a war widow.

Languages: German, English, Polish, Hebrew

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), Charles Laufer Papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Charles Laufer papers were donated by Lawrence and Fred Laufer, sons of Charles Laufer, in 1996.

Related archival materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds a blue and white sash bearing the words "Deutsche Makkabimeisterschaft 1934" and a leather portfolio that belonged to Charles Laufer and were acquired with his papers.

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, April 2012

Biographical note

Charles Laufer was born Sally Borgenicht on January 5, 1910, as a Polish citizen in Berlin. His parents, Löbl Laufer (also known as Löbl Borgenicht) and Sara Güttla Borgenicht (also known as Sabina Laufer), were also both Polish citizens. He attended primary and secondary school in Berlin and was apprenticed at a couple of clothing manufacturers before becoming a full employee of Friedländer & Zaduck. He was also a heavyweight boxer for the Jewish boxing club "Maccabi." He was expelled from Germany in 1938 as an alien under a new law regarding immigrants. He immigrated to the United States with his mother in December 1938. In the 1950s and 1960s Laufer pursued the West German government for restitution of a pension owed to his mother.

Scope and content of collection

The Charles Laufer papers measure 1.3 linear feet and date from 1904-1908, 1916-1944, 1956-1966, and 1971-1977. The collection contains biographical materials, correspondence, education and employment records, subject files, and two scrapbooks. Biographical materials related to Charles Laufer, his parents, his sister, and his wife include Polish, German, and American birth, marriage, and death certificates, divorce papers, work and travel papers, passports, and military papers. Some of the Polish documents are accompanied by German translations. Correspondence among Charles Laufer and his family and friends in Germany, England, France, and Israel primarily documents family members' efforts to emigrate. Records documenting Laufer's education and career include school certificates from the 34th Gemeindeschule and Andreas Realgymnasium; apprenticeship records and correspondence related to clothing manufacturers Theodor Priebatsch and Friedländer & Zaduck; certificates documenting first aid and welding courses; a resume; and four photographs. Subject files document Laufer's membership in the Jewish boxing club "Maccabi" as a heavyweight boxer; his expulsion from Germany in 1938 as an alien and his emigration to America aboard the SS Manhattan; petition for American naturalization; his and his parents citizenship status in Poland; the transportation of family household goods from Germany to America; an opportunity to visit Berlin in 1976; and the pension Laufer's mother received as a war widow and Laufer's efforts to collect restitution of monies owed. Documents include correspondence, forms, clippings, programs, a brochure, a passenger list, and receipts. Some of the Polish documents are accompanied by German translations. The collection also includes one scrapbook containing newspaper clippings, photographs, and postcards relating to boxing, many either mentioning

or depicting Laufer, and a second scrapbook containing photographs of Laufer's family members and friends and postcards mailed between Laufer and his family and friends.

System of arrangement

The Charles Laufer papers are arranged as five series:

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1904-1908, 1917-1919, 1932-1943, 1956 (9 folders)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1937-1939, 1971, 1977 (1 folder)
- Series 3: Education and Employment, 1916-1938, 1944, circa 1950s, 1959, 1963 (7 folders)
- Series 4: Subject Files, 1922-1939, 1944, 1950-1956, 1966, 1974-1976
- Series 5: Scrapbooks, circa 1927-1939

Indexing terms

Jews – Germany – History – 1933-1945.

Jewish refugees – Germany.

World War, 1939-1945 – Refugees.

Polish people – Germany.

Jewish boxers – Germany – Berlin.

Jews – Sports.

Germany – Emigration and immigration – Government policy – 20th century.

Berlin (Germany)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1904-1908, 1917-1919, 1932-1943, 1956

Box	Folder	
1	1	Charles (Sally) Laufer, 1932-1942 (1 of 3)
1	2	Charles (Sally) Laufer, 1932-1942 (2 of 3)
1	3	Charles (Sally) Laufer, 1932-1942 (3 of 3)
1	4	Löbl Laufer Borgenicht, 1904-1907, 1917-1919, 1935 (1 of 3)
1	5	Löbl Laufer Borgenicht, 1904-1907, 1917-1919, 1935 (2 of 3)
1	6	Löbl Laufer Borgenicht, 1904-1907, 1917-1919, 1935 (3 of 3)
1	7	Rosa Laufer, 1908
1	8	Ruth Freilich, 1943
1	9	Sabina Laufer (Sara Güttla Borgenicht), 1933-1938, 1956

Series 2: Correspondence, 1937-1939, 1971, 1977

Box	Folder	
1	10	Correspondence, 1937-1939, 1971, 1977

Series 3: Education and Employment, 1916-1938, 1944, circa 1950s, 1959, 1963

Box	Folder	
1	11	Friedländer & Zaduck, 1928-1930, 1937-1938 (1 of 2)
1	12	Friedländer & Zaduck, 1928-1930, 1937-1938 (2 of 2)
1	13	Photographs, 1930s, 1959, 1963
1	14	Resume, circa 1950s
1	15	School Records, 1916-1923
1	16	School Records, 1918-1927, 1944
1	17	Theodor Priebatsch, 1927-1928
1	18	Training Records, 1936, 1944

Series 4: Subject Files, 1922-1939, 1944, 1950-1956, 1966, 1974-1976

Box	Folder	
1	19	Boxing Club "Maccabi" Membership Card and Correspondence, 1927-1928, 1935-1938
1	20	Boxing Club "Maccabi" Newspaper Clippings, 1930, 1934 (see also Box 4, Folder 1)
1	21	Boxing Club "Maccabi" Programs, 1928-1934
1	22	Expulsion and Emigration, 1924, 1935-1938 (1 of 2)
1	23	Expulsion and Emigration, 1924, 1935-1938 (2 of 2)
1	24	Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1939, 1944
1	25	Polish Government Records, 1932-1936
1	26	Transportation of Household Goods, 1938-1939
1	27	Visit to Berlin, 1974-1976
1	28	War Widow's Pension, 1922-1939, 1950-1956, 1966 (1 of 6)
1	29	War Widow's Pension, 1922-1939, 1950-1956, 1966 (2 of 6)
1	30	War Widow's Pension, 1922-1939, 1950-1956, 1966 (3 of 6)
1	31	War Widow's Pension, 1922-1939, 1950-1956, 1966 (4 of 6)
1	32	War Widow's Pension, 1922-1939, 1950-1956, 1966 (5 of 6)
1	33	War Widow's Pension, 1922-1939, 1950-1956, 1966 (6 of 6)
1	34	Miscellaneous, 1925, 1939

Series 5: Scrapbooks, circa 1927-1939

Box	Folder	
2	1	Boxing Scrapbook, circa 1927-1935 (see also Box 4, Folder 2)
3	1	Family Scrapbook, circa 1935-1939

Oversize Material

Box	Folder	
4	1	Oversize Boxing Club "Maccabi" Newspaper Clippings, 1930, 1934 (see also Box 1, Folder 19)
4	2	Oversize Newspaper Clippings from Boxing Scrapbook, circa 1927-1935 (see also Box 2)