

ILIE WACS FAMILY PAPERS, 1913-1951
1998.180

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Ilie Wacs family papers

Dates: 1913-1951

Accession number: 1998.180

Creator: Ilie Wacs family

Extent: 0.6 linear feet (1 box and 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The Ilie Wacs family papers consist of biographical materials and correspondence documenting members of Ilie Wacs' family in Vienna and their emigration to Shanghai, photographs documenting the Wacs family and their friends, and printed materials documenting Jewish refugee life and Ilie Wacs' participation in Jewish cultural youth organizations in Shanghai.

Languages: English, German, Chinese, Romanian, French, Italian

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), Ilie Wacs family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Ilie Wacs donated the Ilie Wacs family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1998.

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

Related archival materials: Ilie Wacs also donated eight items to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. They include sketchbooks, sketches, and clothing patterns and are cataloged as items 2005.229.1 through 2005.229.8. Digital images of ten of the photographs from the collection can be viewed online. The Museum's library holds a copy of the memoir Ilie Wacs wrote with his sister, *An Uncommon Journey: From Vienna to Shanghai to America, a Brother and Sister Escape to Freedom During World War II*. An oral history conducted with Ilie Wacs on January 11, 1996 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, June 2013

Biographical note

Ilie Wacs (1927-) was born in Vienna, Austria to tailor Moritz Wacs (1895-1957) and his wife Henia Fach (1900-1972). Ilie's birth name was officially registered as Ilie Fach because Moritz was a former Romanian prisoner of war, not an Austrian citizen, and the couple was married by a rabbi. Ilie's younger sister Deborah (Debra) was born in 1935. After the Nazi annexation of Austria, Moritz's successful tailor shop was "aryanized." In August 1939, the family sailed from Genoa to Shanghai. They lived in Hongkew, Moritz worked as a custom tailor, and Ilie and Deborah attended school. Conditions deteriorated after the United States entered the war, and in 1943 the Wacs were forced by the Japanese occupiers into a Shanghai ghetto. Following their liberation in 1945, they learned that nearly all of their family who had remained in Europe had perished. In 1949, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, offered Ilie a scholarship to study at art in Paris. His parents and sister immigrated to the United States in 1950, Ilie joined them, and he was naturalized in 1956.

Scope and content of collection

The Ilie Wacs family papers consist of biographical materials and correspondence documenting members of Ilie Wacs' family in Vienna and their emigration to Shanghai, photographs documenting the Wacs family and their friends, and printed materials documenting Jewish refugee life and Ilie Wacs' participation in Jewish cultural youth organizations in Shanghai.

Deborah Wacs materials include identification papers. Henia Wacs materials include identification papers, registration records, and tax documents. Ilie Wacs materials include identification, membership, and travel papers; student records; ORT training records; and correspondence documenting Wacs' participation in cultural activities in Shanghai. Moritz Wacs materials include identification and membership papers, training and employment records, business and professional association records, registration and tax records, and emigration records.

Photographs depict Ilie Wacs and his family and friends in Vienna, en route to Shanghai, and in Shanghai.

Printed materials include newspapers published for the refugee community in Shanghai, magazines and newsletters published and illustrated by Ilie Wacs and other members of the Jewish youth community in

Shanghai, publications commemorating the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the establishment of the state of Israel, and cards and stamps illustrated by Wacs promoting the planting of memorial trees in Israel.

System of arrangement

The Ilie Wacs family papers are arranged as seven series:

- Series 1: Deborah Wacs materials, 1938-1947
- Series 2: Henia Wacs materials, 1939-1945
- Series 3: Ilie Wacs materials, 1928-1950
- Series 4: Moritz Wacs materials, 1913-1948
- Series 5: Photographs, approximately 1928-1949
- Series 6: Printed materials, 1940-1951

Indexing terms

Jews – Austria – Vienna.

Jewish refugees – China – Shanghai.

Tailors – China – Shanghai.

Jewish artists – China – Shanghai.

Jewish day schools – China – Shanghai.

Vienna (Austria)

Shanghai (China)

Hongkou Qu (Shanghai, China)

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Deborah Wacs materials, 1938-1947

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Identification papers, 1938-1940, 1947

Series 2: Henia Wacs materials, 1939-1945

Box	Folder	Title
1	2	Goods permitted for emigration but never received, 1939
1	3	Identification papers, 1939-1940, 1945
1	4	Registration and taxes, 1939

Series 3: Ilie Wacs materials, 1928-1950

Box	Folder	Title
1	5	Correspondence, 1948
1	6	Identification, membership, and travel documents, 1928, 1939-1940, 1946-1950
1	7	ORT records, approximately 1945-1947
1	8	Student records, 1935-1941

Series 4: Moritz Wacs materials, 1913-1948

Box	Folder	Title
1	9	Association of Dressmakers in Vienna, 1925-1935
1	10	Birth certificates for Babla Elli Wacs, 1913, 1924
1	11	Business records, 1925-1935, 1944-1946
1	12	Goods permitted for emigration but never received, 1939
1	13	Family emigration from Germany and census in Shanghai, 1939-1942 (see also Oversize Folder 1)
1	14	Identification and membership papers, 1919-1920, 1936-1944
1	15	Letters from Ilymen Wacs, 1939
1	16	Registration and taxes, 1921, 1939
1	17	Training and employment, 1925-1927, 1946
1	18	Miscellaneous, approximately 1939-1948

Series 5: Photographs, approximately 1928-1949

Box	Folder	Title
1	19	Friends of Ilie Wacs, 1940s
1	20	Wacs, Ilie, with his family, approximately 1928-1949
1	21	Wacs, Ilie, with friends, 1940s
1	22	Miscellaneous, approximately 1930s and 1940s

Series 6: Printed materials, 1940-1951

Box	Folder	Title
1	23	Birth announcement for Daniel Louis Bloch, 1951
1	24	"Candid photographs taken at the Kinchow Road School for European Refugee Children," 1940s (see Oversize Folder 2)
1	25	Cards and stamps promoting the planting of memorial trees in Israel, approximately 1948
1	26	<i>The China Press</i> , 1946-1948 (see Oversize Folder 3)
1	27	<i>Israel: dedicated to our first president Chaim Weizmann</i> , 1948
1	28	<i>Jewish Youth</i> , 1948
1	29	<i>Shanghai Echo</i> , 1946-1948 (see Oversize Folder 4)

1	30	<i>Shanghai Jewish Chronicle</i> , 1940 (see Oversize Folder 5)
1	31	<i>Tikvah news bulletin</i> , 1948
1	32	<i>Tikvah Star</i> , 1947
1	33	<i>Yiskor Commemoration Issue</i> , 19 th April 1943-19 th April 1947, 1947

Oversize materials

Oversize Folder	Item	Title
1	1	Family emigration from Germany and census in Shanghai, 1939-1942 (see also Box 1, Folder 13)
1	2	"Candid photographs taken at the Kinchow Road School for European Refugee Children," 1940s
1	3	<i>The China Press</i> , 1946-1948
1	4	<i>Shanghai Echo</i> , 1946-1948
1	5	<i>Shanghai Jewish Chronicle</i> , 1940