

**HARRY EHRISMAN PERS, 1939-1940
1998.46**

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

Title: Harry Ehrismann papers

Dates: 1939-1940

Accession number: 1998.46

Creator: Ehrismann, Harry, 1921-2011

Extent: 0.1 linear foot (2 folders)

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

Abstract: The Harry Ehrismann papers consist of an unbound scrapbook created by Ehrismann documenting the voyage of the MS *St. Louis*, its return to Europe, and the selection of passengers to be transferred to the Netherlands. The first folder includes correspondence; notes; a report by C.G. van Dalftsen and Gilles Hendrik van Helden (inspectors of the Municipal Police of Rotterdam) describing the selection of refugees to be welcomed by the Netherlands; a list of those passengers; a registration card for Hannelore Klein; and three name cards worn by passengers Hannelore Klein, Hilde Pander, and Martin Hess as they disembarked. Correspondence includes a photostat of a Cuban permission for immigration for Heinz Georg and Elsa Blumenstein; a photostat of a letter from the Jewish Committee in Amsterdam to the Commissioner in Rotterdam thanking the city for permitting the MS *St. Louis* to land; and a letter from former passengers Johanna and Fritz Feldsburg indicating they were leaving Rotterdam for Chile in May 1940. Five handwritten notes handed to Ehrismann while he was aboard the *St. Louis* document passengers Fritz Händler and his wife; Georg and Thea Moses; Hermann Strauss; the Meyerstein family; and Moritz, Klara, and Ursula Frank. The second folder includes clippings from Dutch newspapers documenting the return of the *St. Louis* to Europe, its stops at Vlissingen and Antwerp, and the transfer of Netherlands-bound passengers aboard the SS *Jan van Arkel*.

Languages: Dutch, German, Spanish

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use.

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), Harry Ehrismann papers (1998.46), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Harry Ehrismann donated the Harry Ehrismann 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.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, December 2019

Biographical note

Harry Ehrismann (1921-2011) was born January 2, 1921 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, to Harry and Andrina (Jansen) Ehrismann. He studied languages, specialized in German, and started working for the Rotterdam Municipal Police in 1938. He worked in the aliens department and was selected as one of a group of four who boarded the returning MS *St. Louis* in June 1939 at Vlissingen to select the passengers who would receive permission to disembark in the Netherlands. He was still working for the Rotterdam Municipal Police Alien Department when Germany invaded the Netherlands in May 1940. On May 9, 1944, he married Maria "Riet" Theresia Ehrismann, and they had five sons: Anthony, Francis, Paul, Harry, and Lawrence. On November 10, 1944, Harry was rounded up by the German occupiers to perform "defense work" and was sent to a work camp at Karlsfeld, a subcamp of Dachau and part of BMW's München-Allach Werk 2. Harry worked in the administration of the stock rooms and was able to move freely around the city. He was able to pass food to some of the Dutch prisoners at Dachau before he was returned home in January 1945. He started writing to an American pen pal after the war, and a mutual friend who visited him in Rotterdam in 1947 eventually sponsored the Ehrismann family's immigration to the United States in 1950.

Scope and content of collection

The Harry Ehrismann papers consist of an unbound scrapbook created by Ehrismann documenting the voyage of the MS *St. Louis*, its return to Europe, and the selection of passengers to be transferred to the Netherlands. The first folder includes correspondence; notes; a report by C.G. van Dalssen and Gilles Hendrik van Helden (inspectors of the Municipal Police of Rotterdam) describing the selection of refugees to be welcomed by the Netherlands; a list of those passengers; a registration card for Hannelore Klein; and three name cards worn by passengers Hannelore Klein, Hilde Pander, and Martin Hess as they disembarked. Correspondence includes a photostat of a Cuban permission for immigration for Heinz Georg and Elsa Blumenstein; a photostat of a letter from the Jewish Committee in Amsterdam to the Commissioner in Rotterdam thanking the city for permitting the MS *St. Louis* to land; and a letter from former passengers Johanna and Fritz Feldsburg indicating they were leaving Rotterdam for Chile in May 1940. Five handwritten notes handed to Ehrismann while he was aboard the *St. Louis* document

passengers Fritz Händler and his wife; Georg and Thea Moses; Hermann Strauss; the Meyerstein family; and Moritz, Klara, and Ursula Frank. The second folder includes clippings from Dutch newspapers documenting the return of the *St. Louis* to Europe, its stops at Vlissingen and Antwerp, and the transfer of Netherlands-bound passengers aboard the *SS Jan van Arkel*.

System of arrangement

The Harry Ehrismann papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Personal names

Ehrismann, Harry, 1921-2011.

Corporate names

St. Louis (Ship)

Topical terms

Jewish refugees--Netherlands--Rotterdam.

Geographic terms

Rotterdam (Netherlands)

Genre terms

Clippings.

Correspondence.

Scrapbooks.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Harry Ehrismann papers, 1939-1940

Box/Folder	Description
Folder 1 of 2	Scrapbook: correspondence, notes, report, and list, 1939-1940
Folder 2 of 2	Scrapbook: clippings, 1939