

MANFRED WILDMANN FAMILY LETTERS, 1941-1943
1998.A.0037

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Manfred Wildmann family letters

Dates: 1941-1943

Accession number: 1998.A.0037

Creator: Wildmann family

Additional creator: Wildmann, Manfred

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (9 folders)

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

Abstract: The Wildmann family letters consist of correspondence among Heinrich, Rebecca, Manfred, Hannelore, Margot, and Hugo Wildmann. The letters describe camp conditions, health and sanitary concerns, and food availability at the concentration camps at Rivesaltes and Le Barcarès, Heinrich's situation at a hospital in Perpignan, Manfred's situation at the children's home in Grammont, and the family's efforts to find better arrangements for each of them through the help of aid agencies. The collection is accompanied by transcriptions and annotated translations created by Manfred and Sylvia Wildmann.

Languages: German, French

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), Wildmann family letters, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Manfred and Sylvia Wildmann donated the Wildmann family letters to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1998.

Related materials: The Wildmann family letters have been digitized, and the digital files can be viewed onsite at the Museum. The Museum's Library holds a copy of *Und flehentlich gesegnet: Briefe der Familie Wildmann aus Rivesaltes und Perpignan: jüdische Schicksale aus Philippsburg, 1941-1943*, by Manfred Wildmann und Erhard Roy Wiehn and in which Wildmann published most of the material in the archival collection. Manfred and Sylvia Wildmann also donated 25 drawings by Wildmann related to the Gurs and Rivesaltes concentration camps. These are cataloged as 1998.1. Oral history interviews with Manfred and Sylvia Wildmann conducted on June 12, 1998 that form part of the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum.

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, September 2013

Biographical note

Manfred Wildmann (1930-2020) was born in Karlsruhe to Heinrich (1888-1943) and Rebecca Wildmann (1895-1942). His siblings were Margot (1922-2010), Hugo (1924-1944), and Hannelore (b. 1925), and the family lived in Philippsburg. They were deported to Vichy France in 1940 and imprisoned in Gurs and Rivesaltes. Hannelore was released in 1941 to work in a children's home in Pringy (Haute-Savoie). Manfred was released in 1942 to the Chateau de Grammont children's home near Ceyzérieu (Ain) and later joined Hannelore. Margot was released in 1942 to a children's home and then worked for a family as a maid. Hugo was detailed to the work camp at Le Barcarès, and he and Rebecca were transferred to Drancy in August 1942. Both were then sent to Auschwitz and perished. Heinrich, who had been transferred to a hospital in Perpignan, was transferred to Drancy in November 1943 and the following month to Auschwitz where he perished. Manfred and Hannelore immigrated to the United States in 1947. (See also the family's website at <http://wildmannbirnbaum.com>.)

Scope and content of collection

The Wildmann family letters consist of correspondence among Heinrich, Rebecca, Manfred, Hannelore, Margot, and Hugo Wildmann. The letters describe camp conditions, health and sanitary concerns, and food availability at the concentration camps at Rivesaltes and Le Barcarès, Heinrich's situation at a hospital in Perpignan, Manfred's situation at the children's home in Grammont, and the family's efforts to find better arrangements for each of them. The collection is accompanied by transcriptions and annotated translations created by Manfred and Sylvia Wildmann.

System of arrangement

The Wildmann family letters are arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1941-1943

Indexing terms

Rivesaltes (Concentration camp)

Jews – Germany – Philippsburg.

Concentration camp inmates – France – Rivesaltes – Correspondence.

Jewish children – France.

Jewish refugees – France.

Jews, German – France.

Holocaust victims.

Rivesaltes (France)

Perpignan (France)

Pringy (Haute-Savoie, France)

Le Barcarès (France)

Haute-Saône (France)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Correspondence, 1941-1943

Folder	Title
1	December 1941-February 1942
2	March 1942
3	April 1942
4	May 1942
5	June 1942
6	July 1942
7	August 1942
8	September – October 1942
9	April – November 1943