

MAX AND MATHILDE MAIER FAMILY PAPERS, 1866-1998
1998.A.0056

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Max and Mathilde Maier family papers

Dates: 1866-1998

Accession number: 1998.A.0056

Creator: Max and Mathilde Maier family

Extent: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

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

Abstract: The Max and Mathilde Maier family papers measure 1.5 linear feet, date from 1866-1998, and include biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, printed materials, and writings documenting Max Maier's World War I military service and the couple's education, marriage, and emigration to Rolândia, Brazil. The papers also include a copy of an autobiography by Hans Maier and a copy of Gertrud Mainzer's description of her time in Bergen-Belsen.

Languages: German, Portuguese, 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), Max and Mathilde Maier Family Papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Margaret West, great-niece of Max and Mathilde Maier, donated the Max and Mathilde Maier family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1998.

Related archival materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds a translation of Hans Maier's autobiography, which was donated by Margaret West, Hans Maier's daughter, in 1998. The United States Holocaust Memorial Library holds copies of two books by Max Maier: *Inuns verwoben tief und wunderbar: Erinnerungen an Deutschland* (which was also donated by Margaret West) and *Ein Frankfurter Rechtsanwalt wird Kaffeepflanzer im Urwald Brasiliens, Bericht eines Emigranten 1938-1975*.

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 2012

Biographical note / Administrative history

Max Maier (1891-1976) was a lawyer born in Frankfurt to businessman Hermann Heinrich Maier and Cäcilie Minna Scheyer. During World War I he served as a lieutenant in the German army, and in 1920 he married Mathilde (Titti) Wormser (1896-1997), who was born in Dinslaken to Leopold Wormser and Bertha Kahn. Mathilde had earned a Masters degree in Chemistry. Max's brother Hans Maier (1889-1937) was a lawyer and prominent figure in social reform and welfare in Weimar Germany. He married Anna Margarete Grätz in 1914, and the couple had three children: Hanna (1915-2003), Heinrich (Henry, 1918-2005), and Margarete (1921-1997). When Hans Maier committed suicide a few months after his wife's death in 1937, Max Maier became their children's legal guardian. In November 1938, Max and Mathilde Maier emigrated with Margarete Maier to Rolândia, Brazil where they had purchased some land in 1936, became farmers, and obtained Brazilian citizenship in 1951 and 1953. Mathilde Maier's mother, Bertha Wormser, died in Theresienstadt in 1942.

Scope and content of collection

The Max and Mathilde Maier family papers measure 1.5 linear feet, date from 1866-1998, and include biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, printed materials, and writings documenting Max Maier's World War I military service and the couple's education, marriage, and emigration to Rolândia, Brazil. The papers also include a copy of an autobiography by Hans Maier and a copy of Gertrud Mainzer's description of her time in Bergen-Belsen.

Biographical materials include records documenting the lives of Max and Mathilde Maier as well as Cäcilie, Hans, Heinrich, Hermann, and Margarete Maier, Holocaust survivor Gertrud Mainzer, and family friend Herman E. Simon. Records include birth certificates, student records, military papers, *Stammbücher*, passports, immunization records, emigration and guardianship papers, immigration and naturalization records, death notices, and funeral speeches. Additional records include certificates documenting Max Maier's military decoration for bravery and Cäcilie Maier's award of the War Merit Cross for Help, biographies of Hans Maier, Gertrud Mainzer's description of her time in hiding in Amsterdam and internment at Westerbork and Bergen-Belsen, and a booklet documenting a memorial tribute to Hermann E. Simon.

Correspondence files include some of Max and Mathilde Maier's correspondence in Germany and in Brazil and a copy of Hans Maier's final letter to his children. German correspondence includes letters Mathilde wrote to a friend named Hedwig during high school, a letter to Max from his mother, letters

from Max to Mathilde, and letters to Max and Mathilde from friends. These letters describe life in Germany and Max and Mathilde's emigration plans. Brazilian letters include correspondence with the Maiers, Hermann E. Simon, and Margaret West about the Maiers' purchase of land in Brazil, Max's membership in the Frankfurt Bar Association, Hans Maier, Felix Rothschild, Mathilde's writings, and the care of Max and Mathilde's parents' gravestones. Hans Maier's final letter to his children includes his autobiography.

Photographic materials include a small photograph album containing pictures of Frankfurt am Main and loose photographs depicting Max and Mathilde Maier as well as Henry and Margarete Maier, Hanna Maier Barrows, Peter and Ruth Baer, the Maiers' homes in Frankfurt and Brazil, Max Maier's military service in World War I, and two watercolor paintings.

Printed materials include a 1930s brochure describing the Brazilian lands of the Companhia de Terras Norte do Parana, a 1977 lecture by George L. Mosse, a photocopy of an advertisement for Mathilde Maier's *Die Geschichten des Wunderrabbi von Michelstadt*, photocopies of pages from a history of Frankfurt Jews, a photocopy of pamphlet from the Jüdisches Museum in Frankfurt, and newspaper clippings about Max and Mathilde Maier and German immigration to Rolândia.

Writings include Mathilde Maier's dissertation, Max Maier's essays about German immigration to Brazil, and Margaret West's article about child welfare workers in the Third Reich.

System of arrangement

The Max and Mathilde Maier family papers are arranged as five series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1866-1991
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1910-1997
- Series 3: Photographic materials, approximately 1903-1997
- Series 4: Printed materials, approximately 1930-1998
- Series 5: Writings, 1921, 1948, 1993

Indexing terms

Bergen-Belsen (Concentration camp)

Jews – Germany – History – 1933-1945.

Jewish refugees – Brazil – Rolândia.

Jews, German – Brazil – Rolândia.

World War (1914-1918)

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

Germany – History – 1933-1945.

Frankfurt am Main (Germany)

Rolândia (Brazil)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1866-1991

Box	Folder	
1	1	Cäcilie Maier, 1918-1921
1	2	Hans Maier, 1937, 1964-1967
1	3	Heinrich Maier, 1866 (see Oversize Folder 1)
1	4	Hermann Maier, 1888, 1926
1	5	Margarete Maier, 1938 (see also Oversize Folder 2)
1	6-8	Mathilde Maier, 1905-1915, 1925, 1938-1939, 1945-1953, 1986, 1991 (3 folders) (see also Oversize Folder 3)
1	9-16	Max Maier, 1911-1913, 1918-1922, 1927, 1933-1951, 1972-1980 (8 folders) (see also Oversize Folder 4)
1	17	Gertrud Mainzer, 1959
1	18	Herman E. Simon, 1991

Series 2: Correspondence, 1910-1997

Box	Folder	
1	19	Mathilde Wormser to Hedwig, 1910-1915
1	20	Cäcilie Maier to Max Maier, 1911
1	21	Max Maier to Mathilde Maier, 1919-1924
1	22	Max Maier and Mathilde Maier, approximately 1919-1942
1	23-30	Hans Maier's Final Letter to his Children, 1937 (8 folders)
2	1	Mathilde Maier, 1981-1986, 1992-1997
2	2	Max Maier, 1949-1950, 1964, 1976
2	3	Hermann E. Simon, 1983, 1989
2	4	Margaret West, 1994

Series 3: Photographic materials, approximately 1903-1997

Box	Folder	
2	5	Brazil, approximately 1966-1997
2	6	Frankfurt am Main Photograph Album, circa 1930s (see small box)
2	7	Hanna Maier Barrows, Henry Maier, and Margarete Maier, 1970
2	8	Hans Maier, 1937, approximately 1998
2	9	House in Frankfurt, approximately 1930s
2	10	Löwenbräukeller Souvenir, approximately 1910s
2	11	Max and Mathilde Maier, approximately 1903-1997
2	12	Max Maier with Lotte, 1919
2	13	Peter and Ruth Baer, 1980s
2	14	Watercolors, 1986
2	15-18	World War I, approximately 1915-1918 (4 folders)

Series 4: Printed materials, approximately 1930-1998

Box	Folder	
2	19-20	Advertisements and brochures, 1930s, 1977, approximately 1998 (2 folders)
2	21	Clippings, approximately 1948-1991 (see also Oversize Folder 5)

Series 5: Writings, 1921, 1948, 1993

Box	Folder	
2	22	Dissertation by Mathilde Maier, 1921
2	23	Essays about German Immigration to Brazil, by Max Maier, 1948
2	24	"Der Verlust an Fachkräften für Jugendwohlfahrt im Dritten Reich," by Margaret West, 1993

Oversize

Box	Folder	
3	1	Heinrich Maier, 1866
3	2	Margarete Maier, 1938 (see also Box 1, Folder 5)
3	3	Mathilde Maier, 1912-1913, 1925, 1938 (see also Box 1, Folders 6-8)
3	4	Max Maier, 1922, 1938, 1964 (see also Box 1, Folders 9-16)
3	5	Clippings, 1988, 1991 (see also Box 2, Folder 21)