

**BLOCH FAMILY PAPERS, 1895-1996**  
**1998.A.0160**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Bloch Family Papers

Dates: 1895-1996

Accession number: 1998.A.0160

Creator: Bloch family

Extent: 3.0 linear feet (6 document boxes)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Abstract: The Bloch family papers document the efforts of Norbert and Gretel Bloch and Käthe Bremer to receive restitution from the German government and from insurance companies for losses and damages suffered under the Third Reich. The collection includes biographical materials, records dating from the Third Reich that document the Bloch family's persecution, and materials dating from later decades that document the family's efforts to receive restitution through the process of *Wiedergutmachung*. Biographical materials include family trees; birth, marriage, and death certificates; identity and travel papers; and school and vaccination records for Norbert and Gretel Bloch, Käthe Bremer, Max and Hildegard Chodowski, and Amalie and Gertrude Sichel. Documents dating from the Third Reich include business records, banking and investment records, insurance records, tax records, and records documenting the liquidation of the Bloch & Bremer department store. Records from later decades include correspondence with various courts and legal advisors and supporting documentation.

Languages: German, English, 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), Bloch Family Papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Bloch family papers were donated in 1998 by Sanford Shore, executor of the estate of Norbert and Gretel Bloch.

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, 2012

### **Biographical note**

Norbert Bloch, born August 29, 1896, was part owner of the Seesen, Germany department store Bloch & Bremer, established by Bloch's father, Josef Bloch, and uncle, Max Bremer, in 1898. Norbert Bloch's mother Ida Bloch, his aunt Frieda Bremer, and his cousin Käthe Bremer (later Levy, then Aumann) were also part owners. The store was burned down during the night of November 9-10, 1938 (*Kristallnacht*), and the business was subsequently liquidated by the German government. Bloch married Gretchen Bella (Gretel) Bloch in February 1939, and the couple immigrated to the United States in November 1939. Bloch's mother died at Theresienstadt in 1944, and his mother-in-law, Lina Bloch, and his aunt, Frieda Bremer, were also both deported and are assumed to have died in concentration camps. Norbert Bloch became a naturalized US citizen in February 1945. He died in Cleveland in 1977.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The papers of the Bloch family measure 3.0 linear feet and date from 1895-1996. The collection includes biographical information as well as records documenting claims made by Norbert and Gretel Bloch and Käthe Bremer to receive restitution for losses and damages suffered under the Third Reich.

Biographical materials include family trees; birth, marriage, and death certificates; passports and identity cards; travel papers; naturalization papers; school records; and vaccination records for Norbert and Gretel Bloch and Käthe Bremer as well as for Max and Hildegard Chodowski and Amalie and Gertrude Sichel.

Claims include the burning and looting of the family's department store, Bloch & Bremer, during *Kristallnacht* and its subsequent forced liquidation at sub-market prices; monies paid under the punitive Jewish Property Tax (*Judenvermögensabgabe*) and the Capital Flight Tax (*Reichsfluchtsteuer*), and through the selective application of economic organs such as the Foreign Exchange (*Devisenstelle*) and the German Gold Discount Bank; confiscation and theft of property by the Gestapo, including a packed shipping container ("lift") Bloch had sent to Italy; the loss of bank account holdings, the contents of a safety deposit box, an automobile, and securities; unpaid insurance policies and mortgages; and physical and mental suffering from Gestapo questioning, a nervous breakdown following *Kristallnacht*, and the aggravation of Bloch's diabetes. The records also document the family's efforts to track the fates of Ida Bloch, Lina Bloch, and Frieda Bremer. Records dating from the Third Reich include business records, banking and investment records, insurance records, tax records, receipts, and correspondence relating to the liquidation of the Bloch & Bremer department store. Documents from later decades include correspondence with courts, lawyers, and government bodies; legal decisions; forms; and occasional newspaper clippings.

### **System of arrangement**

The Bloch family papers are arranged as two series:

- Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1895-1899, 1908-1926, 1939, 1944-1948, 1953, 1961-1965, 1970, 1977, 1990, 1996
- Series 2: Claims, 1919-1977

The claims process involved several dozen inter-related, often simultaneous, cases over three decades. Claims materials are arranged by subject heading assigned by Norbert Bloch. These headings describe the major claims or government bodies associated with each folder, but the intellectual contents of each folder overlap as the matters to which they relate are intertwined.

### **Indexing terms**

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Reparations.

Jews – Germany History – 1933-1945.

Jews – Legal status, laws, etc. – Germany.

Jewish property – Germany.

Kristallnacht, 1938.

Holocaust survivors.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

**Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1895-1899, 1908-1926, 1939, 1944-1948, 1953, 1961-1965, 1970, 1977, 1990, 1996 (Box 1; 4 folders)**

Box	Folder	Title
1	1-2	<a href="#">Bloch, Norbert and Gretel, 1908, 1915, 1920-1922, 1939, 1945, 1961-1965, 1977, 1990 (2 folders)</a>
1	3	<a href="#">Bremer, Käthe, 1945</a>
1	4-5	<a href="#">Chodowski, Max and Hildegard, 1895-1899, 1911-1917, 1926, 1947, 1953, 1970, 1996 (2 folders)</a>
1	6	<a href="#">Sichel, Amalie and Gertrude, 1944-1948</a>

**Series 2: Claims, 1919-1977 (Box 1-Box 6)**

Box	Folder	Title
1	7-9	<a href="#">Abwickler der Firma Bloch &amp; Bremer, Rechtsanwalt W. Gerlach, 1939 (3 folders)</a>
1	10	<a href="#">Assessor Szech, 1939</a>
1	11-15	<a href="#">Außenstände Bloch &amp; Bremer, 1931, 1938-1943, 1949-1961 (5 folders)</a>
1	16-20	<a href="#">Bloch &amp; Bremer, Bankguthaben, 1938-1961 (5 folders)</a>
1	21-24	<a href="#">Bloch &amp; Bremer, Hypotheken, 1939, 1948-1959, 1966 (4 folders)</a>
1	25-27	<a href="#">Bloch &amp; Bremer, Wertpapiere, 1938-1942, 1948-1952, 1957-1961 (3 folders)</a>
2	1-2	<a href="#">Braunschweigische Landesbrandversicherungsanstalt, 1921, 1927-1939, 1946-1953 (2 folders)</a>

2	3-4	<a href="#">Bürgermeister Schmieheim [Lina Bloch], 1948-1952 (2 folders)</a>
2	5-7	<a href="#">Eingehende Briefe, 1933, 1938-1939 (3 folders)</a>
2	8-11	<a href="#">Feststellungsbescheide im Rückerstattungsverfahren Oberfinanzdirektion Hannover, 1953-1965 (4 folders)</a>
2	12	<a href="#">Frieda Bremer, Reichsfluchtsteuer, 1940-1942, 1951</a>
2	13-14	<a href="#">Frieda Bremer, Finanzamt Arnstadt, 1939-1943, 1951 (2 folders)</a>
2	15	<a href="#">Frieda Bremer und Käthe Bremer, Rückerstattung Umzugsgut, Grabsteinschaden, 1939, 1958-1961</a>
2	16	<a href="#">Gretel Bloch, Landesamt Freiburg, 1956-1960</a>
2	17-20	<a href="#">Grundstücks Akte, 1931, 1938-1940, 1949-1951 (4 folders)</a>
2	21-22	<a href="#">Hausakte, 1938-1940, 1951 (2 folders)</a>
2	23	<a href="#">Hypothek Reinecke, Wg. A. 152/52, Wg. K. 212/52, 1951-1953</a>
3	1-2	<a href="#">Ida Bloch, Erbe, Wg. A. 804/50, Wg. K. 127/51, 1950-1952 (2 folders)</a>
3	3-5	<a href="#">Ida Bloch, Judenabgaben &amp; Reichsfluchtsteuer, 1939-1943, 1951-1958 (3 folders)</a>
3	6-7	<a href="#">Ida Bloch, Wertpapiere, 1938-1942, 1948-1959 (2 folders)</a>
3	8	<a href="#">Julius Kielstein, Steuerinspektor, 1938, 1949-1955</a>
3	9	<a href="#">Käthe Bremer, Judenabgabe, 1939-1941, 1955</a>
3	10-11	<a href="#">Käthe Bremer, Wg. A. 806/50, 1932-1933, 1939-1943, 1951-1952 (2 folders)</a>
3	12-13	<a href="#">Kreisverwaltung Gandersheim, 1928-1939 (2 folders)</a>
3	14-18	<a href="#">Künstler, Wg. A. 802/50, Wg. K. 54/51, 1938-1939, 1950-1956 (5 folders)</a>
3	19-22	<a href="#">Landgericht Braunschweig, 1951-1959, 1966-1967 (4 folders)</a>
3	23-26	<a href="#">Landgericht Hannover, 1958, 1965-1969 (4 folders)</a>
4	1-3	<a href="#">Norbert Bloch, Berufsverlust, 1919-1920, 1934, 1939-1941, 1950, 1955-1961 (3 folders)</a>
4	4-14	<a href="#">Norbert Bloch, Lift, 1933, 1939-1962 (11 folders)</a>
4	15	<a href="#">Oberfinanzdirektion, 1951-1957</a>
4	16-21	<a href="#">Oberfinanzdirektion Hannover, Fragebogen, 1951-1953, 1958-1959, 1970-1971 (6 folders)</a>
4	22	<a href="#">Regierungsreferendar Wagener, 1939</a>
4	23-25	<a href="#">Reichsunfallversicherung und Genossenschaft für Einzelhandel, 1919, 1924-1939 (3 folders)</a>
5	1-4	<a href="#">Rückerstattung Bloch &amp; Bremer, Band III, 1948-1952 (4 folders)</a>
5	5-10	<a href="#">Rückerstattung, Oberfinanzdirektion Hannover, Verwaltungsamt Stadthagen, 1939-1940, 1949-1966 (6 folders)</a>
5	11-13	<a href="#">Schaden an Körper oder Gesundheit, 1972-1977 (3 folders)</a>
5	14-15	<a href="#">Vermögensverlust/Diebstahl, 1934-1942, 1950, 1956-1957 (2 folders)</a>
5	16-20	<a href="#">Versicherungen, 1936-1939, 1950-1960 (5 folders)</a>
5	21-23	<a href="#">Versicherungen der Bloch &amp; Bremer Erben, Wg. A. 798/50, 1935-1939, 1948-1952 (3 folders)</a>
6	1-3	<a href="#">Versicherungspolicen, 1935-1939, 1951-1952 (3 folders)</a>
6	4-8	<a href="#">Wg. A. 194/50 [Bloch &amp; Bremer General Claims], 1938-1943, 1950-1956 (5 folders)</a>
6	9	<a href="#">Wg. A. 155/52, Aufwertungshypothek Kraatz, 1950-1954</a>
6	10-11	<a href="#">Wiedergutmachungsamt Korrespondenz, 1950-1955 (2 folders)</a>