

RICHARD AND ERNESTINE BENES PAPERS, 1920-1942
1998.A.0162.2

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

Title: Richard and Ernestine Benes papers

Dates: 1920-1942

Accession number: 1998.A.0162.2

Creator: Benes, Richard, b. 1908

Additional creator: Benes, Ernestine, b. 1911

Extent: 0.2 linear feet (3 folders)

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

Abstract: The Richard and Ernestine Benes papers contain a diary, biographical material, and emigration and immigration documents relating to Richard and Ernestine Benes' attempts to emigrate from Austria to the United States. The diary was written by Richard from June 6 - July 4, 1941. In the diary Richard writes about fleeing from Austria to Spain through Prague, Berlin, and Paris as well as their time aboard the ship and arriving in New York City.

Languages: German, English, Spanish

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), Richard and Ernestine Benes papers (1998.A.0162.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Louis Rene Beres, the nephew of Richard and Ernestine Benes, donated the Richard and Ernestine Benes papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1998 and 1999. The accessions previously numbered 1998.A.0162 and 1999.A.0236 been incorporated into this collection.

Related material: The museum also hold a collection relating to Dr. Louis Rene Beres' parents (2007.450.1). The museum's Library hold the following publication relating to the Benes and Beres families; *Genocide, state and self*, by Louis René Beres (HV6322.7 .B47 1989), *Genocide, death and anxiety, a jurisprudential*, by Louis Rene Beres (HV6322.7 .B473 1996), *International law, personhood and the prevention of genocide*, by Louis René Beres (HV6322.7 .B472 1989), and *Genocide and human rights*, by Mark Lattimer (HV6322.7 .G4525 2007).

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

Processing history: Morgan Voth, July 2019

Biographical note

Richard Benes (b. 1908 in Vienna, Austria) married Ernestine Silberman (b. 1911 in Vienna, Austria) in 1938 and they lived in Vienna, Austria. Prior to getting married Richard attempted to obtain visas to the United States, but was unsuccessful. Shortly after they were married, they attempted to flee to Switzerland, but were denied. He continued his attempts to obtain visas and in 1940 he was successful. They fled from Austria to Spain through Prague, Berlin, and Paris and in June 1941 they left from Barcelona, Spain aboard the *Villa de Madrid* for the United States.

Sigismund and Margaret Beres, relatives of Richard and Ernestine, were Austrian Jewish citizens who fled Nazi occupied Austria in 1938 for Switzerland. They spent two years in the Lugano labor camp before leaving for Zurich where they spent the remainder of the war. Their son, Louis Rene Beres, was born in Austria in 1945. The family immigrated to the United States in 1947.

Scope and content of collection

The Richard and Ernestine Benes papers contain a diary, biographical material, and emigration and immigration documents relating to Richard and Ernestine Benes' attempts to emigrate from Austria to the United States. The diary was written by Richard from June 6 - July 4, 1941. In the diary Richard writes about fleeing from Austria to Spain through Prague, Berlin, and Paris as well as their time aboard the ship and arriving in New York City.

Biographical material includes birth and baptism certificates, a marriage certificate, proof of citizenship, identification cards, passports (Reisepass) for Richard and Ernestine, military documents for Richard, and documentation indicating that Richard will now have the middle name Israel and Ernestine will now have the middle name Sara. Also included is a birth certificate for Anna Müller.

Emigration and immigration material includes vaccination cards, confirmation of Richard and Ernestine's placement on the waiting list, permission to immigrate, affidavits from a family friend in New Jersey, documentation stating that Richard does not owe any taxes and does not have a police record,

correspondence and receipts from the United States Consulate, and an envelope from Richard and Ernestine's travels aboard the *Villa de Madrid*.

System of arrangement

The Richard and Ernestine Benes papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Person:

Beres, Richard.
Beres, Ernestine.

Topical Subject:

Jews-- Austria-- Vienna.
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives.

Geography:

Vienna (Austria)
United States--Emigration and immigration--History--1933-1945.

Genre/Form:

Diaries.
Correspondence.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Richard and Ernestine Benes papers, 1920-1942

Folder	Title
1 of 3	Biographical material, 1929-1941
2 of 3	Diary, 1941
3 of 3	Emigration and immigration, 1920-1942