

FRIEDLER FAMILY PAPERS, 1918-1993
1999.47.3

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Friedler family papers

Dates: 1918-1993

Accession number: 1999.47.3

Creator: Friedler, Moritz, 1918-2000

Additional creator: Friedler, Trude, 1927-2004

Extent: 2.1 linear feet (2 boxes, 2 oversize boxes, 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The Friedler family papers include JDC and HIAS records, biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, writings, and drawings documenting Moritz and Trude Friedler, his parents' deaths during the Holocaust, her mother's survival, both families' efforts to escape Austria before the war, Moritz Friedlers' work for the JDC and HIAS after the war, and their immigration to the United States.

Languages: English, German

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: Friedler family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives,
Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Friedler family papers consists of four donations made in 1999, 2000, 2008, and 2014, to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Gertrude Marx Friedler in 1999 and 2000 and by her daughter Hannah Friedler in 2008 and 2014. Accessions formerly cataloged as 2000.440.1, 2009.20.1, 2014.375.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

Related archival material: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds an oral history interview conducted with Moritz Friedler on August 25, 1988 (1990.338.87). An oral history interview conducted with Trude Friedler on October 7, 1997 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum. The Museum's library also holds a copy of *Strangers at Home and Abroad: Recollections of Austrian Jews who Escaped Hitler*, edited by Adi Wimmer and translated by Ewald Osers, which includes Trude Friedler's story.

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

Processing history: Michael Folkerts, April 2015, revised Julie Schweitzer, June 2016

Biographical note

Moritz Wolfgang Friedler (1918-2000) was born in Vienna to Mendel and Chane Friedler. He was a member of Religious Zionist youth groups and worked on agricultural farms in preparation for eventual emigration to Israel. He was beaten during Kristallnacht and escaped with his cousin to England, where he worked for the Jewish Agricultural Training School in Abergelle, North Wales. His father was deported to Vyhne, Slovakia, and his mother to Maly Trostinec, and both were killed. Moritz returned to Austria after the war to discover what happened to his parents, and he assisted displaced persons as part of the British Jewish Relief Unit before joining the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and becoming the Director for JDC in Upper Austria in charge of Displaced Persons Camps in Linz and Salzburg. In 1951 he married fellow JDC employee Gertrude Marx in Linz. In 1955 the couple moved to Brazil, where Moritz worked for the local HIAS director, and the couple immigrated to the United States in 1958.

Trude Friedler (1927-2004) was born Gertrude Marx in Vienna to Wilhelm and Regina Marx. Her parents separated, her mother performed as a chorus girl in traveling shows, and Trude lived in Jewish children's homes from 1934 to about 1941. When the children's homes were closed by the Nazis, she rejoined her mother in the second district of Vienna, to which Jews had been encouraged to relocate. Trude was sent to Germany to perform forced agricultural labor for two months in the spring of 1941, and when she was returned to Vienna, she and her mother performed forced labor for the Georg Schicht works and the Wiener Holzwerke. They were briefly arrested by the SS in early 1942, but a family friend helped obtain their release. In June 1942, a member of the Jewish police warned them that they were again scheduled for arrest, so Trude and Regina went into hiding. They never had false papers and relied on friends and bribes. They spent part of their time on a ship of the Danube Shipping Company, the *Stadt Wien*. They were aboard that ship, anchored near Linz, at the end of the war when they were liberated by American troops. Trude and Regina Marx, were the only survivors of their large extended family.

Scope and content of collection

The Friedler family papers include JDC and HIAS records, biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, writings, and drawings documenting Moritz and Trude Friedler, his parents' deaths during the Holocaust, her mother's survival, both families' efforts to escape Austria before the war, Moritz Friedlers' work for the JDC and HIAS after the war, and their immigration to the United States.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society materials consist of correspondence, name lists, and reports documenting Moritz Friedler's postwar work for the JDC in Austria, highlighting his many responsibilities and including statistics and camp activities. This series also includes reports documenting his 1950's work for HIAS in Brazil.

Biographical materials include birth certificates, police registration cards, proofs of employment, passports, and visa applications documenting Trude and Moritz Friedler, her mother, Regina Marx, and her grandfather, Max Kohn. This series also includes an anti-Semitic note left at Regina Marx's door around 1938.

The correspondence series includes letters from Moritz's parents, Chane and Mendel Friedler, while Moritz's mother was in Vienna, Moritz's father had been deported to Vyhne, and Moritz had escaped to England. The letters document Moritz's mother's desperate efforts to escape Austria. Additional correspondence between the Austrian government and Moritz documents Moritz's postwar efforts to collect reparations for property his family owned, and correspondence with Simon Wiesenthal documents the Friedlers' lifelong friendship with him.

Photographs depict Trude Friedler and her mother as well as a cemetery in Ebensee, the Hallein Displaced Persons Camp, a Hanukkah children's play in a DP camp, the work of the JDC in Austria, and the desecration of synagogues in Vienna after Kristallnacht.

Writings and drawings include Trude Friedler's translation of the novel *I To You*, a copy of the original novel in German, fashion design drawings by Trude Friedler, and a notebook of poetry called *Wien Wortlich* by Josef Weinheber transcribed by Trude Freidler.

System of arrangement

The Friedler family papers are arranged as five series:

- Series 1: American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society materials, 1948-1957
- Series 2: Biographical materials, 1919-1962
- Series 3: Correspondence, 1938-1993
- Series 4: Photographic materials, 1918-1953
- Series 5: Writings and drawings, 1935-1940s

Indexing terms

Friedler, Moritz, 1918-2000
Friedler, Gertrude Marx, 1927-2004
Friedler, Chane
Friedler, Mendel

Marx, Regina Kohn
Kalman, Charles
Mermelstein, Frieda

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
HIAS (Agency)
Mizrachi Federation of Austria
Jewish Agency for Palestine
Ebensee (Concentration camp)
Hallein (Displaced persons camp)

Jewish refugees--Austria.
Refugees--Austria.
Refugee camps--Austria.
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees--Jews--Austria

Linz (Austria)
Salzburg (Austria)
Vienna (Austria)

Photographs.
Drawings.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society materials, 1948-1957

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	JDC correspondence, 1953
1.2	JDC name lists, 1953-1954
1.3	JDC reports, 1948-1954
1.4-1.7	HIAS reports, Brazil, 1955-1957 (4 folders)

Series 2: Biographical materials, 1919-1962

Box/Folder	Title
1.8	Friedler, Gertrude Marx, 1939-1945
1.9	Friedler, Moritz, 1938-1958
1.10	Kohn, Max, 1946
1.11	Marx, Regina, 1919-1962
1.12	Anti-Semitic note left at Regina Marx's door, approximately 1938

Series 3: Correspondence, 1938-1993

Box/Folder	Title
1.13	Friedler, Chane, 1939-1940
1.14	Friedler, Mendel, 1940
1.15	Friedler, Mendel and Chane, declaration of death, 1954-1959
1.16	Kalman, Charles, 1954
1.17	Mermelstein, Frieda, 1938
1.18	New York relative, 1940
1.19	Property reparations, 1940-1947
1.20	Wiesenthal, Simon, 1961-1993

Series 4: Photographic material, 1918-1953

Box/Folder	Title
1.21, 2.1	Ebensee cemetery, 1949
1.22	Hallein Displaced Persons Camp, 1953
1.23	Hanukkah children's play in unidentified DP camp, 1951
1.24	JDC photographs of refugees arriving at sanatoriums in Scandinavia, approximately 1953
2.2	JDC Austria scrapbook, approximately 1953
3.1	JDC Works projects, approximately 1951 [album 1]
3.2	JDC Works projects, approximately 1951 [album 2]
4.1	Linz work camp, 1951
4.2	Marx, Regina and Trude, 1918-1952
4.3	Salzburg, Austria, approximately 1951
4.4	Miscellaneous, approximately 1951
2.3	Synagogue desecration in Vienna after Kristallnacht, 1946

Series 5: Writings and drawings, 1935-1940s

Box/Folder	Title
4.5	Trude Friedler's translation of the novel <i>I To You</i> , approximately 1942
4.6	Novel <i>Ich an Dich</i> by Dinah Nelken, 1939
4.7, OS 1	Fashion design drawings by Trude Friedler, approximately 1940s
4.8	<i>Wien Wortlich</i> by Josef Weinheber, 1935