

WERNER AND TRUDY COPPEL PAPERS, 1945-1949
1999.9

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

Title: Werner and Trudy Coppel papers

Dates: 1945-1949

Accession number: 1999.9

Creator: Werner and Trudy Coppel

Extent: 0.3 linear foot (3 folders)

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

Abstract: The Werner and Trudy Coppel papers include correspondence, identification papers, and printed materials documenting the couple's status in Berlin after the war as displaced persons and victims of fascism and their immigration to the United States.

Languages: German, English, Hebrew, 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), Werner and Trudy Coppel papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Werner and Trudy Coppel donated the Werner and Trudy Coppel papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1999.

Related archival materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds two oral history interviews with Werner Coppel, one conducted in March 1981 for a joint project with the National Council of Jewish Women, Cincinnati Section and the American Jewish Archives of the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, cataloged under accession number 1990.339.9, and a second one conducted in May 1991 by Lilly Kurtz of the Jewish Holocaust Survivors, Cincinnati Chapter, cataloged under accession number 1993.A.0093.19. A third oral history interview with Werner Coppel, conducted in December 1995, which forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive, can be accessed onsite at the Museum. An oral history interview with Trudy Coppel, also conducted in December 1995 and part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive, can be accessed onsite at the Museum. A digital image of Werner Coppel's mug shot from Auschwitz can be found on the Museum's website, cataloged as number 73784.

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, December 2012

Biographical note

Werner Coppel (1925-) was born in Moers, Germany, to Karl and Gudula Coppel. He was sent to the labor camp at Neuendorf in 1941 and then in 1943 to Auschwitz where he worked in a munitions factory. He escaped during a death march to Germany in January 1945 and found his way to an apartment house in Gleiwitz where Jews had been protected during the war by their non-Jewish spouses or parents. There he met his future wife Trudy (1921-), who was born Traute Silbermann to Jakob and Elizabeth Silbermann in Gleiwitz. Elizabeth Silbermann had been a convert to Judaism from Christianity and was classified as an Aryan by the German government. Werner and Trudy went to Berlin in August 1945 and were married in 1946. He worked at the displaced persons camp in the French sector of Berlin in Wittenau, helping Jewish refugees from eastern Europe reach Schlachtensee in the American sector. The couple had their first child in 1948 and immigrated to America in August 1949, joining Trudy's family in Cincinnati. Werner Coppel's parents and brother Günther were deported in December 1941 and killed in Riga.

Scope and content of collection

The Werner and Trudy Coppel papers include correspondence, identification papers, and printed materials documenting the couple's status in Berlin after the war as displaced persons and victims of fascism and their immigration to the United States.

Correspondence includes a letter and five telegrams to the Coppels from the American Consulate in Berlin about their immigration and two letters of appreciation for Werner Coppel from the American Joint Distribution Committee and from the captain of the troop transport ship *General J.H. McRae*.

Identification papers include identity cards issued to the Coppels by the Main Committee of the Victims of Fascism and by the French High Command in Germany, displaced persons index cards issued by the Allied Expeditionary Forces, and a United States Consulate immigration form showing Werner Coppel's quota and registration number.

Printed materials include a March 8, 1946 copy of *Der Kurier* containing an article about the Coppels' wedding, described as the first Jewish wedding in Berlin after the war, and a copy of a 1946 newsletter published in the Schlachtensee displaced persons camp in Berlin and describing the Wittenau displaced persons camp.

System of arrangement

The Werner and Trudy Coppel papers are arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: Trudy and Werner Coppel papers, 1945-1949

Indexing terms

Jews – Germany – History – 1933-1945.

Jewish refugees – Germany – Berlin.

Refugee camps – Germany – Berlin.

Jewish refugees – United States.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

Berlin (Germany)

Gliwice (Poland)

Moers (Germany)

Schlachtensee (Berlin, Germany)

Wittenau (Berlin, Germany)

United States – Emigration and immigration – Government policy – 20th century.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Werner and Trudy Coppel papers, 1945-1949

Box	Folder	
1	1	Correspondence, 1948-1949
1	2	Identification papers, 1945-1948
1	3	Printed materials, 1946