

**ROLF PREUSS PAPERS, 1939-1999 (bulk 1939-1947)
1999.A.0076**

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

Title: Rolf Preuss papers

Dates: 1939-1999 (bulk 1939-1947)

Accession number: 1999.A.0076

Creator: Preuss, Rolf

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (7 folders)

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

Abstract: The Rolf Preuss papers include biographical materials, genealogical materials, notes, and business cards documenting Preuss's childhood as a Jewish refugee in Shanghai from 1939-1947. Biographical materials include rental agreements, business contracts, a vaccination record, identity papers in lieu of passports, a receipt for the payment of a tax related to American immigration, and student records. Inquiries from the Committee for the Assistance of European Jewish Refugees in Shanghai document the efforts of Adolf and Frieda Preuss's family members to escape Germany for Shanghai. Genealogical materials include family trees and a photocopy of Adolf Preuss's birth certificate. Rolf Preuss's memoirs describe his memories of his childhood in Shanghai. Notes include Chinese vocabulary translated from German, letters written on the back of a blank "Manifest of Removal into the Designated Area" form, and an address for the Oregon Émigré Committee. Business cards document bars, restaurants, and nightclubs in Shanghai.

Languages: English, German, Chinese

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), Rolf Preuss papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Rolf Preuss donated the Rolf Preuss papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1999.

Related materials: An oral history interview with Rolf Preuss dated October 8, 1996, which form part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive, can be accessed onsite at the Museum. Rolf Preuss's memoir refers to Henry Haas and his mother Gerda Buchheim Haas whose photograph and memoir are among the Museum's collections.

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, January 2013

Biographical note

Rolf Preuss was born in 1936 in Berlin to furrier Adolf Preuss (1910-1963) and Frieda Luft Preuss (1910-1950). The family left Germany in 1939 for Shanghai, where they lived in the Hongkew district. His father worked as a musician, his mother as a barmaid in local bars and nightclubs, and he attended Jewish schools. He left Shanghai with his father in October 1947, landing in San Francisco, and settling in Portland. Adolf Preuss's brother Lothar died in Buchenwald in 1941 and his parents, Philipp and Margarete, as well as two other brothers, Gert and Martin, were deported to Riga in 1942 and did not survive. Frieda Preuss's brother, Wilhelm Luft, died at Auschwitz, and her father and stepmother, Bernhard and Bertha Luft, also perished during the Holocaust.

Scope and content of collection

The Rolf Preuss papers include biographical materials, genealogical materials, notes, and business cards documenting Preuss's childhood as a Jewish refugee in Shanghai from 1939-1947. Biographical materials include rental agreements, business contracts, a vaccination record, identity papers in lieu of passports, a receipt for the payment of a tax related to American immigration, and student records. Inquiries from the Committee for the Assistance of European Jewish Refugees in Shanghai document the efforts of Adolf and Frieda Preuss's family members to escape Germany for Shanghai. Genealogical materials include family trees and a photocopy of Adolf Preuss's birth certificate. Rolf Preuss's memoirs describe his memories of his childhood in Shanghai. Notes include Chinese vocabulary translated from German, letters written on the back of a blank "Manifest of Removal into the Designated Area" form, and an address for the Oregon Émigré Committee. Business cards document bars, restaurants, and nightclubs in Shanghai.

System of arrangement

The Rolf Preuss papers are arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: Rolf Preuss papers, 1939-1999 (bulk 1939-1947)

Indexing terms

Jewish refugees – Germany – Berlin.

Jewish refugees – China – Shanghai.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Personal narratives.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Children.

Holocaust survivors.

Jewish musicians – China – Shanghai.

Jewish day schools – China – Shanghai.

Hongkou Qu (Shanghai, China)

Shanghai (China)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Rolf Preuss papers, 1939-1999 (bulk 1939-1947)

Box	Folder	
1	1	Biographical Materials about Adolf Preuss, 1939-1947
1	2	Biographical Materials about Rolf Preuss, 1942-1947
1	3	Committee for the Assistance of European Jewish Refugees in Shanghai, 1940
1	4	Genealogy, approximately 1999
1	5	Memoir, "Growing Up in Shanghai, 1939-1947," approximately 1999
1	6	Notes, approximately 1939-1947
1	7	Shanghai Business Cards, approximately 1939-1947