

ARNOLD JOSEPH COLLECTION, 1939-1946 (bulk 1946)
1999.A.0234

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Arnold Joseph collection

Dates: 1939-1946 (bulk 1946)

Accession number: 1999.A.0234

Creator: Joseph, Arnold, 1927-

Extent: 1.0 linear foot (2 boxes)

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

Abstract: The Arnold Joseph collection consists of correspondence to defendants at the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal, which Joseph acquired during his military service as a censor. Incoming correspondence from the general public includes a mixture of praise and good wishes for the defendants as well as insults and invectives. In addition to letters to defendants, there are two letters to Hans Bernd Gisevius, who served as a witness for the prosecution, and a postcard to Pastor Martin Niemöller.

Languages: German, English

Administrative Information

Access: Series I is open for use, but is stored offsite. Series II and III are access restricted during the donor's lifetime. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Series I is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Arnold Joseph collection, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Arnold Joseph donated the Arnold Joseph collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1999.

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

Related materials: An oral history interview conducted with Arnold Joseph on March 22, 1996 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, September 2014

Biographical note

Arnold Joseph was born in 1927 in Saarbrücken, Germany, to Ferdinand and Elsa Joseph. He immigrated to the United States in 1938 with his mother, stepfather Sydney Hanau, and brother Gary (Gert) and lived in the Bronx. He was drafted into the United States Army in the summer of 1945, assigned as technical sergeant to security at the International Military Tribunal, and served in Nuremberg from January to October 1946. His task was censoring letters exchanged between the defendants and their family members and letters to the defendants from the general public. The head of his unit was Colonel Andrews, and his direct supervisor was Lieutenant Tex Wheelis.

Scope and content of collection

The Arnold Joseph collection consists of correspondence to and from defendants at the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal, which Joseph acquired during his military service as a censor. Incoming correspondence from the general public comes from the so-called "201 file" of letters not to be delivered to the defendants so as not to upset them. It includes a mixture of praise and good wishes for the defendants as well as insults and invectives, and some correspondence includes prayers, poems, and songs. At least one letter is from a former German soldier, another is from a former political prisoner, one is signed "an unknown German," and another "the whole German people." In addition to letters to defendants, there are two letters to Hans Bernd Gisevius, who served as a witness for the prosecution, and a postcard to Pastor Martin Niemöller. Some of the envelopes bear Arnold Joseph's censor stamp: "Censored & Passed Arnold Joseph Censor IMT."

System of arrangement

The Arnold Joseph collection is arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Incoming correspondence from public, 1939-1946 (bulk 1946)
- Series 2: RESTRICTED, 1946
- Series 3: RESTRICTED, 1945-1946

Indexing terms

Nuremberg Trial of Major German War Criminals, Nuremberg, Germany, 1945-1946--Public opinion--Correspondence.

Nazis--Germany--Nuremberg--Correspondence.

Nuremberg (Germany)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Incoming correspondence from public, 1939-1946 (bulk 1946)

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Dönitz, Karl, 1946
1	2	Frank, Hans, 1946
1	3	Fritzsche, Hans, 1939-1940, 1946
1	4	Gisevius, Hans Bernd, 1946
1	5-8	Göring, Hermann, 1946 (4 folders)
1	9	Hess, Rudolf, 1945-1946
1	10	Papen, Franz von, 1946
1	11	Rosenberg, Alfred, 1946
1	12	Schacht, Hjalmar, 1946
1	13	Schirach, Baldur von, 1946
1	14	Speer, Albert, 1946
1	15	Streicher, Julius, 1946
1	16	Jodl, Alfred; Keitel, Wilhelm; Neurath, Konstantin von; Ribbentrop, Joachim von; and Seyss-Inquart, Arthur, 1946
1	17	Miscellaneous, 1946

Series 2: RESTRICTED, 1946

Box	Folder	Title
2	1	Restricted
2	2	Restricted
2	3	Restricted
2	4	Restricted

Series 3: RESTRICTED, 1945-1946

Box	Folder	Title
2	5	Restricted
2	6	Restricted
2	7	Restricted
2	8	Restricted
2	9	Restricted
2	10	Restricted
2	11	Restricted
2	12	Restricted
2	13	Restricted

2	14	Restricted
2	15	Restricted
2	16	Restricted
2	17	Restricted
2	18	Restricted
2	19	Restricted
2	20	Restricted
2	21	Restricted