

EUGEN AND GERTRUDE SCHWARZ FAMILY PAPERS, approximately 1915-1946 2000.278

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

Title: Eugen and Gertrude Schwarz family papers

Dates: approximately 1915-1946

Accession number: 2000.278

Creator: Eugen and Gertrude Schwarz family

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 Eugen and Gertrude Schwarz family papers include letters and telegrams from Gertrude's mother in Brünn (now Brno) and brother in Lvov (now L'viv) documenting their efforts to emigrate and scrapbook pages containing photographs of Eugen and Gertrude Schwarz and their family members in Czechoslovakia as well as French identification papers for the couple documenting their brief stay in Paris and their immigration to the United States.

Languages: German, English, 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), Eugen and Gertrude Schwarz family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Vera Frankel donated the Eugen and Gertrude Schwarz family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2000.

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

Eugen Schwarz (1904-1966) was born in Czechoslovakia to Albert and Helene Schwarz. He married Gertrude Singer Schwarz (1911-1998), and the couple had twin daughters, Vera and Daisy, in 1936. Eugen Schwarz was a banker and was transferred to Paris in 1938. From there the family immigrated to the United States via Lisbon in 1941. Gertrude Schwarz's mother, Hedwig Riesenfeld (1887-1942), was deported from Brünn to Theresienstadt in January 1942 and then two months later to Izbica where she was killed. Gertrude's brother, Heinrich Singer, fled Czechoslovakia with his wife and is believed to have been killed in Lvov. Eugen Schwarz's parents are believed to have been deported to concentration camps in Poland.

Scope and content of collection

The Eugen and Gertrude Schwarz family papers include letters and telegrams from Gertrude's mother in Brünn (now Brno) and brother in Lvov (now L'viv) documenting their efforts to emigrate and scrapbook pages containing photographs of Eugen and Gertrude Schwarz and their family members in Czechoslovakia as well as French identification papers for the couple documenting their brief stay in Paris and their immigration to the United States.

Most of the correspondence in the collection is written to Gertrude Schwarz and her family from Gertrude's mother, who describes the difficult sale of her home, her unsuccessful efforts to emigrate, her concern for her children and relatives, and news from family and friends. Some of these letters are accompanied by English translations provided by the donor. The collection also includes two telegrams from Gertrude's brother in Lvov with instructions about sending affidavits.

The collection also includes scrapbook pages containing photographs of Gertrude and Eugen Schwarz, their twin daughters, Eugen's parents, and Gertrude's mother and brother. The scrapbook pages also include a photograph of pages from Eugen's French identification card, a receipt for an application for a card for Gertrude, and a reproduction of a newspaper clipping describing the Schwarz family's arrival in New York Harbor in February 1941, including a photograph of Gertrude with the two young girls.

System of arrangement

The Eugen and Gertrude Schwarz family papers are arranged as two series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1941-1942
- Series 2: Scrapbook, approximately 1915-1946

Indexing terms

Jewish refugees – Czechoslovakia – Correspondence.

Jews – Czechoslovakia – History.

Jews – Legal status, laws, etc. – Czechoslovakia.

Jewish property – Czechoslovakia.
Jewish refugees – United States.

Brno (Czech Republic)

L'viv (Ukraine)

Czechoslovakia – Emigration and immigration – Government policy – 20th century.

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

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Correspondence, 1941-1942

Box	Folder	
1	1-4	Riesenfeld, Hedwig, 1941-1942 (4 folders)
1	5	Singer, Heinrich, 1941

Series 2: Scrapbook, approximately 1915-1946

Box	Folder	
1	6-7	Scrapbook, approximately 1915-1919, 1932-1946, (2 folders)