

ERWIN BENSDFORF PAPERS
approximately 1910s-1941 (bulk 1938-1941)
2000.497.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Erwin Bensdorf papers

Dates: approximately 1910s-1941 (bulk 1938-1941)

Accession number: 2000.497.1

Creator: Bensdorf, Erwin, 1928-2009.

Additional creator: Haybrook, Max.

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (6 folders, 1 oversize box)

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

Abstract: The Erwin Bensdorf papers consist of manuscripts and photographs documenting German and Austrian child refugees including Bensdorf who escaped to England on Kindertransports and benefited from appeals for aid such as former Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin's and from the assistance and friendship of English people such as Max Haybrook.

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: (Identification of item), Erwin Bensdorf papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Erwin Bensdorf donated the Erwin Bensdorf papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2000.

Custodial history: Max Haybrook gave the photograph album and manuscripts to Bensdorf before his death.

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

Related materials: Erwin Bensdorf also donated a pencil case (2000.497.2) to the Museum.

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, November 2014

Biographical note

Erwin Bensdorf (1928-2009) was born in Mannheim to Johanna (nee Ohnhaus, 1897-1986) and Paul Bensdorf (1891-1968). He was sent on a Kindertransport to the United Kingdom in July 1939. He lived at Barham House in Claydon (near Ipswich), at a boys' home in High Newcombe run by Protestant priest Mr. Bolton, at a boys' home on Linton Road in Oxford, and then in private dwellings. He was befriended by Max Haybrook, a school teacher and aid worker for German and Austrian child refugees. Bensdorf immigrated to the United States in January 1945 via Liverpool and Halifax. His parents had escaped from Mannheim to France, were interned at Gurs, escaped to Casablanca, and immigrated to the United States in 1942.

Scope and content of collection

The Erwin Bensdorf papers consist of manuscripts and photographs documenting German and Austrian child refugees including Bensdorf who escaped to England on Kindertransports and benefited from appeals for aid such as former Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin's and from the assistance and friendship of English people such as Max Haybrook.

The manuscripts were written by Max Haybrook and document his work with child refugees supported by the Lord Baldwin Fund. They describe the arrival of the refugee children in England, the conditions of their housing, and their pastimes. One includes handwritten messages of thanks from some of the children.

The photographs include a photo album compiled by Max Haybrook and portraits of Max Haybrook, Stanley Baldwin, and Bensdorf's mother's family. The photo album includes snapshots documenting Haybrook's work with Jewish refugee children at St. Felix School, Dovercourt, Westcliff, Barham House, Linton Road in Oxford, and Wallingford. The album includes at least one photograph of Erwin Bensdorf.

System of arrangement

The Erwin Bensdorf papers are arranged as two series:

- Series 1: Manuscripts, 1938-1941
- Series 2: Photographs, approximately 1910s-1941 (bulk 1938-1941)

Indexing terms

Baldwin, Stanley Baldwin, Earl, 1867-1947.

Jews--Germany--Mannheim.

Jewish refugees--England.

Kindertransports (Rescue operations)--England.

Jewish children in the Holocaust--England.

Ipswich (England)

Oxford (England)

Southwold (England)

Westcliff-on-Sea (Southend-on-Sea, England)

Dovercourt (England)

Wallingford (England)

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Manuscripts, 1938-1941

Box/Folder	Title
1 of 6	"They Came to England," approximately 1940
2 of 6	"With the German and Austrian Refugees," 1938-1941

Series 2: Photographs, approximately 1910s-1941 (bulk 1938-1941)

Box	Title
3 of 6	Haybrook, Max, approximately 1941
4 of 6	Ohnhaus family portrait, approximately 1910s
Box 1	Photo album, "Lowestoft -- and Later," 1938-1940
5 of 6	Photo album, "Lowestoft -- and Later," loose photographs, 1938-1940
6 of 6	Portrait of Stanley Baldwin, 1939