

CURT GUTSMUTH PAPERS, 1917-1959 and undated 2000.566.3

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

Title: Curt Gutmuth papers

Dates: 1917-1959 and undated

Accession number: 2000.566.3

Creator: Gutmuth, Curt, 1905-1985

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (4 folders and 4 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The Curt Gutmuth papers include biographical material, correspondence, a photograph, and printed material relating to Curt and Nelly Gutmuth and their family's experiences escaping Germany and hiding in the Netherlands during the war. This collection also includes biographical material, testimony, and printed material relating to other victims of Holocaust. Curt was a philatelist and some of the document relating to other victims were acquired by Curt while obtaining his collection.

Languages: German, Dutch, Hungarian, French, Spanish, English

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), Curt Gutmuth papers (2000.566.3), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Eric Gutmuth donated the Curt Gutmuth papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2000 and 2004. The accessions previously numbered 2000.556.1 and 2004.363 are included in this collection.

Related Material: Eric Gutsmuth also donated three memoirs in 2009. The accession number 2009.387 was previously included in this collection, but after consultation between the Archives and the Library, the memoirs were transferred to the Museum's Library in 2018. The Library holds a copies of *So it happened: (our family's documents)*, *Album souvenir les Levi: ma famille maternelle et Sennfeld leur ville natale*, *Journal d'Elise et Ludwig Vollweiler: de Schluchtern à leur déportation à Gurs*, and *Mahnmalweihe auf dem israelitischen pragfriedhof stuttgart*. Erica Gutsmuth also donated a Star of David badge (2000.566.2 a-b) in 2000 and postage stamps (2000.566.4-.6) and script (2005.566.7.1-.6 and 2000.566.7.2-.6) in 2009. The Museum also holds collections donated by Eric's uncle and aunt, Felix and Flory Van Beek.

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

Processing history: Morgan Voth, October 2018

Biographical note

Curt Gutsmuth (1905-1985) was born to Bertha (née Bermann, 1874-1945) and Emanuel (1856-c.1933) Gutsmuth. He had two brothers, Isidor (b. 1903) and Avraham (also Abraham or Alfred, b. 1912), and a sister, Erna (b. 1907). They lived near Giessen, Germany and his father owned a fabric business. Curt graduated during the First World War and worked for a painting company. In 1934, Curt immigrated to the Netherlands and helped his brother, Abraham, immigrate later that year and they settled in Rotterdam. Erna immigrated to London through the Netherlands in 1935 and Bertha immigrated to the Netherlands in 1938 where she also settled in Rotterdam. Isidor was imprisoned in the Dachau concentration camp in 1938, but he was released later that year because Curt was able to obtain visas for Isidor and his wife to Bolivia.

In 1938, Curt met Nelly (also Nellie, née Levi, 1911-1990) in the Netherlands. Nelly was born to Maier (1868-1933) and Jette (née Aufäuser b. 1875) Levi and had three brothers, Hugo (b. 1902), Sam (b. 1906) and Felix (b. 1912). Nelly emigrated from Germany to Rotterdam in 1935 with the help of Theo and Felix. Her mother joined her in 1938. In 1940, in order to avoid deportation, Curt, Bertha, Nelly, and Jette were forced into hiding at the home of a Christian family. In July 1942, Curt and his mother met Petrus (Piet) Brandsen. He was an underground activist who gave them fake identity cards and arranged for them to go into hiding with the van der Hoevens family, while Piet and Alberdina (Dina) hid Nelly's brother and sister-in-law, Felix and Flora van Beek. In 1980, Yad Vashem recognized Petrus Franciscus Brandsen and his wife, Alberdina Johanna Geertruida Brandsen-Truyers as Righteous Among the Nations. Curt and Nelly were married while in hiding and they stayed in hiding until the end of the war. They had a son, Eric, in 1946 and immigrated to Uruguay in 1951.

Scope and content of collection

The Curt Gutsmuth papers include biographical material, correspondence, a photograph, and printed material relating to Curt and Nelly Gutsmuth and their family's experiences escaping Germany and hiding in the Netherlands during the war. This collection also includes biographical material, testimony, and printed material relating to other victims of Holocaust. Curt was a philatelist and some of the document relating to other victims were acquired by Curt while obtaining his collection.

Gutsmuth family papers include an ID card from Theresienstadt and a repatriation card issued to Hedwig Schwarz, Nelly's aunt, a letter from Jette Levi to her son and daughter-in-law, Felix and Flory, who were in hiding in the Netherlands, and an account of Curt and Nelly's experiences while hiding in the

Netherlands as well as a color copy of a photograph of Nelly's father, Emil Neckarsulmer's hardware store in 1938. The collection also includes a visa for Bolivia issued to Isidor Gutmuth, which was obtained by Curt, and a list of personal belongings.

Printed materials include an anti-Semitic postcard, a Jewish publication from the Netherlands regarding the arrests of Jews, a resistance newspaper from Amersfoort, Netherlands where Curt and Nelly were hiding, and a resistance flyer published in the Netherlands. The collection also includes the front page of *Gießener Anzeiger* from 1905 which includes an article that mentions Eric's grandfather, Emmanuel Gutmuth, the front page of *EL PLATA*, a newspaper from Uruguay, dated May 7, 1945, and several front pages from Dutch newspapers from 1940-1944 relating to the German occupation.

This collection also includes testimony by Ludwig Stern about his experiences in the Theresienstadt and Auschwitz concentration camps. Ludwig Stern was born in Giessen, Germany, the same town as Curt, and Ludwig also immigrated to Uruguay.

Biographical materials include documents of victims, unrelated to the Gutmuth family, including documents acquired by Curt while obtaining his stamp collection. Documents include a passport issued to a Jewish women from Vilnius, a registration form and pass for safe conduct issued to Isidore Jurovics, a German passport issued to Hilda Schönemann, a Red Cross letter from Jakob Israel to Mrs. Bloch regarding the Katz family, and a letter sent to Mr. Arensberg announcing the death of Klara Ledermann.

System of arrangement

The Gutmuth family papers are arranged as a single series.

The documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Jewish refugees--Netherlands.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

Wieseck (Giessen, Hesse, Germany)
Netherlands.
Uruguay--Emigration and immigration--History.

Correspondence.
Photographs.
Newspapers.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Curt Gutmuth papers, 1917-1959 and undated

Folder	Title
1 of 4 OS 1	Gutmuth family, 1938-1945 (2 folders)

2 of 4 OS 2-4	Printed material, 1938-1945 (4 folders)
3 of 4	Testimony, Ludwig Stern, undated
4 of 4	Biographical material, 1917-1959