

**ARNOLD HARTMANN CORRESPONDENCE, 1936-1949**  
**2000.63**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Arnold Hartmann correspondence

Dates: 1936-1949

Accession number: 2000.63

Creator: Arnold Hartmann

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Arnold Hartmann correspondence documents Hartmann's efforts to help his Breslau cousins flee Germany during the Holocaust and either join their relatives who had already emigrated to Shanghai or South America or immigrate to the United States.

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), Arnold Hartmann Correspondence, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Arnold Hartmann correspondence was donated in 2000 by his granddaughter Joan Rosenfelt.

Related archival materials: Arnold Hartmann's business papers are held by the Newton History Museum at the Jackson Homestead in Newton, MA.

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, June 2012

### **Biographical note**

Arnold Hartmann (1878-1962) was born in Schildberg, Germany, to Solomon Hartmann and Rosalia Grabowski. The family settled in Boston, MA in 1880. Hartmann married Blanche Lyons in 1912, and the couple had two children, Rosalie and Arnold Jr. Hartmann worked in the leather and wool business before becoming a successful real estate developer in Newton. His projects included the Oak Hill Village in Newton, he served as treasurer of the Kernwood Country Club and of the Greater Boston Federated Jewish Charities, and he was a life member of the New England Home Builders Association. During the 1930s and 1940s he worked to assist the emigration and immigration efforts of his cousins who remained in Germany.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The Arnold Hartmann correspondence documents Hartmann's efforts to help his Breslau cousins flee Germany during the Holocaust and either join their relatives who had already emigrated to Shanghai, Montevideo, or La Paz or immigrate to the United States.

Hartmann's correspondents include his cousins Philipp and Regine Hartmann in Breslau; their older daughter Meta and her husband Bruno Oszowski who traveled from Breslau to Montevideo; their younger daughter Erna Hartmann who traveled from Breslau to La Paz and married Max Kissinger; cousins Martin and Jette Beil, also in Breslau; cousin Marianna Armer who traveled from Breslau to Shanghai; Marianna Armer's daughters Margarete Armer Goldberger and Selma Weissfisch in Shanghai and son Moritz Teuber in Manila; cousin Louis Hartmann in Sao Paolo; and Elsa Hartmann whom Arnold Hartmann tried to assist although she was not a direct relation.

The relatives' letters describe the German liquidation of Jewish businesses and expropriation of funds, the poverty and illness of emigrant life in South America and Shanghai, ongoing concerns for the wellbeing of relatives remaining in Germany, and a cycle of desperation, hope, and disappointment that characterized various emigration plans. The German letters are usually accompanied by English translations provided for example by the Boston Committee for Refugees or Egan Berliner for Hartmann who was not fluent in German. Hartmann's replies describe the decline of business opportunities in America during the Depression and World War II.

The files also include photographs of Philipp and Regine Hartmann, Margarete Armer Goldberger, Selma Weissfisch and her child, and Erna and Max Kissinger's restaurant in La Paz and correspondence with banks, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, the Hamburg-America Line, the Hilfsverein der Deutschen Juden, the Boston Committee for Refugees, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc., and other travel agencies and aid societies.

The collection further includes business and travel letters dated 1936-1938, mostly relating to Hartmann's real estate business during a 1938 trip to Buenos Aires.

Philipp Hartmann was deported to Theresienstadt in July 1942 and died there in April 1943, and Regine Hartmann is believed to have died there as well. Martin and Jette Beil are believed to have been deported to Poland during the war and to have perished. Erna Hartmann is believed to have died in La Paz in 1941 or 1942. Margarete Armer Goldberger, Marianna Armer, and Selma Weissfisch survived the war in Shanghai, and Selma Weissfisch eventually immigrated to Israel.

### **System of arrangement**

The Arnold Hartmann correspondence is arranged as a single series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1936-1949

Each folder is labeled according to the primary correspondent or family member whose case is being treated, but the family members often mention one another in their letters.

### **Indexing terms**

Jews – Germany – History – 1933-1945.

Jewish families – Poland – Wrocław.

Holocaust survivors.

Holocaust victims' families.

Jewish refugees – America – Public opinion.

Real estate development – Massachusetts – Newton.

Germany – Emigration and immigration – History – 1933-1945.

Wrocław (Poland)

Shanghai (China)

La Paz (Bolivia)

Montevideo (Uruguay)

Manila (Philippines)

Vienna (Austria)

Photographs.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Series 1: Correspondence, 1936-1949**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	
1	1	Marianna Armer, 1941
1	2-3	Martin and Jette Beil, 1939-1941 (2 folders)
1	4-9	Margarete Armer Goldberger and Selma Weissfisch, 1940-1949 (6 folders)
1	10-11	Elsa Hartmann, 1939-1941 (2 folders)
1	12-15	Erna Hartmann and Max Kissinger, 1938-1942 (4 folders)

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1	16	Louis Hartmann, 1940-1941
1	17-25	Philipp and Regine Hartmann, 1938-1941 (9 folders)
1	26	Meta and Bruno Olszowski, 1939, 1944
1	27	Moritz Teuber, 1940
1	28	Business and Travel, 1936-1938