

## **HERMAN LÖWENBERG FAMILY PAPERS, 1926-1965**

### **2001.177**

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

Title: Herman Löwenberg family papers

Dates: 1926-1965

Accession number: 2001.177

Creator: Herman Löwenberg family

Extent: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

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

Abstract: The Herman Löwenberg family papers include correspondence files, property exchange files, KKL debenture files, and restitution files documenting the family's exchange of their property in Görlitz for property in Portland, Oregon, their immigration to the United States, the efforts of their family members to emigrate from Germany as well, and their efforts to recover or receive compensation for assets expropriated from them, particularly debentures in Palestine that the German government blocked when the family abandoned its Palestinian emigration plans in favor of the United States.

Languages: German, 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), Herman Löwenberg family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Evelyn Apte donated the Herman Löwenberg family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2001.

Related material: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds an oral history interview conducted by the Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project with Evelyn Lowen Apte on June 16, 1999. The interview is cataloged as accession 1999.A.0122.166.

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, January 2013

### **Biographical note**

Herman Alexander Löwenberg (1887-1965) was a liqueur manufacturer and wine dealer in Görlitz. He was married to Else Löwenberg (née Gradnauer, 1902-1998), and the couple had two children, Eveline (Evelyn Apte, 1929- ) and Gerhard (Gerald Lowen, 1926-1993). The family immigrated to the United States in February 1937, bypassing the quota system by exchanging properties with a couple in Portland, Oregon who wanted to move to Germany. The Löwenbergs became citizens in 1943 and changed their name to Lowen. Else Löwenberg's younger sister and brother-in-law, Hilde and Harry Nathanson, tried to immigrate to the United States via Cuba aboard the *SS St. Louis* but were returned to Europe and subsequently deported from Drancy to Auschwitz in September 1942. Else Löwenberg's older sister, Lotte, emigrated to Shanghai with her husband, Fritz Abrahamowsky. Following the death of Else Löwenberg's father, Siegfried Gradnauer (1865-1940), in Berlin, her mother, Blanka Gradnauer (1876-1940), took the Trans-Siberian railroad to Shanghai but contracted an illness en route and died shortly after her arrival.

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

The Herman Löwenberg family papers include correspondence files, property exchange files, KKL debenture files, and restitution files documenting the family's exchange of their property in Görlitz for property in Portland, Oregon, their immigration to the United States, the efforts of their family members to emigrate from Germany as well, and their efforts to recover or receive compensation for assets expropriated from them, particularly debentures in Palestine that the German government blocked when the family abandoned its Palestinian emigration plans in favor of the United States.

Correspondence files include letters and postcards between and among the Löwenbergs and their family members and friends. The correspondence documents family members' efforts to emigrate, including Harry and Hilde Nathanson's experiences on the *SS St. Louis* and the Abrahamowsky's plans for Shanghai. The correspondence files also include a photograph of the Nathansons and a photograph of three unidentified Löwenbergs family members or friends.

The property exchange files include correspondence and draft agreements documenting the Löwenbergs' ultimately canceled efforts to exchange their Görlitz properties for properties in Oregon belonging to Friedrich and Pauline Kruse and their successful efforts to exchange their properties for Oregon properties belonging to Carl and Anna Hummel. The files also document the Löwenbergs' use of those properties, their payment of back taxes owed on the properties, additional friends' and relatives' property searches, and federal and state income taxes paid in 1943. These records include materials

from the files of Hy Samuels, a lawyer who helped the Löwenbergs find property in Portland and negotiate the exchange.

The KKL (Keren Kayemeth Leisrael) debentures files include correspondence and bank records documenting bonds purchased by Herman Löwenberg in 1934 in preparation for emigration to Palestine that were blocked by the German government when the Löwenbergs moved to the United States instead and the Löwenbergs' immediate and ongoing efforts to recover them. Correspondents include lawyers, banks, and other financial institutions.

Restitution files include official German documents from the National Socialist era, correspondence, forms, newspaper clippings, and banking records documenting the Löwenbergs' efforts to recover or receive compensation for lost assets. Claims include residual matters related to the KKL debentures; unfavorable bank transfer rates; the loss they took in exchanging their Görlitz property for the Portland property; the loss of goodwill in Wilhelm Ziemer, the liqueur factory inherited from Herman Löwenberg's father; the cost of their emigration and lost household goods; damage to Herman Löwenberg's profession and loss of income; insurance policies; and the "Reichs Flight Tax." Many of these claims overlap in individual folders as they were researched and prepared simultaneously in response to the German Restitution Laws of the 1950s. Correspondents include lawyers, banks, and financial and governmental institutions.

### **System of arrangement**

The Herman Löwenberg family papers are arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, 1938-1946
- Series 2: Property exchange, 1928-1952
- Series 3: KKL (Keren Kayemeth Leisrael) debentures, 1937-1964
- Series 4: Restitution, 1926-1965

Series 1 (Correspondence) and Series 3 (KKL debentures) are arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Series 2 (Property exchange) is arranged alphabetically by property-owner. Series 4 (Restitution) is arranged alphabetically by a combination of correspondents and subject matters.

### **Indexing terms**

St. Louis (Ship)

Jews – Germany – History – 1933-1945.

Jewish refugees – Germany – Görlitz (Dresden).

Jewish refugees – Oregon – Portland.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Reparations.

Jewish property – Germany – Görlitz (Dresden).

Jewish property – Oregon – Portland.

Haavara.

Alcoholic beverage industry – Germany.

United States – Emigration and immigration – Government policy – 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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

Görlitz (Dresden, Germany)

Portland (Or.)  
Shanghai (China)

Photographs

### CONTAINER LIST

#### Series 1: Correspondence, 1938-1946 (bulk 1938-1941)

Box	Folder	
1	1	Abrahamowsky, Fritz and Lotte, 1938-1939
1	2	Berkowitz, Max and Lies, 1938-1940
1	3	Gradnauer, Siegfried and Blanka, 1938-1939
1	4	Meisels, Bernard, 1938-1939
1	5	Nathan, Felix and Claire, 1939-1941, 1946
1	6	Nathanson, Harry and Hilde, 1938-1939
1	7	Pollnow, Fritz, 1938-1939
1	8	Raphaelsohn, Hermann, 1939
1	9	Stein, Dr. Albrecht, 1939
1	10-11	Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1938-1940 (2 folders)

#### Series 2: Property exchange, 1928-1952 (bulk 1936-1943)

Box	Folder	
1	12-24	Hummel Property, 1928-1943, 1952 (13 folders)
1	25-29	Kruse Property, 1936-1937 (5 folders)

#### Series 3: KKL (Keren Kayemeth Leisrael) debentures, 1937-1964

Box	Folder	
2	1-3	Anglo-Palestine Bank, 1937-1951 (3 folders)
2	4	Anglo-Palestine Bank Statements and Transactions, 1945-1950
2	5-9	Bach, Rudolf, 1938-1948 (5 folders)
2	10	Ball, Kurt, 1938
2	11-13	Bank Leumi, 1954-1962 (3 folders)
2	14-15	Bank Leumi Statements and Transactions, 1955-1964 (2 folders)
2	16-17	Black & Kendall, 1946-1950 (2 folders)
2	18	Blocked Reichsmarks, Adler & Co., 1937
2	19	Blocked Reichsmarks, First National Bank, 1937
2	20	Blocked Reichsmarks, Gebr. Arnhold, 1937
2	21	Fleiss, Julius, 1947-1953
2	22	Gebr. Arnhold, 1937-1938
2	23	Haavara Limited, 1938
2	24	Hardy & Co., 1938-1949

2	25	Hardy & Co. Statements and Transactions, 1938-1941
2	26	Hochfeld, Max, 1938-1940
2	27-29	Keren Kayemeth Leisrael, 1936-1945 (3 folders)
2	30	Palästina-Amt Berlin, 1938
2	31	Palästina Treuhand-Stelle, 1937-1938
2	32	Schybilski, Julian, 1938
2	33	Miscellaneous, 1937-1960

**Series 4: Restitution, 1926-1965 (bulk 1935-1965)**

Box	Folder	
3	1	Amtsgericht Charlottenburg, 1936-1941, 1957
3	2-5	Bank of California, 1964 (4 folders)
3	6-7	Bonyhadi, Ernest, 1959-1965 (2 folders)
3	8	Claims Summaries, approximately 1953-1956
3	9	Devisenstelle Breslau, 1936
3	10-12	Dresdner Bank, 1959-1965 (3 folders)
3	13	Entschädigungsbehörde Hildesheim, 1956-1961
3	14	Finanzamt Görlitz, 1936
3	15	Fluck, Eberhard, 1959-1963
3	16	Life Insurance, 1926, 1935-1937, 1952
3	17-18	Linde, Bruno C., 1956-1959 (2 folders)
3	19	Newspaper Clippings, approximately 1949-1965
3	20	Regierungsbezirksamt für Wiedergutmachung und Verwaltete Vermögen, 1954-1955
3	21-22	Transportation Costs, 1936-1937 (2 folders)
3	23	Vermögensverzeichnis, 1938
3	24-29	Miscellaneous, 1933-1941, 1946-1967, 1972 (6 folders)