

## **KURT GUTFREUND PAPERS, circa 1920s-1945 2002.212.2**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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### **Descriptive summary**

Title: Kurt Gutfreund papers

Dates: circa 1920s-1945

Accession number: 2002.212.2

Creator: Gutfreund, Kurt, 1938-

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (14 folders)

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

Abstract: The Kurt Gutfreund papers include biographical materials, Theresienstadt postcards and receipts, photographs, and a clipping. The Theresienstadt material documents Kurt Gutfreund's imprisonment in the Theresienstadt concentration camp from 1943-1945 with his mother Hildegard. Postcards and receipts primarily document packages Hildegard's sister sent them in Theresienstadt. Some of the postcards include coded messages from Hildegard in the addressee field requesting specific foods in the next package (for example "Dear Onion" to indicate she wanted onions). Additional postcards from the Gutfreunds and others in Theresienstadt provide general information about their lives in the camp. The collection also includes a Czech registration and repatriation certificate issued to Kurt following the Holocaust and a certificate documenting Hildegard's classification as Jewish by the Nazi regime based on her maternal grandparent's religion. Photographs depict Kurt and his parents before the war. One of the photographs and a clipping depict Kurt's mother when she was featured among "the most beautiful saleswomen in Vienna" in the Austrian cultural magazine *Die Bühne*.

Languages: German, Czech, Russian, 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), Kurt Gutfreund papers, 2002.212.2, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Kurt Gutfreund donated his papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2002 and 2019. Accessions 2002.212.1 and 2019.364.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

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

Related material: An oral history interview conducted with Kurt Gutfreund that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum.

Processing history: Processed by Julie Schweitzer, July 2018. Revised November 2019.

### **Biographical note**

Kurt Gutfreund was born January 6, 1938 in Vienna, Austria to Heinrich (1899-1942) and Hildegard Grasel Gutfreund (1905-1988). Heinrich was Jewish and was deported to Maly Trostinets, near Minsk, on June 9, 1942 and killed six days later. Kurt and Hildegard went into hiding but were deported to Theresienstadt in January 1943. Hildegard worked cutting mica in the “glimmer factory,” and the two remained at Theresienstadt until it was liberated in 1945. Kurt’s unmarried aunt Renee Grasel, who was eight years younger than Hildegard and had become a Catholic, was able to send packages of food and clothing to her sister and nephew in Theresienstadt. After liberation, Kurt and his mother hitchhiked to Prague and then returned to Vienna in August. He immigrated to the United States in 1958 and settled in Chicago.

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

The Kurt Gutfreund papers include biographical materials, Theresienstadt postcards and receipts, photographs, and a clipping. The Theresienstadt material documents Kurt Gutfreund’s imprisonment in the Theresienstadt concentration camp from 1943-1945 with his mother Hildegard. Postcards and receipts primarily document packages Hildegard’s sister sent them in Theresienstadt. Some of the postcards include coded messages from Hildegard in the addressee field requesting specific foods in the next package (for example “Dear Onion” to indicate she wanted onions). Additional postcards from the Gutfreunds and others in Theresienstadt provide general information about their lives in the camp. The collection also includes a Czech registration and repatriation certificate issued to Kurt following the Holocaust and a certificate documenting Hildegard’s classification as Jewish by the Nazi regime based on her maternal grandparent’s religion. Photographs depict Kurt and his parents before the war. One of the photographs and a clipping depict Kurt’s mother when she was featured among “the most beautiful saleswomen in Vienna” in the Austrian cultural magazine *Die Bühne*.

### **System of arrangement**

The Kurt Gutfreund papers are arranged as a single series.

**Indexing terms**

**Personal names**

Gutfreund, Kurt, 1938-

**Corporate Name**

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)

**Topical terms**

Jews--Austria--Vienna.

Jewish children in the Holocaust.

Concentration camp inmates--Czech Republic--Correspondence.

**Geographic terms**

Vienna (Austria)

Terezin (Ustecky kraj, Czech Republic)

**Genre terms**

Correspondence.

Photographs.

**CONTAINER LIST**

**Series 1: Kurt Gutfreund papers, circa 1920s-1945**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1 of 12	Biographical materials, letter, notes, approximately 1942-1945
2 of 12	Theresienstadt package acknowledgement postcards, 1943
3-6 of 12	Theresienstadt package acknowledgement postcards, 1944 (4 folders)
7 of 12	Theresienstadt package acknowledgement postcards, 1945
8 of 12	Theresienstadt package receipts, 1943
9 of 12	Theresienstadt postcards from Balkar, Julia; Katz, Gertrud; Landau, Emma, 1944-1945
10 of 12	Theresienstadt postcards from Berendt, Frieda, 1944
11 of 12	Theresienstadt postcards from Gutfreund, Hildegard and Kurt, 1943-1944
12 of 12	Theresienstadt postcards from Hahn, Samuel and Helene, 1944
13 of 14	Photographs, circa 1920s-1940
14 of 14	Clipping, circa 1920s