

MORITZ AND HILDEGARD HENSCHEL PAPERS, 1879-2001
2003.361.1

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

Title: Moritz and Hildegard Henschel papers

Dates: 1879-2001

Accession number: 2003.361.1

Creator: Henschel, Moritz, 1879-1946

Additional creator: Henschel, Hildegard, 1897-1983

Extent: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

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

Abstract: Moritz and Hildegard Henschel papers consist of documents, poems, photographs, correspondence, clippings, articles, and sheet music pertaining to Moritz Henschel's role as director of the "Freizeitgestaltung," in Terezin and his wife Hildegard Henschel's experiences during this same time period.

Languages: German, Czech, English, French, Hebrew, Latin, Russian

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: Moritz and Hildegard Henschel papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Yoel Givol and Michal Lilli Kahani donated the Moritz and Hildegard Henschel papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2003 in memory of their grandparents.

Related archival material: Yoel Givol and Michal Lilli Kahani also donated a number of related objects to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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

Processing history: Revised by Julie Schweitzer, July 2016

Biographical note

Moritz Henschel (1879-1946) was a World War I decorated (Iron Cross 2nd Class) veteran and graduate of the Berlin Rabbinical Seminary and a Jewish lawyer in Berlin. He served in the Landgericht in Berlin and was the last Vorsitz (Head) of the Kehillah in Berlin. He and his wife, Hildegard Alexander Henschel (1897-1983), were deported from Berlin to Theresienstadt in June 1942. He was elected to the Theresienstadt Judenrat and was in charge of the "Freizeitgestaltung," under which auspices cultural events and materials were produced. Moritz and Hildegard survived Theresienstadt, in part because of food parcels sent to them from Sweden and by keeping a low profile. After the war, they emigrated to Palestine, where Moritz, already in poor health, died in 1946. Hildegard later testified at the Eichman Trial.

Scope and content of collection

Moritz and Hildegard Henschel papers consist of documents, poems, photographs, correspondence, clippings, articles, and sheet music pertaining to Moritz Henschel's role as director of the "Freizeitgestaltung," in Terezin and his wife Hildegard Henschel's experiences during this same time period.

Moritz and Hildegard Henschel biographical and Theresienstadt materials include birth and marriage certificates, Red Cross correspondence, employment records, awards, medical records, poems, music, reports, identification papers, personal narratives, and clippings documenting Moritz and Hildegard Henschel, their deportation to Theresienstadt, their cultural and work life in Theresienstadt, and their liberation.

Henschel family correspondence include prewar, wartime, and postwar family correspondence with Moritz and Hildegard Henschel, their daughter Lily, and Marianne Givol.

Research materials acquired at the Terezin memorial document Peter Kien. Family photographs document Moritz and Hildegard Henschel and the Jewish council at Theresienstadt. Additional award decorations and certificate document Shmuel Givol Gotthold.

System of arrangement

The Moritz and Hildegard Henschel papers are arranged as five series:

- Series 1: Moritz and Hildegard Henschel biographical and Theresienstadt materials, 1879-1999

- Series 2: Henschel family correspondence, 1898-2001
- Series 3: Research materials obtained at the Terezin memorial relating to Peter Kien
- Series 4: Family photographs, approximately 1905-1935
- Series 5: Award decorations and certificate belonging to Shmuel Givol Gotthold

This collection is housed as part of Record Group 24, which includes three earlier boxes. Box 1 of this collection is also described as Box 4 of RG 24. Box 2 of this collection is also described as Box 5 of RG 24. Box 3 of this collection is also described as Box 6 of RG 24.

Indexing terms

Henschel, Moritz, -1946.
Henschel, Hildegard, 1921-1983.

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)

Jews--Germany--Berlin.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Czech Republic.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945), in art.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Songs and music.
Holocaust, Jewish(1939-1945)--Poetry.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Moritz and Hildegard Henschel biographical and Theresienstadt materials, 1879-1999

Box/Folder	Title
1.1-1.13	Moritz and Hildegard Henschel biographical and Theresienstadt materials (13 folders)

(Box 1 of this collection is also described as Box 4 of RG 24)

Series 2: Henschel family correspondence, 1898-2001

Box/Folder	Title
2.1	Correspondence of Hildegard and Moritz Henschel 1898-1932. Includes Der Schwager by Moritz Henschel, 1898 Sept. 11. In German.
2.2-2.4	Letters from Lily Henschel, (daughter of Moritz and Hildegard Henschel) 1939 and 1946. In German.
2.5	Die Fledermaus," 1944 Feb. 16. In German.
2.6	Correspondence of Hildegard Henschel, 1936-1955. In German.
2.7	Correspondence of Hildegard Henschel, 1946-1947. In German.
2.8-2.10	Correspondence of Marianne Givol, 1962-2001. In German.
2.11	Burial records of Lily Henschel, (daughter of Moritz and Hildegard Henschel) 1962. In English.

(Box 2 of this collection is also described as Box 5 of RG 24)

Series 3: Research materials obtained at the Terezin memorial relating to Peter Kien

Box/Folder	Title
3.1	Photocopies of articles pertaining to Peter Kien.
3.2	Photocopies of sketches pertaining to the work of Peter Kien.
3.3	Photocopies of sketches pertaining to the work of Peter Kien and photocopies of documents related to his fate in Terezin.

Series 4: Family photographs, approximately 1905-1935

Box/Folder	Title
3.4	40 Henschel family photos, ca. 1905-1935, three Xerox photos of Moritz Henschel at a meeting of the Jewish council in Terezin, n.d.
3.5	Moritz and Hildegard Henschel portraits by Myra Strauss Rutenberg

Series 5: Award decorations and certificate belonging to Shmuel Givol Gotthold

Box/Folder	Title
3.6	Award decorations and certificate belonging to Shmuel Givol Gotthold.

(Box 3 of this collection is also described as Box 6 of RG 24)