

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
Finding Aid
RG-10
Small Collections

RG-10.438
Acc. 2003.89.1

Title: Friedl Wollmerstedt Collection, 1916-1975.

Provenance: Friedl Wollmerstedt donated her collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2003.

Restrictions on access: No restrictions on access.

Restrictions on use: No restrictions on use.

Organization and arrangement: The collection is organized into eight series: RG-10.438*01: Documents from prewar Germany, 1916-1939; RG-10.438*02: Correspondence between Martha and Friedl Herzfeld and their parents, 1939-1941; RG-10.438*03: Documents relating to life after emigration to England, 1940-1957; RG-10.438*04: Correspondence regarding restitution, 1956-1959; RG-10.438 *05: Documents from postwar Germany, 1958-1978; RG-10.438*06: Copies of birth, death and marriage certificates for members of the Herzfeld family, 1954-1975; RG-10.438 *07: Photographs from prewar Germany; RG-10.438 *08: Album with 138 photographs from prewar Germany.

Language: German and English.

Extent: 2 linear inches of documents, 5 photographs, 1 album (Ca. 135 photographs).

Biographical note: Friedl Wollmerstedt was born Frieda Herzfeld in Kelsterbach, Germany on December 9, 1915. Her father Herz (known as Hugo) Herzfeld (son of Moses Herzfeld and Regina Hirsch) was born in König (today Bad König), Germany on May 16, 1877. Her mother Berta Adler (daughter of Abraham Adler and Fanny Strauß) was born in Kelsterbach, Germany on August 28, 1875. Hugo Herzfeld and Berta Adler married on November 1, 1909 in Kelsterbach. The Herzfelds kept a kosher kitchen and were a traditional Jewish family. Hugo Herzfeld was an animal feed merchant and Bertha Herzfeld took care of the household.

Friedl had an older sister, Martha, who was born in Kelsterbach, Germany on November 11, 1910. Both girls started school in Kelsterbach and later studied at German schools in Frankfurt. After school both sisters took jobs in Jewish stores.

In April 1936 Friedl started working for *J. Wormser und Co.*, a textile whole sale in Frankfurt am Main. In the wake of Aryanization, the Jewish-owned business was

transferred to its attorney [*Prokurist*] Hans Merschroth. Friedl worked for Merschroth & Co. since August 4, 1938 and became unemployed on January 6, 1939.

On February 13, 1939 Friedl Herzfeld started working as a shorthand typist for the Jewish lawyer Max L. Cahn, who was only allowed to consult Jews.

In the wake of the so-called *Kristallnacht*, Hugo Herzfeld told his two daughters to leave Germany. Martha obtained a visa for Northern Ireland through the help of W. L. Irwin, an Irishman. After writing to the Refugee Committee in London, Friedl was able to obtain English visas for herself and her sister. In May 1939 they left Frankfurt, traveled via Holland, and arrived in London, England. Friedl found employment as a nurse while her sister left for Ireland. After losing her job at the hospital, Friedl joined Martha in Ireland.

Hugo and Bertha Herzfeld corresponded with their daughters through the Red Cross until their deportation to and subsequent death in Riga in 1942. Before her deportation, Bertha entrusted a Kiddush cup and a pair of earrings to Mrs. Latsch, a German woman in Frankfurt. Friedl recovered the earrings after the war and had them fashioned into two rings for Martha and herself.

In Ireland, the Herzfeld sisters joined the Fire Service. Later, they would also join the British Army. After the war, Friedl worked for an educational service. After visiting Germany in 1950, the two sisters both bought a flat in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 1958, Friedl visited Germany and renewed her acquaintance with her childhood friend, Herman Wollmerstedt. The two had been forced to end their relationship in 1934 due to the German racial laws. Herman came to visit Friedl in Edinburgh in 1957 to convince her to come to Germany with him. She came to Germany in 1958, and they got married six months later on June 6, 1958. Martha stayed in Edinburgh, Scotland until her death.

Mrs. Wollmerstedt made extensive efforts to receive restitution from the post-war German government. She currently resides in Darmstadt, Germany, and is an active member of the Jewish community in Darmstadt.

Scope and content note: The bulk of the collection is composed of correspondence and documents relating to Friedl Herzfeld Wollmerstedt and her family's life in prewar Germany, her emigration to England, restitution matters and life in Germany after her return to Germany, from 1916 to 1975.

Preferred citation: Standard citation for U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Collections Division, Archives Branch.

Inventory

Folder 1: Documents from prewar Germany, 1916-1939.

Vaccination certificate for Frieda Herzfeld, June 26, 1916. In German.

1. School Grade Report Booklet for Frieda Herzfeld, 1922-1926. In German.
2. Vaccination certificate for Frieda Herzfeld, May 9, 1927. In German.
3. School Record for Friedel Herzfeld, November 5, 1931. In German.

4. Contract between the Hermanns & Froitzheim Company and H. Herzfeld regarding the conditions of the vocational training of Frieda Herzfeld, November 6, 1931. In German.
5. School Record from the commercial vocational school for girls, department for clerks, for Frieda Herzfeld, March 22, 1932. In German.
6. School Record from the commercial vocational school for girls, department for clerks, for Frieda Herzfeld, September 30, 1932. In German.
7. School Record from the commercial vocational school for girls, department for clerks, for Frieda Herzfeld, March 31, 1933. In German.
8. Unofficial typed transcript of #8.
9. Golden card from silver wedding of Berta and Hugo Herzfeld, November 3, 1934. In German.
10. Thank you card from Hugo and Berta Herzfeld, November 1934. In German.
11. Employment contract between Frieda Herzfeld (in the position of a clerk) and Hermanns & Froitzheim, November 10, 1934. In German.
12. Certificate from the commercial vocational school for girls, stating that Friedl Herzfeld has successfully participated in a course, October 11, 1935. In German.
13. Certificate from the commercial vocational school for girls, stating Friedl Herzfeld's typewriting abilities, March 24, 1936. In German.
14. Letter of recommendation/ Certificate from Hermanns & Froitzheim for Friedl Herzfeld, April 21, 1936. In German.
15. Administrative document from the State police for Frieda Herzfeld, December 27, 1938. In German.
16. Letter of recommendation/ Certificate from Merschroth & Co. for Frieda Herzfeld, January 1, 1939. In German.
17. Certificate of non-objection [*Unbedenklichkeitsbescheinigung*] from the German administration in Frankfurt for Frieda Sara Herzfeld, April 4, 1939. In German.
18. German passport of Martha Sara Herzfeld, issued on April 17, 1939. In German.
19. Letter of recommendation/ certificate from Max L. Israel Cahn for Frieda Sara Herzfeld, May 6, 1939. In German.

Folder 2: Correspondence between Martha and Friedl Herzfeld and their parents, 1939-1941.

1. Letter from parents to Martha and Friedl, August 11, 1939. In German. 2 pages.
2. Red Cross note from Martha and Friedl from Northern Ireland to parents in Frankfurt, January 16, 1941. On the back note from parents. In German.
3. Red Cross note from Martha and Friedl Herzfeld from Northern Ireland to parents in Frankfurt, February 20, 1941. In German. On the back note from parents, May 8, 1941. In German.
4. Letter, July 20, 1941. In German. 2 pages.
5. Letter to Martha and Friedel, July 30, 1941. In German. 2 pages.
6. Letter, August 11, 1941. In German.
7. Letter, August 31, 1941. In German.

Folder 3: Documents relating to life after emigration to England, 1940-1957.

1. Certificate from Hounslow Hospital for Frieda Herzfeld stating her work as a student nurse, July 3, 1940. In English.
2. Letter from Hounslow Hospital attached to #1. In English.
3. Letter from Diana Windsor Clifford, stating that Frieda Herzfeld worked in her household, February 4, 1941. In English.
4. Note from National Fire Service in Belfast to firewoman Herzfeld, December 10, 1943.
5. Army Book 64, Soldier's Service and Pay Book of Frieda Herzfeld, May 11, 1945. In English.
6. Letter from the Tracing Department of the Jewish Refugee Committee to Martha Herzfeld about the deportation of her cousins Sally Adler, Alma Adler nee Baum and Claire Adler from Frankfurt to the East on September 24, 1942. In English.
7. Letter of recommendation from Captain Warner for Frieda Herzfeld regarding her suitability to become a British national, May 6, 1946. In English.
8. Letter to Friedl Herzfeld from a family member (?) in Belfast proposing her to adopt Tish a b'Av as the Yahrzeit day each year, June 4, 1946. In English.
9. Letter of recommendation from Robert. L. Pinkerton, Minister of the Church of Scotland at Ecclesmachan, and Justice of the Peace for the County of West Lothian for Friedl Herzfeld, May 3, 1947. In English.
10. Draft of #9.
11. Unofficial draft of Release Leave Certificate for Sgt. Herzfeld, July 1, 1947. In English.
12. National Registration Identity Card of Frieda Herzfeld, September 1947. In English.
13. Certificate of British Naturalization for Martha Herzfeld, November 10, 1947. In English.
14. National Health Service Medical Card for Frieda Herzfeld, November 14, 1949. In English.
15. Letter of recommendation for Frieda Herzfeld from James Hossack, Director of Extra-Mural Studies at the University of Edinburgh, October 18, 1957. In English.
16. Draft of #1.
17. Letter of recommendation for Frieda Herzfeld from J. Wreford Watson, Professor at the Department of Geography at the University of Edinburgh, November 11, 1957. In English.

Folder 4: Correspondence regarding restitution, 1956-1959.

1. Document, March 26, 1956. In German.
2. Document, undated. In German.
3. Document, undated. In German.
4. Document, 1956. In German.
5. Letter from G. Eberstadt & Co. Ltd. To Frieda Herzfeld, June 8, 1956. In English.
6. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Herzfeld, June 28, 1956. In German.
7. Letter from G. Eberstadt & Co. Ltd. To Frieda Herzfeld, July 30, 1956. In English.

8. Document authenticated by German consulate, December 1956. In German.
9. Postcard from the German Interior Ministry to Frieda Herzfeld, May 7, 1957. In German.
10. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Herzfeld, May 31, 1957. In German.
11. Letter from the district administration in Wiesbaden to Frieda Herzfeld, June 24, 1957. In German.
12. Letter from Lawyer Munster to Frieda Herzfeld, July 23, 1957. In German.
13. Bill from lawyer Munster to Frieda Herzfeld, July 24, 1957.
14. Letter from the German consulate in Glasgow to Frieda Herzfeld, August 19, 1957. In German.
15. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Herzfeld, August 27, 1957. In German.
16. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Herzfeld, September 2, 1957. In German.
17. Draft of letter from Frieda Herzfeld to G. Eberstadt & Co. Ltd., September 19, 1957. In English.
18. Letter from lawyer Munster to Martha Herzfeld, November 4, 1957. In German.
19. Letter from lawyer Munster to Martha Herzfeld, December 6, 1957. In German.
20. Draft of letter from Frieda Herzfeld to lawyer Munster, December 10, 1957. In English.
21. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Herzfeld, December 13, 1957. In German.
22. Draft of letter from Frieda Herzfeld to the district administration in Wiesbaden, February 25, 1958. In German.
23. Letter from the district administration in Wiesbaden to Frieda Herzfeld, March 17, 1958. In German.
24. Draft of letter from Frieda Herzfeld to the district administration in Wiesbaden, March 28, 1958. In German.
25. Document, March 28, 1958. In German.
26. Letter from the district administration in Wiesbaden to Frieda Herzfeld, April 18, 1958. In German.
27. Draft of letter from Frieda Herzfeld to the district administration in Wiesbaden, April 25, 1958. In German.
28. Document, June 25, 1958. In German.
29. Document, July 28, 1958. In German.
30. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Herzfeld, September 3, 1958. In German.
31. Draft of letter to lawyer Munster, September 3, 1958. In English.
32. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Wollmerstedt, September 9, 1958. In German.
33. Draft of letter from Anna Martina Latsch, September 12, 1958. In German.
34. Draft of letter, September 30, 1958. In German.
35. Draft of letter, October 1, 1958. In German.
36. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Wollmerstedt, October 30, 1958. In German.
37. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Wollmerstedt, October 30, 1958. In German.
38. Draft of letter from F. Wollmerstedt to Dr. A. m. Kraft, November 15, 1958. In English.

39. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Wollmerstedt, November 20, 1958. In German.
40. Letter from the district administration in Wiesbaden to Frieda Wollmerstedt, November 25, 1958. In German.
41. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Wollmerstedt, January 21, 1959. In German.
42. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Wollmerstedt, February 17, 1959. In German.
43. Document, May 12, 1959. In German.
44. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Wollmerstedt, August 31, 1959. In German.
45. Draft of letter from Frieda Wollmerstedt to lawyer Kraft, September 5, 1959.
46. Document, September 29, 1959. In German.
47. Letter from lawyer Munster to Frieda Wollmerstedt, October 9, 1959. In German.
48. Letter from lawyer Munster to Martha Herzfeld, October 27, 1959. In German.
49. Bill from lawyer Munster to Martha Herzfeld, November 1959. In German.
50. Letter from lawyer Munster to Martha Herzfeld, November 30, 1959. In German.

Folder 5: Documents from postwar life in Germany, 1958-1978.

1. Letter of recommendation for Frieda Wollmerstedt from the Institute for Cellulose chemistry at the Technical University Darmstadt, December 18, 1958. In German.
2. Letter attached to #4. In German.
3. Recommendation for Frieda Wollmerstedt from the Machine factory GOEBEL GMBH in Darmstadt, May 31, 1962. In German.
4. Letter of recommendation for Friedl Wollmerstedt from the Institute for Paperfabrikation at the Technical University Darmstadt, November 21, 1963. In German.
5. Letter attached to #7. In German.
6. Draft of letter to Director J. H. Hufenbach, March 24, 1966. In German.
7. Letter from Joachim H. Hufenbach to Friedl Wollmerstedt, April 13, 1966. In German.
8. Certificate of German Nationality for Frieda Wollmerstedt, March 3, 1976. In German.
9. Receipt for Certificate of German Nationality, March 12, 1976. In German.
10. Document from the administration in Darmstadt, April 13, 1978. In German.

Folder 6: Copies of birth, death and marriage certificates for members of the Herzfeld family, 1954-1975.

1. Birth certificate of Martha Herzfeld, June 22, 1954. In German.
2. Death certificate of Moses Herzfeld, December 8, 1975. In German.
3. Birth certificate [*Abstammungsurkunde*] of Herz Herzfeld, December 8, 1975. In German.
4. Authenticated photocopy of birth certificate of Moses Herzfeld from the birth book [*Geburtenbuch*] of Jews in König, December 5, 1975. In German.
5. Unofficial transcript of # 4. In German.

6. Undated photocopy of marriage certificate of Herz (Hugo) Herzfeld and Berta Adler. In German.

Folder 7: Photographs from prewar Germany.

1. Photograph of Berta Herzfeld.
2. Photograph of Hugo Herzfeld.
3. Photograph of a family in a garden in Kelsterbach in 1929.
4. Photograph of Martha and Friedl Herzfeld in uniform in Northern Ireland in 1946.
5. Photograph of a group of girls, with note on the back "mit Onkel Ferdi auf 'Tour'" (with uncle Ferdi on tour).

Folder 8: Album with about 135 photographs from prewar Germany.