

ROTHSCHILD – FRÄNKEL FAMILY PAPERS, 1898-2013 (bulk, 1940-1947) 2004.248.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Rothschild – Fränkel family papers

Dates: 1898-2013 (bulk, 1940-1947)

Accession number: 2004.248

Creator: Rothschild and Fränkel families

Extent: 2 boxes (1 linear foot)

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

Abstract: Correspondence, official documents, photographs, and memoirs pertaining to the experiences of the maternal (Rothschild) and paternal (Fränkel) branches of the family of Ed Francell, and how they were impacted by the events of the Holocaust. Includes documents about Yvonne Redgis (Rothschild) and her life in pre-war France, during the occupation of France, as a forced laborer at Auschwitz, and her post-war immigration to the United States. Collection also contains correspondence, photographs, identification documents, and other items about the Fränkel family, originally of Danzig, and later France. Includes documentation about Gertrude Fränkel and her son, Werner, in particular about Gertrude's experiences in occupied France and her post-war immigration to the United States, and Werner's conscription as a forced laborer in France and his subsequent deportation to Auschwitz.

Languages: German, French, 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), (Box number), Rothschild – Fränkel family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Gift of Ed Francell, 2004 and 2013

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

Processing history: Brad Bauer, January 2014

Biographical note

Hermann Fränkel and Gertrude (née Josephson) Fränkel were residents of Danzig, and had two sons, Herbert and Werner. Following Hermann's death in 1934, Mrs. Fränkel and her sons moved to France. It was there that Herbert met Mariette Rothschild, and after marrying and having a son, Edward, they immigrated to the United States in 1939, eventually settling in Los Angeles. With the outbreak of war, Werner, was conscripted into the French Army, and following the German invasion of France, was taken prisoner and interned at the concentration camp at Bram (Aude). In 1942, Werner Fränkel was deported to Auschwitz, and presumed to have been killed there. Gertrude Fränkel remained in France during the war, living in a village in the department of Seine-et-Oise, and immigrating to the United States following the war, where she was reunited with her family. The Fränkel family eventually anglicized the spelling of their name to "Francel" and then "Francell."

Alfred and Marguerite (née Blum) Rothschild lived in France from the 1910s up until the early 1940s, where Alfred Rothschild had a business and used the last name "Redgis" professionally, a name that the family later adopted as well. As Mr. Rothschild was born in Columbus, Georgia, he possessed U.S. citizenship, which helped the family immigrate in 1942, after they had escaped by foot over the Pyrenees into Spain. In addition to Mariette Fränkel, the Rothschilds had one other daughter, Yvonne Redgis, whose married name was Yvonne Klug. She remained in France during the occupation, fought in the resistance, was arrested (and perhaps betrayed to the authorities by her then-husband), and deported to Auschwitz. She maintained a diary of this period, which she edited into a memoir and sought to publish after the war. Although initially unable to publish it, it was further edited several decades later by Jean Marc Dreyfus, and published in France as *Survivre: Souvenir d'une réscepee d'Auschwitz* (Paris: Larousse, 2010). After her liberation from Auschwitz and convalescence in Poland, Yvonne was repatriated to France and subsequently immigrated to the United States, living in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, where she established a dance studio.

Scope and content of collection

The Rothschild – Fränkel family papers document the experiences of the maternal and paternal branches of the family of the donor, Ed Francell, prior to, during, and following the Holocaust.

On the maternal side of the donor's family, most of the documentation is about Yvonne Redgis (Rothschild), with photographs, personal identification documents, correspondence, and printed material focusing largely upon Redgis' experiences as a member of the Resistance in occupied France, her arrest and deportation to Auschwitz, her repatriation to France after the war, recognition as a resistance fighter, reunion with her parents, and her immigration to the United States. Also included are photographs and a pedigree about her dog, Nicolas; and versions of her memoirs in three languages, as

well as correspondence about her efforts to publish the memoirs in the United States. This memoir, originally titled "Doors That Open from the Outside" or "Le 8618 revint," was published in France in 2010 under the title *Survivre: souvenirs d'une rescapée d'Auschwitz*.

Documentation about the Fränkel family includes photographs and identification documents about Gertrude Fränkel, correspondence to and about the French family who sheltered her during the occupation, and documents related to her immigration to the United States in 1947. Material related to Werner Fränkel includes postcards that he sent to his mother from a forced labor camp in southern France in 1942, and postwar documents related to the family's search for his whereabouts, and reference material about forced laborers in France, including information about the convoy to Auschwitz that included Fränkel.

The collection also contains an audiocassette that may contain a copy of a recording of Yvonne Redgis speaking in 1947 at an unspecified event, a medallion with a depiction of a concentration camp and the words "N'oubliez jamais" that was presented to Redgis ("Mme. Klug") in 1950 by the FNDIRP, and five lapel pins from various organizations, primarily related to former French resistance fighters.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series: I. Redgis, Yvonne, II. Fränkel family, with the latter divided into three subseries for Gertrude Fränkel, Werner Fränkel, and Fränkel family photographs. Arranged is alphabetic by folder title within each series.

Indexing terms

Redgis, Yvonne.
Fränkel, Gertrude
Fränkel, Werner

Jews--Poland--Gdańsk.
Jewish refugees--France.
Jews--Persecutions--France.
World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue--France.
Ex-concentration camp inmates--France--Biography.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Personal narratives.
World War, 1939-1945--Concentration camps--France.
Forced labor--France.

Seine-et-Oise, France (Dept.)
Le Vésinet (France)

CONTAINER LIST

I. Redgis, Yvonne (Yvonne Rothschild)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	1	Birth and baptismal certificates , 1898, 1931
1	2	Certificates of marriage to and divorce from Henry Klug, 1945-1946, 1949
1	3	Citizenship, United States, certificate of, 1947
1	4	Death: Last will and testament and obituaries, 1967, 1972
1	5	de Gaulle, Charles: Telegram to Mr. and Mrs. Redgis, 1945, and appeal "A Tous Les Français," 1940 Deportation and repatriation (France and Poland)
1	6	Identification and verification of, 1945-1947
1	7	Red Cross, assistance from, 1945
1	8	Dog (Nicolas), including pedigree chart, excerpt from Redgis memoir, 1939-1945
1	9	Driver's license, 1926
1	10	France Forever (organization, Los Angeles), 1946
1	11	Home (Caroline sur Mer, France)
1	12	Identification cards and residence permit (France), 1914-1916, 1945 Memoir
1	13	Attempts at publication, United States, 1948-1959 Manuscripts
1	14	French: "Le 8618 revint," 1945
1	15-16	English: "Doors That Open From the Outside," 1948
1	17	German translation, undated
1	18	News clippings about, 1966 Parents (Alfred and Marguerite Redgis)
1	19	Correspondence from Yvonne, after liberation, 1945
1	20	Correspondence to father, regarding search for Yvonne, 1945
1	21	Passports (United States and France), 1915, 1945, 1949
1	22	Photographs Yvonne with family members Yvonne with dog, Nicolas, 1940, 1945 Women who assisted Yvonne during and after war Images of Buchenwald after liberation Printed material
1	23	"Les F.F.I., vers l'armée nouvelle," 1945
1	24	"Free French Forces," (France Forever)
1	25	"Les camps d'extermination," (Libération), 1945
1	26	Magazine articles about camps, undated
1	27	Newspapers, French (tearsheets), 1939, 1946
1	28	Resistance, recognition of participation in, 1946
1	29	Speaking engagements (Los Angeles), 1946-1950
1	30	Speaking engagements: audiocassette copy of recording of interview with Redgis, undated (Not Digitized)

II. Fränkel family documents and photographs

Box Folder

2 1 Fränkel family tree (with annotations from Ed Francell)

Fränkel, Gertrude

2 2 Birth certificate, French translation, 1946
2 3 Citizenship and naturalization (United States), 1952
2 4 Death certificate, 1968
 Francel, Herbert: Correspondence pertaining to his mother
2 5 Boutain, Maurice (Le Vesinet), 1947
2 6 Haberland, Ernst (Danzig), 1941
2 7 Fränkel, Hermann: death notices, 1934
2 8 Identification cards, French, 1945
2 9 Passport, Free City of Danzig, 1935
2 10 Pension request, correspondence and supporting documentation, 1947-1955
2 11 Residence permit, French (Seine-et-Oise), 1945
2 12 Tax exemption, French, 1946
2 13 Travel documents, 1946

Fränkel, Werner: copied documents

2 14 "Acte de disparation," 1946
2 15 Biography of Werner Fränkel, prepared by Ed Francell, April 2013
2 16 "Convoy 26, August 31, 1942," from "Memorial to the Jews Deported
 from France," Serge Klarsfeld, pp. 226-229, 231
2 17 International Tracing Service, letter to Herbert Francel, 1956
2 18 List of foreign forced laborers, Group 318 (from Archives de l'Aude)
2 19 Police commissariat, Carcassonne, letter concerning the make-up of
 Group 318, of foreign forced laborers, November 1941
2 20 Postcards from Fränkel to his mother, Gertrude, 1942
2 21 Restitution claim, 1966
2 22 Yad Vashem memorial register for Werner Fränkel, 1994

Fränkel family photographs

2 23 Family portraits, 1915 and undated
2 24 Gertrude Fränkel, pre-war, 1932-1936
2 25 Gertrude Fränkel, post-war, 1947-1966
2 26 Werner Fränkel, 1910-1942