

AMMY AND NICO HERSCHEL COLLECTION, 1927-1942

2004.595.2

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive Summary

Title: Ammy and Nico Herschel collection

Dates: 1927-1942

Catalog number: 2004.595.2

Creator: Herschel family (Netherlands)

Extent: 1 box; 2 oversized folders; 1 CD

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

Abstract: The Ammy and Nico Herschel collection consists of correspondence, personal papers, biographical materials, newspapers, speeches, programs, and ephemera relating to the pre-war and wartime experiences of Ammy Herschel (née Weyel/Weijel) and Nice Herschel of the Netherlands.

Languages: Dutch

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.

Technical access: Audiovisual materials stored on optical and magnetic media that is not digitally available might not be accessible physically due to physical deterioration or lack of required software or hardware.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Ammy and Nico Herschel collection (2004.595.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Tswi J. Herschel donated the Ammy and Nico Herschel collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2004, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Each donation was assigned its own accession number: 2004.595.1, 2007.439.1, 2008.326.1, 2010.493.1.

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

Related materials: Oral history with Tswi J. Herschel conducted on April 22, 2004 (RG-50.999.0124) Photographs - portrait of Tswi Herschel seated in a chair while in hiding, 1943-1944 (PN: 58189); group portrait on the occasion of Willem and Margje de Jongh's 25th wedding anniversary, 1943-1945 (PN: 58208); Herman Herschel in front of his furniture store, 1933 (PN: 05343); group portrait of a Mizrahi religious Zionist youth group in The Netherlands, 1932 (PN: 05342); a Dutch Jewish wedding party, 1930-1939 (PN: 05346); Ammy and Nico Herschel in a Purim, 1934 (PN: 05373); Brit Milah certificate for Tswi Herschel, 1943 (PN: 08682); Archives - Hidden Child Foundation / ADL records (2017.478.1)

Processing history: Katelynn Vance, October 2019

Biographical note

Nico Louis Herschel (1915-1943) was born on September 20, 1915 to Herman Herschel (January 14, 1887-October 4, 1942) and Rebekka Herschel (Rebecca née Reindorp) in Zwolle, Netherlands. Ammy Weyel (also known as Malchen Weijel) was born on April 3, 1919 to Bernard Weijel and Rebekka Weijel (née Valk) in Zwolle, Netherlands. On March 29, 1942 Nico Louis Herschel married Ammy Weyel. Nico was a Zionist and worked as an economist and a teacher in a Jewish Gymnasium in Enschede. Ammy worked as telephone operator. Seven months after their wedding, the couple was ordered to move into the Hollandsche Schouwburg in Amsterdam, a former Jewish theater where Jews were held prior to their deportation to the Westerbork camp. Ammy was seven months pregnant. The Herschels received permission to leave the theater and they traveled to Zwolle. On December 29, 1942, their son Tswi Josef Herschel was born. In January 1943, the family was ordered to return to the Hollandsche Schouwburg. Nico contacted Mrs. Schwencke, the wife of his former employer, and her daughter Christine, and asked them to hide the infant. They agreed. In April 1943, Tswi Herschel was sent into hiding along with important Herschel family papers. Aged three months, Tswi was sent to live with the de Jongh family, a non-Jewish family, in Oosterbeek. Willem de Jongh was the head of the resistance movement and his house was the last safe house north of the Rhine River. Willem's daughter, Wies de Jongh Spyker was recently married and treated Tswi like her own son, referring to him as Henkie de Jongh. In September 1944, the de Jongh house was bombed during the battle of El Alamein. The family escaped serious injury by hiding in the basement. They later moved to either Utrecht or Spakenburg. In May 1945, Rebecca Herschel, Tswi's paternal grandmother located him and took him to live with his aunt Bella Davidson, Nico Herschel's sister. Bella's husband, Aron Leonard Davidson (1914-1943) died at Sobibor on July 13, 1943. She later married Philip de Leeuwe. Sources vary regarding if Tswi was raised by his grandmother, Rebecca Herschel, or his aunt Bella. At the age of eight, Tswi discovered the truth regarding the fate of his parents. Until this time he had assumed the de Jongh family were his true parents and that he was forcibly removed from them. Tswi was raised Jewish and studied optometry and mechanical engineering. He was married in 1965 and had two daughters. In 1986 he and his family immigrated to Israel.

On October 4, 1942, Herman Herschel, Nico Herschel's father, perished at Auschwitz concentration camp. In June 1943 Nico and Ammy were deported to the Westerbork camp. On either July 23, 1943 or July 27, 1943 Nico and Ammy Herschel perished at the Sobibor concentration camp.

Scope and content of collection

The Ammy and Nico Herschel collection consists of correspondence, personal papers, biographical materials, newspapers, speeches, programs, and ephemera relating to the pre-war and wartime experiences of Ammy Herschel (née Weyel/Weijel) and Nice Herschel of the Netherlands.

The biographical materials includes the diaries of Nico Herschel written in the Netherlands from July 1, 1933 to September 7, 1942; Nico Herschel's school diplomas and report cards, 1927-1928; 1931-1937; Nico Herschel's ID card for hiking organization, 1935; and Ammy Weyel's Zionist membership card, September 1940. The Herschel family papers also include documents that were sent into hiding with Tswi Herschel. These documents were buried by the de Jongh family for safekeeping, and were returned to Tswi after the war.

The correspondence series contains Herschel family correspondence; telegrams sent to Ammy and Nico Herschel following their wedding in 1942; postcards sent by Herman Herschel from Westerbork camp and Dalftsen labor camp; and business correspondence.

Manuscripts of speeches given by Nico Herschel; handwritten Hebrew lessons; programs, 1935-1937; wedding invitations and table place cards, 1942; the newsletter *Joodse Jeugdfederatie*, 1940-1941; *De Joodsche Wachter*, 1940; and an illustrated life calendar created by Nico Herschel for his son Tswi Josef Herschel, 1942 are also included in the collection.

System of arrangement

The Ammy and Nico Herschel collection is arranged in six series.

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1927-1937

Series 2: Correspondence, 1940-1942

Series 3: Manuscripts, 1933-1940, undated

Series 4: Printed materials, 1940-1941

Series 5: Ephemera, circa 1940s

Series 6: Artwork, 1942

Indexing terms

People:

Herschel, Ammy, 1919-1943.

Herschel, Herman, 1887-1942.

Herschel, Nico Louis, 1915-1943.

Herschel, Tswi Josef, 1942-

Corporate:

Westerbork (Concentration camp)

Topics:

Concentration camp inmates.

Families.

Hidden children (Holocaust)

Holocaust victims.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
Jewish children.
Marriage.
Wedding.
World War, 1939-1945.

Geography:

Netherlands.
Dalftsen (Netherlands)

Genre / Form:

Artwork.
Correspondence.
Menus.
Programs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1927-1937

Folder:	Title:
1.1	Herschel family papers, circa 1940s
1.2	Herman Herschel, 1942
1.3	Nico Herschel, 1927-1941
1.4	Ammy Herschel (née Weyel), 1940
Disc (CD) 1	The Private Journals of Nico Herschel, July 1, 1933-September 7, 1942; on CD-ROM original microfilmed in 2009

Series 2: Correspondence, 1940-1942

Folder:	Title:
1.5	Herschel family correspondence, 1938-1942
1.6	Herschel family correspondence, postcards, 1940-1942
1.7	Herman Herschel's postcards from Westerbork camp and Dalftsen labor camp, 1942;
1.8	Notes and telegrams relating to Ammy and Nico Herschel's wedding, 1942
1.9	Letters from Jewish Council to Nico Herschel, 1941-1942
1.10	Business correspondence, 1940-1942

Series 3: Manuscripts, 1933-1940, undated

Folder:	Title:
1.11	Speeches and notes by Nico Herschel, 1933-1940
1.12	Hebrew lessons, undated

Series 4: Printed materials, 1940-1941

Folder:	Title:
1.13	<i>Joodse Jeugfederatie</i> , 1940-1941
1.14	Programs, 1935

1.15	Program from a prayer service honoring the marriage of Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard of Lippe-Biesterfeld, 1937
1.16	25 th Anniversary of the Zwolle Synagogue, 1924
OS 1	<i>De Joodsche Wachter</i> , 1940

Series 5: Ephemera, circa 1940s

Folder:	Title:
1.17	Miscellaneous ephemera, circa 1940s

Series 6: Artwork, 1942

Folder:	Title:
OS 2	Life calendar for Tswi Josef Herschel, 1942