

HENRY KNEPLER PAPERS, approximately 1850-2004
2004.683.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Henry Knepler papers

Dates: approximately 1850-2004

Accession number: 2004.683.1

Creator: Knepler, Henry

Extent: 1.5 linear foot (3 boxes)

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

Abstract: The Henry Knepler papers measure 1.5 linear feet and date from approximately 1850-2004. The papers include biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, and writings documenting Henry Knepler and his relatives, their lives before the war in Vienna, where Hugo Knepler was in the music business, Henry's travel to England via *Kindertransport* and subsequent internment as an enemy alien in England and Canada, his mother's survival in Austria by hiding under a false identity, and Hugo's escape to Monaco, eventual arrest, and transport to Auschwitz where he did not survive. Some of these materials are photocopies.

Languages: German, English, French, Swedish, Czech

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. If any party, other than the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum or its staff, wishes to publish more than 5000 words from the Henry Knepler papers, permission needs to be obtained from the original donor or her immediate descendants.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Henry Knepler papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Henry Knepler papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Myrna Knepler in 2004.

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, September 2012

Biographical note

Henry Knepler (1922-1999) was born Heinrich Wilhelm Knepler in Vienna to Hugo Knepler (1872-1944) and Hedwig Moser Knepler (1888-1962). Hugo Knepler owned the Guttman Concert Management, one of the prominent concert agencies in Vienna, and later directed the Casino A.G. Hugo fled Vienna in 1939 to Monte Carlo where his cousin Hilda Lorant lived. He was arrested in 1944 and transported to Drancy and then Auschwitz. He did not survive. Henry Knepler traveled to England in February 1939 on a *Kindertransport*. He spent time in London and Portsmouth before being arrested as an enemy alien in May 1940. He was interned in Huyton and then on the Isle of Man before being transported to Canada in August 1940 aboard the MS Sobieski. In Canada he was interned in Trois Rivières, New Brunswick, and Sherbrook. He obtained a BA and an MA in English literature before immigrating to the United States in 1946, where he completed his PhD in Chicago. He became a citizen in 1956. Hedwig Knepler survived the war in hiding in Vienna under a false identity with the help of Mela Deutsch-Brady and others. She immigrated to the United States in 1947. Her sister, Alice (Lisl) Moser, died at Maly Trostinec in 1942, and her mother, Rosa Moser, died in Theresienstadt in 1943.

Scope and content of collection

The Henry Knepler papers measure 1.5 linear feet and date from approximately 1850-2004. The papers include biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, and writings documenting Henry Knepler and his relatives, their lives before the war in Vienna, where Hugo Knepler was in the music business, Henry's travel to England via *Kindertransport* and subsequent internment as an enemy alien in England and Canada, his mother's survival in Austria by hiding under a false identity, and Hugo's escape to Monaco, eventual arrest, and transport to Auschwitz where he did not survive. Some of these materials are photocopies.

Biographical materials document the lives of Henry, Hedwig, and Hugo Knepler as well as their Hiltl, Iverus, Knepler, Mehler, Moser, and Pollak relatives. Records include citizenship documents; birth, baptismal, marriage, and death certificates; passports and identity cards; Henry's *Kindertransport* application; and Hedwig's financial, immigration, and restitution files. Henry's academic accomplishments in Canada, Hugo's professional relationships with Arthur Nikisch, Pablo Casals, Leo Slezak and Ludwig Karpach, and Hugo's arrest and deportation are also documented in this series. Some of these materials are photocopies.

Most of the correspondence in the collection is among Henry, Hedwig, and Hugo Knepler. These letters trace Henry's travel to England, his life in England as a refugee and an enemy alien, his travel to Canada, his life in Canada as an enemy alien and then as a student, and his immigration to the United States;

Hedwig's life in hiding in Vienna and later efforts to immigrate to the United States; and Hugo's travel to Monaco, arrest, and transport to Auschwitz via Drancy. Correspondence between the Kneplers and their friends and family members further document those experiences and family and friends' efforts to emigrate. Of particular interest are Hedwig's letters to her son from October and November 1945 in which she describes her life in Vienna during the war and a January 1945 letter from Hilda Lora to Hedwig describing Hugo's arrest. Additional correspondence documents the internment of Leo Glück, Bettina and Ignaz Kraus, and Rosa Moser at Theresienstadt. Most of the correspondence was numbered by the correspondent or the donor.

Photographic materials include a publicity photograph showing Hugo Knepler performing eight of his skills and photocopies of photographs of Hedwig and Hugo Knepler and their family members and friends.

Writings by Hugo Knepler include manuscripts about casino games, a newspaper clipping of an "interview" with himself, and a copy of Hugo Knepler's book, *O diese Künstler!: Indeskretionen eines Managers* about his music business in Vienna and his relationships with musicians.

System of arrangement

The Henry Knepler papers are arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, approximately 1850, 1881-1884, 1889, 1901, 1915, 1929-1931, 1938-1948, 1954-1962, 1986, approximately 2000, 2004
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1939-1947, 2004
- Series 3: Photographic materials, [approximately 1900-1946], approximately 1938, 2004
- Series 4: Writings by Hugo Knepler, approximately 1920, approximately 1930s, 1931

Indexing terms

Auschwitz (Concentration camp)

Drancy (Concentration camp)

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp).

Jewish families – Austria -- Vienna.

Jewish refugees – Austria.

Jewish refugees – Great Britain

Jewish refugees – Canada

Jewish refugees – Monaco.

Kindertransports (Rescue operations) – England.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Children.

World War, 1939-1945 -- Jews -- Rescue -- United States.

Holocaust survivors.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Reparations.

Jewish musicians – Austria – Vienna.

Austria – Emigration and immigration – Government policy – 20th century.

Vienna (Austria)

Monte Carlo (Monaco)

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, approximately 1850, 1881-1884, 1889, 1901, 1915, 1929-1931, 1938-1948, 1954-1962, 1986, approximately 2000, 2004

Box	Folder	
1	1	Maria Sophie Filomena Hiltl, 1889, 1901
1	2	Sophia Barbara Christiana Hiltl, 1883, 1901
1	3	Ivar Iverus, 1986
1	4	Felix Knepler, approximately 2000
1	5	Gertrud Ada Knepler, approximately 2000
1	6-7	Hedwig Knepler, 1938, 1941-1947, 1958-1962, 2004 (2 folders)
1	8	Hedwig Knepler, Financial Records, 1942-1947
1	9	Hedwig Knepler, Immigration, 1946-1947
1	10	Hedwig Knepler, Restitution, 1954-1962
1	11	Henriette Knepler, approximately 2000
1	12	Henry Knepler, 1931, 1938-1944, 2004
1	13	Hugo Knepler, 1915, 1926-1928, 1944-1948, 2004
1	14	Johann Mehler, approximately 1850
1	15	Johann Nepomuk Mehler, 1881-1884
1	16	Adolf Moser, 1929
1	17	Rosa Moser, 1946
1	18	Adele Pollak, approximately 2000
1	19	Genealogical Research, approximately 2000

Series 2: Correspondence 1939-1947, 2004

Box	Folder	
1	20-23	Hedwig and Hugo Knepler to Henry Knepler, 1939 (4 folders)
1	24-27	Hedwig Knepler to Henry Knepler, 1939-1941 (4 folders)
1	28	Henry Knepler to Hedwig Knepler, 1939-1941
1	29-31	Hugo Knepler to Henry Knepler, 1939-1942 (3 folders)
1	32	Henry Knepler to Hugo Knepler, 1942-1943
1	33-35	Between Hedwig and Hugo Knepler, 1939-1944 (3 folders)
2	1-16	Henry Knepler to Hedwig Knepler, 1945-1947 (16 folders)
2	17-33	Hedwig Knepler to Henry Knepler, 1945-1947 (17 folders)
3	1-6	Hedwig Knepler to Henry Knepler, 1945-1947 (6 folders)
3	7	Between Hedwig Knepler and Others, 1939-1946
3	8	Between Henry Knepler and Others, 1939-1946
3	9	Between Hugo Knepler and Others, 1940-1944
3	10	Theresienstadt, Leo Glück, 1944
3	11-12	Theresienstadt, Bettina Kraus, 1943-1944 (2 folders)

3	13	Theresienstadt, Ignaz Kraus, 1943-1944
3	14	Theresienstadt, Rosa Moser, 2004

Series 3: Photographic materials, approximately 1938, 2004

Box	Folder	
3	15	Hugo Knepler, approximately 1938
3	16	Hugo and Hedwig Knepler with Family and Friends, 2004

Series 4: Writings by Hugo Knepler, approximately 1920, approximately 1930s, 1931

Box	Folder	
3	17	Manuscripts, approximately 1930s
3	18	Newspaper Clipping, approximately 1920
3	19	<i>O diese Künstler!: Indeskretionen eines Managers</i> , 1931