

TRUDY KATZER PAPERS, 1914-1976

2005.175.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Trudy Katzer papers

Dates: 1914-1976

Accession number: 2005.175.1

Creator: Trudy Katzer

Extent: 11 folders

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

Abstract: The Trudy Katzer papers contain documents relating to Trudy Katzer and her grandfather, Levi Katz. Levi was a survivor of Theresienstadt, while Trudy stayed with several families throughout the war. Included in the papers are memoirs and family histories written by Levi Katz, his refugee card, and his correspondence. Other material includes Trudy's letters to the family that sheltered her through the war, some photographs of her, and news clippings.

Languages: English, German, Dutch, Hebrew

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: Trudy Katzer papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Trudy Katzer papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2003 by Trudy Katzer.

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

Processing history: Michael Folkerts, June 2015

Biographical note

Trudy Katzer was born Geertruida Simone Gittel Schönfeld, in 1939 to Walther and Margareta Katz Schönfeld. Walther and Margareta were living in Germany, but deciding that it would be too dangerous to remain, they moved to Amsterdam in 1936. In 1939, Trudy was born. After the Netherlands became occupied by Germany, the Jewish population was rounded up for transport to camps. The Schönfeld family, along with hundreds of others, were kept in a fenced in schoolyard while they waited transport. In the meantime, their neighbor, Mimi Grimberg da Silva Rosa, traveled to the schoolyard and told officers that she had lost her wallet in the yard, and that she needed to find it. As she scoured the field, she located Trudy with her parents, told her to say good-bye to them, and took her back home. Trudy stayed with another family for several months, but was resistant to their care. She eventually moved to say with Pedro and Truus de Bruin on the outskirts of Amsterdam. The couple had no children of their own, and cared for Trudy for the duration of the war. After occupation ended, Mimi returned to pick her up, and Trudy stayed with her Uncle Werner and Grandfather Levi Katz, both of whom survived their incarceration at Theresienstadt. Walter and Margareta had been sent to Auschwitz where they were killed. Trudy lived with her relatives for a year in Utrecht, before immigrating to the United States with her grandfather, Levi Katz. She was adopted by her Uncle Fred and Aunt Gertrude, and lived in Brooklyn, New York. Levi went on to live in Ohio before moving to Israel.

Scope and content of collection

The Trudy Katzer papers contain material created by Trudy Katzer and her grandfather, Levi Katz. Most prominent in the collection are four memoirs written by Levi Katz, concerning the history of his life and family. His correspondence contains letters to relatives, from the mayor of his hometown of Borken, and from the Swiss Office of Palestine regarding his immigration. Trudy's papers include correspondence written to the de Bruins, the family that took her in during the war. There are also photographs of both Trudy, and her mother Margareta, taken at a young age. Also included are news clippings and a prayer book which was given to Walther and Margareta on their wedding day.

System of arrangement

The Trudy Katzer papers are arranged as a single series.

Indexing terms

Katzer, Trudy
Katz, Levi
Schönfeld, Walther
Schönfeld, Margareta
Da Silva Rosa, Mimi Grimberg
De Bruin, Pedro
De Bruin, Truus
Katz, Siegfried
Katz, Gertrude
Katz, Werner

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)
Auschwitz (Concentration camp)

Hidden children (Holocaust)--Netherlands.
Jewish children in the Holocaust--Netherlands.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Netherlands--Personal narratives.
Jews--Netherlands--History--20th century.

Amsterdam (Netherlands)
Borken (Germany : Kreis)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Trudy Katzer papers, 1914-1976

Folder	Title
1	Correspondence, Levi Katz, 1941-1946
2	Correspondence, Trudy Katzer, 1946-1947
3	Eltern Beisefoerth memoir, 1943
4	News clippings, 1949-1959
5	Ottweiler Rhl. Borken 1900-1910 memoir, 1976
6	Photographs, approximately 1914-1945
7	Prayer book, 1936
8	Receipts and coupon, 1946-1949
9	Refugee card, Levi Katz, 1942
10-11	Untitled family memoir, approximately 1945