

FRITZ AND ADELAIDE KAUFFMANN PAPERS, 1910-1999

2006.19.1

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

Title: Fritz and Adelaide Kauffmann papers

Dates: 1910-1999

Accession number: 2006.19.1

Creator: Kauffmann, Fritz, 1904-1993

Additional creator: Kauffmann, Adelaide, 1908-1999

Extent: 6.5 linear foot (11 boxes, 6 oversize boxes)

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

Abstract: The Fritz and Adelaide Kauffmann papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, printed materials, and restitution files documenting the Kauffmann's, particularly their time in Shanghai between 1931 and 1949. Biographical materials include address books, financial records, diaries, citizenship records, identification papers, medical records, student records, personal narratives, travel documents, estate documents, and business records for the Kauffmann's company Merchants & Traders. Correspondence includes letters between Fritz and Adelaide and with their families, friends, and business partners. Photographs include albums and loose images of Fritz and Adelaide Kauffmann and their activities, primarily in Shanghai. Printed materials consist of clippings, menus, programs, and books. Restitution files include correspondence, forms, financial statements, and attestations documenting claims made on behalf of Fritz Kauffmann, his father and stepmother, and other family members.

Languages: English, German, Chinese

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), Fritz and Adelaide Kauffmann papers (2006.19.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Ronnie Liebowitz donated the Fritz and Adelaide Kauffmann papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2006 at the bequest of Fritz and Adelaide Kauffmann.

Related archival materials: Objects: 2006.19.2-2006.19.91

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 2017

Biographical note

Fritz Kauffmann (1904-1993) was born in Cannstatt, Germany on May 26, 1904 to Dr. Eugen Kauffmann (1872-1943) and his first wife (nee Adler, d. 1910). Fritz moved to Australia in 1927 to work as an independent sales representative for German manufacturers, selling aircraft, aircraft supplies, electrical appliances, surgical instruments, insulating materials and machinery. In 1931, he moved to Shanghai to work as a sales representative for Australian firms selling wheat, flour, beef tallow, hides, fresh fruit and wool products. Fritz then joined the German import-export firm Reuter, Broeckelmann & Co. managing the industrial raw materials, chemicals, and produce department. He started his own company, Merchants and Traders, in 1940. Throughout his time in Shanghai, Fritz played polo and was active in the Shanghai Polo Club and Shanghai Paper Hunt Club. He was also a member of an American Cavalry Troop in the Shanghai Volunteer Corps, a multinational, mostly volunteer force controlled by the Shanghai Municipal Council which governed the Shanghai International Settlement. Fritz married Adelaide Florence Kerslake (Kay, 1908-1999) on January 23, 1941. Fritz lost his German citizenship in the summer of 1941 when the Nazi government deprived citizenship from German Jews living abroad. Fritz and Adelaide worked to arrange British citizenship for Fritz, which was finally granted in 1943. Fritz helped organize a committee to aid the growing influx of refugees from Europe in the late 1930s. In July 1942, he was arrested with other committee members when they made public inquiries regarding a rumor that the Japanese military commanders of Shanghai were, due to the influence of German Gestapo agents, planning to liquidate the Jews living in Shanghai. Fritz was held in custody for about a month. Fritz was not subject to the Japanese declaration that stateless refugees arriving from Europe in the late 1930s had to relocate to the restricted ghetto, so he and Adelaide were able to remain in their home and operate their business throughout the war. Fritz's father and stepmother Elsa Neuburger (1886-1944) were deported from Oberdorf, Germany to Theresienstadt in August 1942. Eugen died in Theresienstadt on August 3, 1943. Elsa was transferred to Auschwitz in October 1944 and killed. In February 1949, Fritz and Adelaide moved to the Caribbean in February 1949, received United States immigration visas and moved to New York in 1950, and were granted American citizenship in 1957.

Adelaide Kauffmann (Kay, 1908-1999), was born Adelaide Florence Kerslake in Great Britain on July 27, 1908, to Christian parents. She moved to Shanghai, where she married Fritz Kauffmann on January 23, 1941. Fritz was not subject to the Japanese declaration that stateless refugees arriving from Europe in the late 1930s had to relocate to the restricted ghetto, so he and Adelaide were able to remain in their

home and operate their business throughout the war. In February 1949, Fritz and Adelaide moved to the Caribbean and continued to run an import-export business. In 1950, they received United States immigration visas and moved to New York. Fritz and Adelaide were granted American citizenship in 1957.

Scope and content of collection

The Fritz and Adelaide Kauffmann papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, printed materials, and restitution files documenting the Kauffmann's, particularly their time in Shanghai between 1931 and 1949. Biographical materials include address books, financial records, diaries, citizenship records, identification papers, medical records, student records, personal narratives, travel documents, estate documents, and business records for the Kauffmann's company Merchants & Traders. Correspondence includes letters between Fritz and Adelaide and with their families, friends, and business partners. Photographs include albums and loose images of Fritz and Adelaide Kauffmann and their activities, primarily in Shanghai. Printed materials consist of clippings, menus, programs, and books. Restitution files include correspondence, forms, financial statements, and attestations documenting claims made on behalf of Fritz Kauffmann, his father and stepmother, and other family members.

System of arrangement

The Fritz and Adelaide Kauffmann papers are arranged as five series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1910-1999
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1921-1998
- Series 3: Photographs, circa 1920s-1970s
- Series 4: Printed materials, circa 1920s-1995
- Series 5: Restitution files, 1950-1992

Indexing terms

Shanghai Volunteer Corps

Jews--China--Shanghai.

Shanghai (China)

Correspondence.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1910-1999

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1.7	Birth and death dates, approximately 1990
1.8	Business and calling cards, approximately 1940-1980
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1.10	Financial and estate records, 1944-1998
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2.16	Notes, approximately 1940-1990
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3.2	Personal narrative, <i>Die Juden in Shanghai im 2. Weltkrieg: Erinnerungen eines Vorstandsmitglieds der Jüdischen Gemeinde</i> , 1986
3.3	Preparations for Shanghai departure, 1949
3.4	Songs, poems, approximately 1940-1990
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4.8-4.9	Avery, Helen, 1925, 1946-1947 (2 folders)
4.10	Bettencourt-Gomes, C.J., 1981
4.11	Blighe, Vincent, 1985-1986
4.12	Brownlee, Selma, 1945, 1956, 1968, 1983-1987
4.13	Carsch, Ellen, 1978-1997
4.14	Carsch, Ruth, 1978-1982
4.15	Carter, Milly and Reginald, 1956
4.16	Clubb, O. Edmund, 1965, 1989
4.17	Coutiere, Charles, 1964-1966
4.18	Cowan, Robert and Joan, 1968, 1980-1982
4.19	Dethleffsen, Inge, 1976-1977
4.20	Dinsdale, Rosemary, approximately 1991-1993
4.21	Drury, Frances, 1976, 1987-1988
4.22	Elguther, Ernst, 1963
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5.11	Klausner, Steve and Ruth, 1983-1984
5.12	Korff, Maria, 1982-1984

5.13	Leo Baeck Institute, 1983-1987
5.14	Lippmann, Heinz and Maria, approximately 1950-1980
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Box 13	
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10.12	Stationery, 1930s
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Box 17	<i>Dragon by the Tail: American, British, Japanese, and Russian Encounters with China and One Another</i> / John Paton Davies, Jr., 1972
Box 17	<i>Fifty Years in China: The Memoirs of John Leighton Stuart, Missionary and Ambassador</i> , 1954
Box 17	<i>Stuttgart mit meinem Augen</i> / Wolfe Strache, 1982 (inscribed)
Box 17	<i>Wanderers and Settlers in the Far East: A Century of Jewish Life in China and Japan</i> / Herman Dicker, 1962
Box 17	<i>Polo</i> / The Earl of Kimberly, ed. (inscribed to Fritz Kauffmann by Adelaide Kauffmann)
Box 17	<i>Grundzüge der Deutsch-Chinesischen Beziehungen</i> / Fritz van Briessen, 1977
Box 17	<i>U.S. China Policy Today</i> / David Nelson Rowe, 1979 (inscribed to donor)
Box 17	<i>China: The Roots of Madness</i> / Theodore H. White, 1968
Box 17	<i>When the Whole is Greater Than the Sum of All Parts</i> / Elmer Berger, reprinted from The Palestine Yearbook of International Law, Vol. V, 1989

Series 5: Restitution files, 1950-1992

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10.23	Mitteilung zur Leistung aus der gesetzlichen Rentenversicherung, 1990-1992
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