

RUTH MILLER PAPERS, approximately 1893-2003
2006.473.1

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

Title: Ruth Miller papers

Dates: approximately 1893-2003

Accession number: 2006.473.1

Creator: Miller, Ruth, 1927-1999

Extent: 2.0 linear feet (1 box and 3 oversize boxes)

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

Abstract: The Ruth Miller papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, and printed materials documenting the Kittel family from Berlin, Josef Kittel's Catholic ancestry, wartime persecutions, and the Kittels' immigration to the United States.

Languages: German, 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), Ruth Miller papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Ron and Susan Miller donated the Ruth Miller papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2006.

Related materials: Ron and Susan Miller also donated six yellow Star of David badges (2006.473.2 through 2006.473.7) and six pieces of currency and scrip (2006.473.8 through 2006.473.13) to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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, May 2015

Biographical note

Ruth Miller (1927-1999) was born Ruth Kittel in Berlin to Josef Kittel (1896-1971) and Marie Kittel (nee Ritter, 1896-1974) and had a sister named Hannelore (b. 1924). Josef Kittel came from a Catholic family in Vienna and fought in World War I. Marie was Jewish and the couple raised their daughters in the Jewish faith. The family survived World War II in Berlin and was forced into slave labor. Ruth worked on an assembly line at Osram, on air ship construction at Zeppelin, making buttons at W. Jakubaschk, and as a seamstress at Fa. Schultz. In 1943 she was briefly held at the Lehrter Strasse and Rosenstrasse detention camps. After the war, she worked as a secretary for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. She immigrated to the United States with her family in August 1946.

Scope and content of collection

The Ruth Miller papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, and printed materials documenting the Kittel family from Berlin, Josef Kittel's Catholic ancestry, wartime persecutions, and the Kittels' immigration to the United States.

Biographical materials include birth, marriage, and death certificates; school records; military papers; medical records; identification papers; ration coupons; employment records; immigration and travel papers; certificates of naturalization and social security cards for Josef, Marie, and Ruth Kittel. This series also includes Ruth's release paper from the Rosenstrasse detention center, ration coupons for Hannelore Kittel, birth certificates for ancestors Josefa Gross, Anna Franziska Krieger, Franziska Steffan, Josef Kittel, Sr., Karl Kittel, and Johan Stephan, and a death certificate for Franziska Kittel.

Correspondence primarily consists of correspondence documenting Josef Kittel's genealogy. It also includes a 1942 letter to Ruth from a friend name Ellen conveying Ellen's wartime anxiety, and a 1975 letter to Ruth from the Bundesversicherungsanstalt für Angestellte about insurance payments.

Photographs comprised three photograph albums. The first album includes photographs of Ruth Miller, the Kittel family, friends who perished in the Holocaust (some wearing yellow stars), bombed out buildings in postwar Berlin, soccer games, demonstrations, trains preparing to depart for displaced persons camps, the Kittels' ship en route to America. The second album also includes photographs of Ruth Miller, the Kittel family, friends and classmates, after the war in Germany, and in America. The third album also include photographs of the Kittel family, their ancestors, Josef Kittel in uniform during World War I (with postcards written on the backs from Josef to Marie), the Kittels' ship en route to America, and life in America.

Printed materials include a brief pamphlet published by Jewish Friends Society containing the lyrics to "The Star-Spangled Banner" in English and Hebrew and a map of Germany divided in quadrants and centered on Berlin.

System of arrangement

The Ruth Miller papers are arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, approximately 1915-1990
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1922-1975
- Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1893-2003
- Series 4: Printed materials, approximately 1940s

Indexing terms

Jewish families--Germany--Berlin.

Interfaith marriage--Germany--Berlin.

Children of interfaith marriage--Germany--Berlin.

National socialism and genealogy--Germany.

Jews--Persecutions--Germany--Berlin.

Slave labor--Germany--Berlin.

Berlin (Germany)

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, approximately 1915-1990

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Gross, Josefa, 1933
1.2	Kittel, Anna Franziska Krieger, 1933
1.3	Kittel, Franziska Steffan, 1925, 1941
1.4	Kittel, Hannelore, 1944
1.5-1.7	Kittel, Josef, approximately 1915-1971 (3 folders)
1.8	Kittel, Josef, Sr., 1941
1.9	Kittel, Karl, 1933
1.10	Kittel, Marie, 1915, 1920, 1944-1946, 1952
1.11-1.13	Kittel, Ruth, 1937-1955, 1963, 1990 (3 folders)
1.14	Stephan, Johann, 1933

Series 2: Correspondence, 1922-1975

Box/Folder	Title
1.15	Correspondence, 1922, 1933, 1941-1942, 1975

Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1893-2003

Box/Folder	Title
2.1	Photograph album 1, approximately 1893-1978, 2003
3.1	Photograph album 2, approximately 1927-1953, 2003
4.1	Photograph album 3, approximately 1915-1946, 2003

Series 4: Printed materials, approximately 1940s

Box/Folder	Title
1.16	Jewish Friends Society pamphlet on "The Star-Spangled Banner," approximately 1946
1.17	Quadrangle map of Germany with concentric circles from Berlin to 300km, approximately 1940s