

HEILBRONN AND WERTHEIM FAMILIES PAPERS, 1940-2005 (bulk 1940-1944) 2006.79

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Heilbronn and Wertheim families papers

Dates: 1940-2005 (bulk 1940-1944)

Accession number: 2006.79

Creator: Heilbronn (Family : Geisig, Germany)

Additional creator: Wertheim (Family : Brünen, Germany)

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Heilbronn and Wertheim families papers consist of correspondence to German Jewish immigrants Hugo and Else Heilbronn in Pennsylvania from their Heilbronn and Wertheim family members in Germany, England, Belgium, and Rhodesia and French concentration camps at Gurs and Les Milles; correspondence arranging aid for relatives in Germany and France; and a 2005 newspaper article in which Ruth Gottlieb, daughter of Hugo and Else Heilbronn, describes her family's experiences of Nazi persecution in Germany and immigrating to the United States in 1939.

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), Heilbronn and Wertheim families papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Ruth Gottlieb donated the Heilbronn and Wertheim families papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2006.

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 2017

Biographical note

Hugo Heilbronn (1900-1964) was born in Geisig, Germany to Louis and Rosa Heilbronn. Else Wertheim Heilbronn (1911-1998) was born in Brünen, Germany to Levy and Selma Wertheim. Hugo immigrated to the United States in 1938, and Else and their daughter Ruth (b. 1935 in Lahnstein) followed in 1939.

Hugo's parents Louis (b. 1869) and Rosa Heilbronn (b. 1873), sister and nieces Hannah (b. 1905), Irmgard (b. 1931), Elsbeth (b. 1933), and Helga Tobias (b. 1938), and aunt Emmy Rosenthal (b. 1884) were deported to Łódź in October 1941 and were later killed at Auschwitz. Hannah's husband Louis Tobias (b. 1907) survived Łódź and Auschwitz and immigrated to the United States in 1946. Emil (b. 1874) and Kathinka Heilbron (b. 1883) and Lina Rosenthal (b. 1898) were deported from Frankfurt to Kowno and killed there in November 1941.

In December 1941, Else's mother and brothers Selma (b. 1877), Walter (b. 1904), and Paul (b. 1915) were deported from Dusseldorf to Riga, where they are presumed to have been killed. Her sister Henny (b. 1905) and brother-in-law Simon Strauss (b. 1901) were deported to the Gurs concentration camp in France in October 1940, transferred to Les Milles and Marseilles in late 1941, and transferred via Drancy to Auschwitz in August 1942, where they were killed.

Scope and content of collection

The Heilbronn and Wertheim families papers consist of correspondence to German Jewish immigrants Hugo and Else Heilbronn in Pennsylvania from their Heilbronn and Wertheim family members in Germany, England, Belgium, and Rhodesia and French concentration camps at Gurs and Les Milles; correspondence arranging aid for relatives in Germany and France; and a 2005 newspaper article in which Ruth Gottlieb, daughter of Hugo and Else Heilbronn, describes her family's experiences of Nazi persecution in Germany and immigrating to the United States in 1939.

Ruth Gottlieb's article describes her very early years in Nazi Germany, restrictions on her father's cattle business, the destruction of family property during Kristallnacht, immigration to the United States, their efforts to bring their relatives to America, and learning that most of their family was killed in the Holocaust.

Correspondence consists of letters to the Heilbronn family in Pennsylvania from their relatives in Europe. Letters from Henny and Simon Strauss describe conditions in Gurs and Les Milles and their desperate need for money. Letters from Louis, Rosa, Lina, Kathinka, and Emil Heilbronn, Hannah and Louis Tobias, Emma Rosenthal, and Selma and Walter Wertheim describe their lives in Frankfurt and

Wesel, Germany, family news, health, their difficulties arranging emigration and pleas for help, and news about the deportations of relatives and friends. Letters from Henny and Simon Strauss describe life in Gurs and Les Milles and their desperate need for money. Letters from Selma Heilbronn and Helga, Ilse, and George Feilmann in England, from Sally Heilbronn in Rhodesia, and from Fred and Alice Strauss in New Jersey describe their concern for their relatives in Europe.

Packages, travel, and tracing documents consists of correspondence with aid organizations and travel companies that documents Hugo and Elsie Heilbronn's efforts to arrange money, packages, affidavits, and transportation for their relatives in Europe and to locate them after their correspondence ceased.

System of arrangement

The Heilbronn and Wertheim families papers are arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Personal narrative, 2005
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1941-1943
- Series 3: Packages, travel, and tracing documents, 1940-1944

Indexing terms

Gurs (Concentration camp)
Les Milles (Concentration camp)

Jews--Germany--Frankfurt am Main.
Concentration camp inmates--France--Correspondence.

Frankfurt am Main (Germany)

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Personal narrative, 2005

Box/Folder	
1.1	Gottlieb, Ruth, "Kristallnacht, A Personal Story," <i>The Jewish State</i> , November 4, 2005

Series 2: Correspondence, 1941-1943

Box/Folder	
1.2	Feilmann, Helga, Ilse, and George, 1941-1943
1.3	Heilbronn, Kathinka and Emil, 1941
1.4-1.5	Heilbronn, Louis and Rosa, and Tobias, Hannah and Louis, 1941 (2 folders)
1.6	Heilbronn, Selma, 1941-1942

1.7	Heilbronn, Siegfried, 1941
1.8	Heilbronn, Sally, 1941-1942
1.9	Lowenstein, Irma, 1941
1.10	Rosenthal, Emma and Lina Heilbronn, 1941
1.11	Strauss, Fred and Alice, 1941
1.12	Strauss, Henny and Simon, 1941-1942
1.13-1.16	Wertheim, Selma and Walter, 1941 (4 folders)

Series 3: Packages, travel, and tracing documents, 1940-1944

Box/Folder	
1.17	Affidavit, 1941
1.18	American Friends Services Committee, 1941-1942
1.19	American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 1941
1.20	American Lloyd, Inc., 1940-1941
1.21	European and American Travel Bureau, 1941
1.22	Fred Reis, 1941
1.23	Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1940
1.24	National Council of Jewish Women, 1941
1.25	Streamline Cruises, 1941
1.26	Additional packages, travel, and tracing, 1940-1944