

DOBIECKI FAMILY PAPERS, 1922-1977
2007.447.1

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

Title: Dobiecki family papers

Dates: 1922-1977

Accession number: 2007.447.1

Creator: Dobiecki family (Essen :Germany)

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box, 2 book enclosures, 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The collection documents Barech and Golda Dobiecki and their daughter Bella's experiences as they emigrated from Essen, Germany on the MS St. Louis 1939, their disembarkation in England, their immigration to Brazil, and their eventual immigration to the United States. The collection also documents the earlier immigrations of the Dobiecki's daughters Hella to Brazil and the United States, and Bronia to the United States. Included are identification papers, restitution papers, immigration and travel documents, letters from the Jewish Refugees Committee while they were in England, correspondence, and photographs. The photographs include a photo album made of their passage on the MS St. Louis in 1939, and one documenting their trip from Brazil to the United States.

Languages: German, English, Portuguese, Polish, Spanish

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), Dobiecki family papers (2007.447.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Dobiecki family papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Rhonda Mlodinoff in 2007. Rhonda is the daughter of Bella Dobiecki.

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

Processing history: Adam Fielding, January 2017

Biographical note

Barech (1886-1966; later known as Bernard Dubia) was married to Golda (1891-1954; née Bleiman). They lived in Łódź, where they had three daughters, Helena (1914-1992, known as Hella); Bronia (b. 1916; later Bronia Netzky); and Bella (1924-1988; later Bella Mlodinoff). The family later moved to Essen, Germany.

Hella married Hans Meyer (1905-1944) and they immigrated to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1937. They divorced by 1942. Bronia immigrated to the United States in 1938, and settled in Chicago. In 1938, Barech, Golda, and Bella began planning to flee Nazi Germany. They booked passage on the MS. St. Louis with the intention of immigrating to the United States from Cuba. After passengers were not allowed to disembark in Cuba, the Dobiecki's disembarked in England. They stayed there for approximately 6 months, and then immigrated to Brazil in 1940 to be with Hella. In 1942, Bella went to visit Bronia in Chicago, and while she was there her visa quota number came up, so she remained there. In 1943, Hella and her parents immigrated to the United States, settling in Los Angeles, California.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents Barech and Golda Dobiecki and their daughter Bella's experiences as they emigrated from Essen, Germany on the MS St. Louis 1939, their disembarkation in England, their immigration to Brazil, and their eventual immigration to the United States. The collection also documents the earlier immigrations of the Dobiecki's daughters Hella to Brazil and the United States, and Bronia to the United States. Included are identification papers, restitution papers, immigration and travel documents, letters from the Jewish Refugees Committee while they were in England, correspondence, and photographs. The photographs include a photo album made of their passage on the MS St. Louis in 1939, and one documenting their trip from Brazil to the United States in 1943.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series:

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1922-1977

Series 2: Emigration and Immigration papers, 1938-1943

Series 3: Correspondence, 1935-1962

Series 4: Photographs, 1936-1945

Folders are arranged alphabetically, and documents are arranged chronologically. One post-war album was disassembled for conservation reasons, and documents were arranged with the rest of the collection.

Indexing terms

Person:

Dobiecki, Barech, 1886-1966.
Dobiecki, Golda, 1891-1954.
Dobiecki, Bella, 1924-1988.
Dobiecki, Hella, 1914-1992.
Dobiecki, Bronia, 1916-

Corporate:

St. Louis (Ship)

Topical Subject:

Jewish families--Germany.
Refugees, Jewish--England--London.
Refugees, Jewish--Brazil.
Emigration and immigration--Brazil--1940-1950.
Emigration and immigration--United States.
Restitution and indemnification claims (1933-)--Germany.

Geography:

Essen (Germany)
Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
England.

Genre/Form:

Photograph albums.
Correspondence.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1922-1977

Box	Folder	Title
		Dobiecki, Barech:
1	1	1922-circa 1955
1	2	Restitution papers, 1954-1966
1	3	Dobiecki, Bella, 1926-1940
1	4	Dobiecki, Bronia, 1927 and undated
1	5	Dobiecki family, 1923
1	6	Dobiecki, Golda, 1939-1951
		Dobiecki, Hella:
1	7	1925-1950
1	8	Divorce papers, 1941-1942
1	9	Restitution papers, 1947-1977
1	10	Meyer, Hans, 1945-1975
1	11	Receipts and financial documents, 1942-1977

Series 2: Emigration and Immigration papers, 1938-1943

Box	Folder	Title
1 OS	12 1	Brazil, 1938-1943
1	13	Cuba, 1938-1939
1	14	England, 1939-1940
1	15	United States, 1941-1943

Series 3: Correspondence, 1935-1962

Box	Folder	Title
1	16	Dobiecki, Barech, 1936-1962
1	17	Dobiecki, Bella, 1939-1945
1	18	Dobiecki, Bronia, 1940
1	19	Dobiecki, Hella, 1935-1962 and undated
1	20	Esther [last name unknown], 1945

Series 4: Photographs, 1936-1945

Box	Folder	Title
1	21	Loose photographs, 1936-1945
BE	2	Photograph album: MS St. Louis, 1939
BE	1	Photograph album: Royal Mail Motor Vessels, 1943