

**DR. NATHAN SALCZBERGER AND KAHNT FAMILY COLLECTION,
approximately 1937-1949
2008.174.1**

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

Title: Dr. Nathan Salczberger and Kahnt family collection

Dates: 1937-1949 and undated

Accession number: 2008.174.1

Creator: Nathan Salczberger

Additional creator: Kahnt (Family : Paris, France)

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (9 folders) and 6 digital folders

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

Abstract: The Dr. Nathan Salczberger and Kahnt family collection comprised documents concerning Dr. Salczberger and his claims against the Lavergne family and digital images of documents and photographs concerning the love affair and post war life of Georgette Lavergne and Erich Kahnt. Among the materials related to Dr. Salczberger include testimonies from each member of the Lavergne family and Erich Kahnt, as well as official court documentation of Dr. Salczberger's complaints against them. The material relating to Erich and Georgette Kahnt include letters and poems written by Erich and sent to Georgette while he was stationed on the Russian front in 1941 and photographs of the couple in post-war Paris.

Language: French, 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 if item), Dr. Nathan Salczberger and Kahnt family collection (2008.174.1) United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Joshua Gibson donated the Dr. Nathan Salczberger papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2008 and the Kahnt family collection in 2012.

Custodial history: Joshua Gibson purchased the materials pertaining to Dr. Nathan Salczberger and his accusations against the Lavergne family and Erich Kahnt at a flea market in Paris, France in 2008. Richard Kahnt, the nephew of Georgette and Erich Kahnt, contacted Gibson in 2012 after reading Gibson's blog entry describing the Dr. Nathan Salczberger papers. Gibson shared his collection of Kahnt family papers with Gibson, and Gibson donated a digital copy of the Kahnt family papers 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: Colleen Benoit, March 2016

Biographical note

Dr. Nathan Salczberger (Salez-Berger) was born in Sighetu Marmatiei, Romania in 1901. As a young man, he immigrated to Paris, France and was naturalized as a French citizen in 1928. A Jewish doctor, Dr. Salczberger worked with the French military medical units and at one point, served as the head of the French Medical Mission. Sometime around 1940, he was taken as a prisoner of war by the Germans and held for two years. He was released in November, 1942 and lived for two years at the Purpan Military Hospital in Toulouse, France. During his absence from Paris, Dr. Salczberger was denounced as a Jew by his landlord, Amelie Susanne Lavergne and her daughter, Georgette. As a result, his apartment was ransacked and belongings were stolen. His brother, Melchoir, who had been living in the "chambre de bonne," was arrested by the Gestapo and his sister-in-law, Helene was sent to Drancy and never heard from again. Upon his return to Paris after demobilization in 1944, Dr. Salczberger opened legal proceedings against Amelie and Georgette, who later admitted to stealing pieces of his furniture and were both arrested for unrelated "anti-French activities." Sometime between 1944 and 1948, Dr. Salczberger returned to his original apartment on Boulevard de Sébastopol.

Georgette Lavergne Kahnt was born to George and Amelie Susanne Lavergne in Paris, France. Her parents were the landlords of the apartment building at 16 Boulevard de Sébastopol in which Dr. Nathan Salczberger resided. In August 1940 Georgette began a relationship with a German soldier by the name of Erich Kahnt. They carried on their affair for nearly a year until Erich was sent to the Russian front in April 1941. The couple continued to correspond while Erich was on the front. He returned to Paris in 1942 after suffering severe frostbite and a kidney disease. Back in Paris, Georgette and Amelie provided Erich civilian clothes and a false French identity so the couple could continue seeing each other. Georgette, Amelie, and Erich were ultimately all arrested. Erich was sent to a prisoner of war camp in Laon after being captured in Paris in December 1944 and Georgette spent time in Drancy. After the war, Georgette and Erich reunited and married. Georgette died in Mittenwald, Germany in 2000.

Scope and content of collection

The Dr. Nathan Salczberger and Kahnt family collection comprised documents concerning Dr. Salczberger and his claims against the Lavergne family and digital images of documents and photographs concerning the love affair and post war life of Georgette and Erich Kahnt. Among the materials related to Dr. Salczberger include testimonies from each member of the Lavergne family and Erich Kahnt, as well as official court documentation of Dr. Salczberger's complaints against them. Also included are several envelopes and inventory lists of the items stolen from Dr. Salczberger's apartment, a letter written to a friend detailing the case, and postcard sent from Israel. The material relating to Erich and Georgette Kahnt include letters and poems written by Erich and sent to Georgette while he was stationed on the Russian front in 1941. Erich's German soldier's passport, registration as a prisoner of war camp in Laon, and a provisional release certificate issued in 1946 are also included, as is a pneumatic post card used by Georgette. Several photographs are included in this series, with most of them depicting the couple and family members in post-war Paris. Also comprised here within is a copy of *Paris Délivré*, a single-issue magazine published shortly before Paris' liberation in 1944, and a copy of *La Libération de Paris*.

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System of arrangement

The Dr. Nathan Salczberger and Kahnt family collection is arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Dr. Nathan Salczberger papers, 1944-1949 and undated
- Series 2: Georgette and Erich Kahnt papers, 1937-1946
- Series 3: Georgette and Erich Kahnt photographs, approximately 1940-1947

Indexing terms

Salczberger, Nathan (1901-).

Salczberger, Melchoir (1897-).

Salczberger, Helene (1906-).

Lavergne, Georgette (-2000).

Lavergne, Amelie Susanne (1887-).

Lavergne, George (1882-).

Kahnt, Erich (1910-).

Drancy (Concentration camp).

Physicians--France--Paris.

Landlord and tenant--France--Paris.

Jews--Persecutions--France.

World War, 1939-1945--France--Paris.

France--History--German occupation, 1940-1945.

Paris (France)

Laon (France)

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Dr. Nathan Salczberger papers, approximately 1944-1949

Folder	Title
1	Book jacket, undated
2	Correspondence, 1944-1949
3	Envelopes and stationary, undated
4	Notes, approximately 1944
5	Request to open investigation, 1944
6	Testimonies – Flener, Annie, 1944
7	Testimonies – Kahnt, Erich, 1944
8	Testimonies – Lavergne family, 1944-1945
9	Testimonies – Salczberger, Nathan, 1944-1945

Series 2: Georgette and Erich Kahnt papers, 1937-1946

Digital Folder	Title
1	Correspondence and Poems, 1941-1946
2	Erich Kahnt biographical materials, 1937-1946
3	<i>La Libération de Paris</i> , 1944
4	<i>Paris Délivré</i> , 1944

Series 3: Georgette and Erich Kahnt photographs, approximately 1940-1947

Digital Folder	Title
5	Green photo album, approximately 1940-1947
6	Loose photographs, approximately 1940-1947