

CAMILLO ADLER PAPERS, 1938-1947
2009.403.2

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

Title: Camillo Adler papers

Dates: 1938-1947

Accession number: 2009.403.2

Creator: Adler, Camillo, 1905-1985.

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box)

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

Abstract: The collection consists of three manuscripts written by Camillo Adler between 1943-1945. *Der Käfig* (The Cage), in German, is a semi-autobiographical work related to life in Vienna in the 1920s. *Mensch ohne Heimat* (Man Without a Country), in German with an English translation, is an autobiographical work related to Adler's life in Lyon, France, from the outbreak of World War II to his enlistment in the French Foreign Legion. *Ich bin ein Fluechtling* (I am a Refugee), in German with an English translation, is an account of Adler's experiences escaping with his family from Lyon into Switzerland, and life in Swiss refugee and labor camps. The translations were completed by Adler's son, Michel, in 2009 and 2010. The accretion consists of the German passports of Camillo's parents Moritz and Sara Adler; a tracing document regarding the deportation of Ludwig and Marie Kraus, the parents of Camillo's wife Martha Adler, from Vienna to Theresienstadt; a letter from Ludwig and Marie to Camillo and Martha written in 1942; and a photograph postcard sent to Martha.

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), Camillo Adler papers (2009.403.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Michel Adler in 2011, with an accretion in 2016.

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, July 2017

Biographical note

Camillo Adler (1905-1985) was born in 1905 in Austria to Moritz (1874-1959) and Sara (née Reich, 1873-1954?). He had one brother, Adolph (later Anthony, b. 1908) and one sister, Golda (b. 1903?). Camillo received his law degree in Vienna, but was unable to find work there and moved to Lyon, France. He married Martha Kraus (1901-1969), daughter of Ludwig (1866-1942) and Marie Kraus (1875-1942), in 1933. Unable to find work in law, Camillo worked as a stock clerk for a silk manufacturer. Their first son, Paul (1936-2004) was born on 10 March 1936.

After the outbreak of World War II in 1939, Camillo joined the French Foreign Legion. He returned to Lyon in 1940 after France signed the armistice with Germany. Their second son, Michel, was born on 22 June 1941. Facing increased persecution, the family fled to Switzerland in November 1942. Paul and Michel were initially separated from the parents, but they were reunited in the village of Neu St. Johan, Nesslau, Toggenburg district of St. Gallen. After the war, they moved to Zurich. In 1951, they immigrated to the United States.

Camillo's parents survived the Holocaust, but Martha's perished after they were deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp in 1942.

Scope and content of collection

The collection consists of three manuscripts written by Camillo Adler between 1943-1945. *Der Käfig* (The Cage), in German, is a semi-autobiographical work related to life in Vienna in the 1920s. *Mensch ohne Heimat* (Man Without a Country), in German with an English translation, is an autobiographical work related to Adler's life in Lyon, France, from the outbreak of World War II to his enlistment in the French Foreign Legion. It was originally published as a serial in a Swiss newspaper. *Ich bin ein Fluechtling* (I am a Refugee), in German with an English translation, is an account of Adler's experiences escaping with his family from Lyon into Switzerland, and life in Swiss refugee and labor camps. The manuscripts were later discovered by his son Michel, who translated and published *Mensch ohne Heimat* and *Ich bin ein Fluechtling* together in English under the title *I am a Refugee* in 2012.

The accretion consists of the German passports of Camillo's parents Moritz and Sara Adler; a tracing document regarding the deportation of Ludwig and Marie Kraus, the parents of Camillo's wife Martha Adler, from Vienna to Theresienstadt; a letter from Ludwig and Marie to Camillo and Martha written in 1942; and a photograph postcard sent to Martha.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series. The manuscripts are arranged in chronological order.

This collection incorporates collections previously accessioned as 2009.403 and 2016.495.1.

Indexing terms

Person:

Adler, Camillo, 1905-1985.

Corporate:

France. Army. Foreign Legion.

Topical Subject:

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--France--Personal narratives.

Jewish refugees--France--Biography.

Jewish refugees--Switzerland.

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

Geography:

Lyon (France)

Vienna (Austria)

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

Memoirs.

CONTAINER LIST

Folder	Title
1	Documents and photograph, 1938-1947
	Manuscripts:
2	<i>Der Käfig</i> (The Cage)
3	<i>Man ohne Heimat</i> (Man Without a Country)
4	<i>Ich bin ein Flüchtling</i> (I am a Refugee)
5	<i>Man without a Country</i> and <i>I am a Refugee</i> English translations by Michel Adler, 2010