

INGE FISCHER ENGEL PAPERS, approximately 1900-1982 2011.378.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Inge Fischer Engel papers

Dates: approximately 1900-1982

Accession number: 2011.378.1

Creator: Engel, Inge Fischer, 1927-2013

Extent: 3.7 linear foot (4 boxes, 6 book enclosures, 2 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The Inge Fischer Engel papers consist of biographical materials, a diary and autograph book, photographic materials, and printed materials documenting the Fischer family from Vienna, the two years Inge and her sister spent in England, the family's emigration to Trinidad, their internment in Trinidad, and their immigration to the United States. The collection also includes photographs documenting Inge's uncle in Shanghai and the Canidrome where he worked as director, photographs of her husband's family from Vienna, and student and employment records documenting her brother-in-law, Otto Engel.

Languages: German, English, Italian

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), Inge Fischer Engel papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Toni Engel-Gonchoroff donated the Inge Fischer Engel papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2011.

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, March 2016, revised August 2018

Biographical note / Administrative history

Inge Engel (1927-2013) was born in Vienna to Ernst Fischer (1881-1944), chief editor of the *Kronen Zeitung* newspapers, and his wife, Liesl Fischer (nee Neubauer), who worked for the Jüdische Kultus Gemeinde. Inge's sister Lucy was born in December 1930. The Fischer family left Vienna in 1937, and Inge and Lucy spent two years in England before joining their parents in Trinidad. The family was interned as enemy aliens for just over a year following the outbreak of World War II. Ernst Fischer died in 1944 following surgery, and Inge, Liesl, and Lucy immigrated to the United States in 1945. Inge married Walter Engel (1911-1990), who had immigrated from Vienna in 1938, joined the United States Army, and worked for Voice of America and the United States Foreign Service.

Scope and content of collection

The Inge Fischer Engel papers consist of biographical materials, a diary and autograph book, photographic materials, and printed materials documenting the Fischer family from Vienna, the two years Inge and her sister spent in England, the family's emigration to Trinidad, their internment in Trinidad, and their immigration to the United States. The collection also includes photographs documenting Inge's uncle in Shanghai and the Canidrome where he worked as director, photographs of her husband's family from Vienna, and student and employment records documenting her brother-in-law, Otto Engel.

Biographical materials include Ernst and Liesl Fischer's marriage announcement and Otto Fischer's student and employment records.

The diary and autograph book belonged to Inge Fischer. She received the diary from her mother in October 1936 and started writing in it in February 1937. Her entries describe daily life and school in Vienna, outings with her family, the German annexation of Austria, her father being fired from his job, fleeing to England on the advice of a friend, attending boarding school in Folkestone, missing her parents, the other girls at her school, and learning English. In May 1939, the entries switch from German to English and describe Inge's new life in Trinidad, the St. James Internment Camp, release from internment, her dating life, and her desire to go to America. The autograph book includes entries from Inge's school friends in both English and German in the form of signatures, notes, poetry, and drawings.

Photographic materials include seven photo albums and loose photographs documenting the Fischer family in Vienna, Italy, Brazil, and Trinidad, Inge's uncle A. Otto Fischer and the Canidrome where he worked as director in Shanghai, and the Engel family in Vienna. Some photograph albums also include postcards, invitations, and programs documenting the Fischers' life in Trinidad.

Printed materials include clippings of published photographs of Liesl and Inge Fischer, a blank chart from the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, a copy of *S.S.C. Magazine* from St. Stephen's College in Folkestone, and a 1930 copy of *La Grande Illustrazione d'Italia*.

System of arrangement

The Inge Fischer Engel papers are arranged as four series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1915-1982
- Series 2: Diary and autograph book, 1936-1942
- Series 3: Photographic materials, approximately 1900-1947
- Series 4: Printed materials, 1929-1938

Indexing terms

Jews--Austria--Vienna.

Jewish refugees--Trinidad and Tobago--Trinidad.

Jewish refugees--England--Folkestone.

Jews--China--Shanghai.

Vienna (Austria)

Cattolica (Italy)

Folkestone (England)

Shanghai (China)

Trinidad.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1915-1982

Box/Folder	
1.1	Engel, Otto, 1915-1925, 1933-1937, 1973, 1982
1.2	Fischer, Ernst and Liesl, 1926
1.3	Mother's Day poem, 1937

Series 2: Diary and autograph book, 1936-1942

Box/Folder	
BE 1	Diary, 1936-1942
BE 2	Autograph book, 1938-1939

Series 3: Photographic materials, approximately 1900-1947

Box/Folder	
1.4	Columbia Country Club, 1938-1939
1.5	Derka, Ludwig (Lutz), 1930s
1.6	Engel, Emil and Judith, approximately 1905
1.7	Engel, Walter and Otto, approximately 1912-1930
1.8	Engel family, approximately 1901-1944
1.9	Engel family postcards, 1906, 1939-1940
1.10	Fischer, A. Oscar, 1915-1916
1.11	Fischer, Ernst Otto, approximately 1920, 1934
1.12	Fischer, Inge and Lucy, 1928-1937
1.13	Fischer, Liesl, approximately 1910-1947
1.14	Fischer family, approximately 1908-1934
1.15	Fischer family postcards, 1924-1941
1.16	Fischer family postcards from photo album 3, 1924-1945
1.17	Neubauer, Sigmund and Paula, approximately 1900-1920
OS 1	Office Staff of the Standard Life Assurance Co, May 1944
BE 3	Photo album 1, approximately 1910-1938
2.1	Photo album 2, 1900s-1940s
3.1	Photo album 3, 1927-1944
BE 4	Photo album 4, 1938-1944
1.18	Loose material from photo album 4, 1938-1944
BE 5	Photo album 5, 1920s-1930s
BE 6	Photo album 6, 1925-1934
1.19-1.20	Loose material from photo album 6, 1925-1934 (2 folders)
4.1	Photo album 7, 1938-1946
1.21-1.22	Loose material from photo album 7, 1926-1946 (2 folders)

Series 4: Printed materials, 1929-1938

Box/Folder	
1.23	Clippings of Liesl and Inge Fischer, 1929, 1931
1.24	Royal Netherlands Steamship Co. chart, 1935
1.25	<i>S.S.C. Magazine</i> , St. Stephen's College, Folkestone, 1938
OS 2	<i>La Grande Illustrazione d'Italia</i> , December 1930