

LEVI, KRONTHAL, AND EIS FAMILY PAPERS, 1867-2010
2012.444.1

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

Title: Levi, Kronthal, and Eis Family Papers

Dates: 1867-2010

Accession number: 2012.444.1

Creator: Kronthal, Levi, and Eis Families

Extent: 3.1 linear feet (6 boxes and 1 oversize box)

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

Abstract: The Levi, Kronthal, and Eis family papers document the family of Sali Levi, last rabbi of the old Jewish community of Mainz, as well as the families of his wife Margarete Levi, nee Weissmann, his sister-in-law Rosa Kronthal, his son Hans Levi, and his son-in-law Max Eis. The collection contains biographical materials, correspondence, subject files, photographs, sermons, writings, speeches, and books documenting the lives of the Kronthal, Levi, and Eis families as they were forced to flee Germany and immigrate to the United States during the Holocaust.

Languages: German, English, Hebrew, Polish

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), Levi, Kronthal, and Eis Family Papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Levi, Kronthal, and Eis Family papers were donated in 2012 by Regina Lackner, daughter of Max Eis and Ruth Levi Eis.

Related archival materials: The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum also holds an original storybook written and illustrated by Sali Levi for the 70th birthday of his mother-in-law Lina Weissman in 1925, a laurel wreath Max Eis won for swimming in the Rhine in the 1930s, and a plaque he received upon his retirement in 1977. These artifacts were donated to the Museum by Regina Lackner along with the rest of the collection in 2012.

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, June 2012

Biographical note

Rabbi Dr. Sali Levi (1883-1941) was born to Wilhelm Levi and Johanna Sternweiler Levi in Walldorf, although some sources give his birthplace as neighboring Wiesloch. He studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary in Breslau where he was appointed second rabbi at the New Synagogue. He married Margarete Weissmann in 1912. During World War I he served as an army chaplain stationed at Vilna, and he became the rabbi of Mainz in 1918. After the Nazi rise to power, he was appointed chaplain for the Osthofen concentration camp, and he served as the first principal of the Jüdische Bezirksschule Mainz, established in 1934 for the Jewish children who were increasingly unwelcome in German public schools. He died of a heart attack in Berlin in 1941 while awaiting final papers for his immigration to the United States. Sali Levi's relatives include his maternal grandfather Lippmann Sternweiler, brother and sister-in-law Josef and Berta Levi, and sister and brother-in-law Berta and Markus Slodki.

Margarete Levi (1886-1960) was born Margarete Weissmann to Simon Weissmann and Lina Wischnitz Weissmann in Kieferstädtel. She had been trained as a concert pianist. She and Rabbi Dr. Sali Levi had three children: Hilde, Hans, and Ruth. She immigrated to the United States following her husband's death in 1941 and became an American citizen in 1947. Her relatives include her sisters Rosa and Frieda Weissmann, cousin Adolf Kober, and aunt Fanny Kober.

Hans Levi (1915-1997) was born in Breslau to Margarete and Sali Levi. He completed his high school education in Germany, pursued aviation studies in the Netherlands, and immigrated to the United States in 1936. He served with the 82nd Airborne Division during World War II, taking part in the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Normandy, and the Netherlands, and earning a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. After the war he pursued a career as a manufacturer and entrepreneur designing machinery, living and working in the New York/New Jersey area for over thirty years before moving to southern California in the early 1980s.

Rosa Kronthal (1878-1964) was an older sister of Margarete Weissmann Levi. She was trained as a school teacher and married Berthold Kronthal in 1918. Berthold Kronthal (1860-1942) was born in Posen and became the head of the public library system in Breslau. During World War II, both were deported to Theresienstadt, where Berthold died. Rosa spent two years in a displaced persons camp in Switzerland following the war before immigrating to the United States in 1946. She died in New York

City. The Kronthals' relatives include their nieces Annemarie Schwabacher and Liselotte Croner, nephew Willy Kronthal, and great-nephews Claes and Stefan Croner.

Max Eis (1917-1991) was born in Mainz to Jakob Eis and Regina Meyer Eis. He immigrated to the United States via England in 1938. His brother Albert, who had been assaulted during Kristallnacht, followed shortly after. His parents were deported to Theresienstadt around 1942 where his mother died in 1943. His father spent a year at the Deggendorf displaced persons camp before immigrating to the United States where he died in New York in 1952. Max Eis married Sali Levi's daughter, Ruth Levi, in 1942, and the couple had two children, Steven Eis and Regina Eis Lackner. Max Eis' relatives include his mother's uncle Seligmann Meyer, sister-in-law Irma Eis and her parents Sali and Amalie Edinger, and second cousin Irwin Meyer.

Scope and content of collection

The Levi, Kronthal, and Eis family papers document the family of Sali Levi, last rabbi of the old Jewish community of Mainz, as well as the families of his wife Margarete Levi, nee Weissmann, his sister-in-law Rosa Kronthal, his son Hans Levi, and his son-in-law Max Eis. The collection contains biographical materials, correspondence, subject files, photographs, sermons, writings, speeches, and books documenting the lives of the Kronthal, Levi, and Eis families as they were forced to flee Germany and immigrate to the United States during the Holocaust.

Biographical materials date from 1867-circa 2010 and include birth, marriage, and death certificates; identification and membership cards; school records; awards; military papers; engagement and marriage announcements; immigration and naturalization records; employment records; wills; death notices and obituaries; mourning books; personal and family histories; vaccination records; and clippings.

Correspondence files date from 1918-1997 and include letters among family members, friends, and professional and social contacts. Subjects include Kristallnacht, immigration efforts, and life in Germany, Theresienstadt, Deggendorf, and America. The files include Hans Levi's objections to the American Consul in Switzerland's lack of attention to Rosa Kronthal's immigration efforts, photocopies of Sali Levi's 1933 objections to the way his son's high school was treating Jewish students as "guests," correspondence between Albert Eis and the wife of the man who assaulted him during Kristallnacht, and letters of thanks and praise for Rosa Kronthal from Eleanor Roosevelt, Leo Baeck, and Joachim Prinz.

Subject files date from 1934-2010 and include information about the families' immigration efforts, the Jüdische Bezirksschule Mainz, the Jüdische Selbstverwaltung Theresienstadt, Walldorf, and restitution claims pursued by various family members for confiscated goods, taxes and fees, bank accounts, pensions, insurance policies, and lost income.

Photographs date from 1911-2000 and include family members; the synagogue, Jewish museum, and Jüdische Bezirksschule in Mainz; Rosa Kronthal's and Sali Levi's gravestones; Wilhelm and Johanna Levi's house; and photographs related to one of Max Eis' employers.

Sali Levi's writings and speeches date from circa 1906-1941 and cover religious topics and personal experiences. They include eulogies and descriptions of old Jewish gravestones in Mainz, Jews in Russian Poland, and prayer books used by soldiers in the field during World War I.

Sali Levi's sermons date from 1908-1941 and are accompanied by computer disks and printed draft English transcriptions of some of the sermons.

Books in the collection date from 1880-1994 and include religious and prayer books owned by Sali Levi, works on the Holocaust and Jewish communities in Germany, a prayer book belonging to Jakob Eis, and a book of sermons by Seligmann Meyer.

System of arrangement

The Levi, Kronthal, and Eis family papers are arranged as five series:

- Series 1: Sali Levi Family, 1880, 1891, 1900, 1911-1941, 1947-1948, 1953, 1961-1967, 1976-1988, 1993-1994, circa 2000-2001, 2002, 2010
- Series 2: Margarete Levi Family, 1867, 1877, 1902-1906, 1911, 1918, 1938-1960
- Series 3: Hans Levi Family, 1952, 1982-1984, 1991-1997
- Series 4: Berthold and Rosa Kronthal Family, 1883, 1896, circa 1902, 1910, 1918, 1928-1964
- Series 5: Max Eis Family, 1911-1992, 2000

Indexing terms

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp).

Rabbis – Germany – Mainz (Rhineland-Palatinate).

Jews – Germany – History – 1933-1945.

Holocaust survivors.

Germany – Emigration and immigration – History – 1933-1945.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) – Reparations.

Refugee camps.

Jewish athletes – Germany.

Jewish day schools – Germany.

Librarians.

Wrocław (Poland)

Mainz (Germany)

Walldorf (Baden-Württemberg, Germany)

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Sali Levi Family, 1880, 1891, 1900, 1911-1941, 1947-1948, 1953, 1961-1967, 1976-1988, 1993-1994, circa 2000-2001, 2002, 2010

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|--|
| | | Biographical Materials |
| 1 | 1 | Hilde and Erich Hirschmann, 1933 |
| 1 | 2 | Sali Levi, 1913, 1918, 1932, 1939-1941, 1947-1948 |
| 1 | 3 | Sali Levi, Army Chaplain in Vilna, circa 1914-1918 |
| 1 | 4-5 | Sali Levi, Clippings, 1953, 1961, 1976, 1981-1983 (2 folders) |
| 1 | 6 | Sali Levi, Emigration Efforts, 1940-1941 |
| 1 | 7 | Sali Levi, Memorials, circa 1943-1961 |
| 1 | 8 | Sali Levi, Rabbi of Mainz, circa 1925-1941 |
| 1 | 9 | Sali Levi, Research Materials, 1983-1984 |
| 1 | 10 | Berta and Markus Slodki, 2002 |
| 1 | 11 | Lippmann Sternweiler [1902], photocopy circa 2010 |
| 1 | | Correspondence and Subject Files |
| 1 | 12 | Correspondence, 1920, 1932, 1940-1941 |
| 1 | 13 | Dedication of the New Temple in Mainz, Documentary by Andreas Berg, Sudwestfunk, September 4, 2010 (Not Digitized) |
| 1 | 14 | Jüdische Bezirksschule Mainz, 1934-1937, 1961 |
| 1 | 15-17 | Jüdische Bezirksschule Mainz [1934-1942], photocopies circa 2000 (3 folders) |
| 1 | 18 | Restitution, 1939 |
| 1 | 19 | Walldorf, 1967, 1985 |
| 1 | | Photographs |
| 1 | 20 | Berta Levi, circa 1911 |
| 1 | 21 | Sali Levi, circa 1925-1941, 1977 |
| 1 | 22 | Sali Levi's Gravestone, 1941, 1967, 1993 |
| 1 | 23 | Wilhelm and Johanna Levi's House, circa 1941 |
| 1 | 24 | Mainz, Jewish Museum, <i>Bezirksschule</i> , and <i>Neue Synagoge</i> , circa 1928-1941 |
| 1 | 25 | Berta and Markus Slodki, 1911 |
| | | Sermons |
| 1 | 26-32 | Sermons, 1908-1914 (7 folders) |
| 1 | 33 | Sermons, 1918 |
| 2 | 1-4 | Sermons, circa 1937-1941 (4 folders) |
| 2 | 5 | Disks of Transcriptions, circa 2001 |
| 2 | 6-12 | Transcriptions, circa 2001 (7 folders) |
| | | Writings and Speeches |
| 2 | 13-17 | Writings and Speeches, circa 1906-1941 (5 folders) |
| | | Levi's Books |
| 2 | 18 | <i>Gemiluth Chasadim</i> , 1880 |
| 2 | 19 | <i>Kompendium zur Universal Agende: Handbuch für den Praktischen Gebrauch in der Synagoge und für Kasualien von Prediger Lion Wolff</i> , 1891 |
| 3 | 1 | <i>Gebetbuch</i> , 1900 |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 3 | 2 | Loose Sheets Tucked into <i>Gebetbuch</i> , circa 1908-1941 |
| 3 | 3 | <i>Jüdisches Feldgebetbuch</i> , 1918 |
| 3 | 4 | <i>Satzung, Bestimmungen über das Ehrengerichtliche Verfahren und Parlamentarische Regeln des Rhenus Loge XXV Nr. 388</i> , 1922 |
| 3 | 5 | <i>Der Deutsche Distrikt des Ordens Bne Briss</i> , 1923 |
| 3 | 6 | <i>Die Fünf Bücher Moses</i> , 1929 |
| | | Other Books |
| 3 | 7 | <i>Das Tagebuch des Hans O.</i> , 1965 |
| 4 | 1 | <i>Mainz: Viertelshäfte für Kultur, Politik, Wirtschaft, Geschichte</i> , 1. Jahrgang 1981, Heft 4, 1981 |
| 4 | 2 | <i>Begleitbuch zur Ausstellung "Juden in Baden, 1809-1984,"</i> 1984 |
| 4 | 3 | <i>Geschichte und Schicksal der Walldorfer Juden</i> , 1985 |
| 4 | 4 | <i>Der Alte jüdische Friedhof in Wroclaw/Breslau</i> , 1988 |
| 4 | 5 | <i>Festschrift zur Einweihung der Neuen Synagoge in Mainz, 3. September 1912</i> , 1988 |
| 4 | 6 | <i>Wroclawscy Żydzi, 1850-1944</i> , 1994 |

Series 2: Margarete Levi Family, 1867, 1877, 1902-1906, 1911, 1918, 1938-1960

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|--|
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| 4 | 7 | Adolf Kober, 1958 |
| 4 | 8 | Fanny Kober, 1911 |
| 4 | 9 | Margarete Levi, 1902-1906, 1938-1940, 1947-1948, 1957-1959 |
| 4 | 10 | Frieda Weissmann, "Ausschnitt aus dem Leben der Familie Weissmann (März 1933)," 1956 |
| 4 | 11 | Lina Weissmann, 1877, 1918 |
| 4 | 12 | Simon Weissmann, 1867 |
| | | Correspondence |
| 4 | 13-15 | Margarete Levi, 1941-1960 (3 folders) |
| | | Restitution |
| 4 | 16-18 | Margarete Levi, 1939-1960 (3 folders) |

Series 3: Hans Levi Family, 1952, 1982-1984, 1991-1997

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| 4 | 19 | Clippings, 1952, 1983, 1995-1997 |
| 4 | 20 | Correspondence, Ruth Eis, 1982, 1997 |
| 4 | 21 | Correspondence, Hans Levi, 1983-1984 |
| 4 | 22 | "Family Tree of the Levi-Weissmann Families, Their Ancestors and Descendents [sic], Prepared by Hans L. Levi," 1991 |
| 4 | 23 | Speech at Sali Levi's 100th Birthday Celebration, 1983 |

Series 4: Berthold and Rosa Kronthal Family, 1883, 1896, circa 1902, 1910, 1918, 1928-1964

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|---|
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| 5 | 1 | Berthold Kronthal, 1883, circa 1902, 1918, 1928-1930, 1939-1942 |
| 5 | 2 | Rosa Kronthal, 1896, 1910, 1918, 1931-1932, 1939-1942, 1947, 1959, 1964 |
| | | Correspondence |
| 5 | 3 | Rosa Kronthal, 1918, 1928, 1944-1946, 1954, 1960-1961 |
| 5 | 4 | Rosa Kronthal to Ruth Eis, 1958-1963 |
| 5 | 5 | Willy Kronthal, 1964 |
| 5 | 6 | Annemarie Schwabacher and Liselotte Croner, 1962-1963 |
| | | Photographs |
| 5 | 7 | Claes, Stefan, and Liselotte Croner, 1950, 1956, 1962 |
| 5 | 8 | Berthold and Rosa Kronthal, circa 1936-1940 |
| 5 | 9 | Rosa Kronthal's Gravestone, circa 1964 |
| 5 | 10 | Hedwig Schönlink, circa 1930s |
| 5 | 11 | Unidentified, circa 1930s |
| | | Subject Files |
| 5 | 12 | Immigration, 1945-1946 |
| 5 | 13 | Jüdische Selbstverwaltung Theresienstadt, circa 1944-1945 |
| 5 | 14 | Letters of Recommendation, 1946-1950 |
| 5 | 15 | Restitution, 1955 |

Series 5: Max Eis Family, 1911-1992, 2000

| Box | Folder | |
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| | | Biographical Materials |
| 5 | 16 | Amalie Edinger, 1942-1949 |
| 5 | 17 | Sali Edinger, 1955 |
| 5 | 18 | Albert Eis, 1914, 1940-1944, 1987 |
| 5 | 19 | Albert Eis, Career, 1922, 1931-1942, 1957, 1967 |
| 5 | 20 | Albert Eis, Identity Papers, 1938-1939, 1969, 1975 |
| 5 | 21 | Albert Eis, Sports, 1935-1939 |
| 5 | 22 | Irma Eis, 1911, 1932, 1942-1943, 1964-1974 |
| 5 | 23 | Jakob Eis, 1938-1952, 1974, 1979 |
| 5 | 24 | Jakob Eis, Deggendorf, 1945-1946 |
| 5 | 25 | Jakob Eis, Immigration and Naturalization, 1944-1946, 1951-1952 |
| 5 | 26 | Jakob Eis, Theresienstadt, circa 1945 |
| 5 | 27 | Josef Eis, circa 1960s |
| 5 | 28 | Max Eis, 1917-1918, 1929-1932, 1937-1943, 1954-1955, 1985, 1991-1992 |
| 5 | 29 | Max Eis, Awards, 1931-1932, 1937-1938, 1953, 1958, 1964, 1977, 1982, 1990-1991 (see also Box 7, Folder 1) |
| 5 | 30 | Max Eis, Employment History, 1935-1942, 1947-1954, 1961, 1978 |
| 5 | 31 | Max Eis, Immigration and Naturalization, 1938-1945 |
| 5 | 32 | Max Eis, Personal Narratives, 1988 |

| | | |
|---|----|--|
| 5 | 33 | Max Eis, Printed Materials, circa 1941, 1946, 1956, 1968, 1991 |
| 5 | 34 | Max Eis, Student Records, 1927-1933 |
| 5 | 35 | Regina Eis, 1943 |
| 5 | 36 | Irwin Meyer: "The 'Heritage' of the Meyer Family," circa 2000 |
| 5 | 37 | Joseph Meyer [1806], photocopy circa 2000 |
| 5 | 38 | Seligmann Meyer, 1926 |
| 5 | 39 | Meyer Family Tree [1939], photocopy circa 2000 |
| | | Correspondence |
| 6 | 1 | Albert Eis, 1948-1949 |
| 6 | 2 | Jakob Eis, 1938-1946 |
| 6 | 3 | Josef Eis, 1945-1950, 1961 |
| 6 | 4 | Max Eis, 1944-1945, 1990 |
| | | Photographs |
| 6 | 5 | Amalie Edinger, circa 1940-1945 |
| 6 | 6 | Sali Edinger, circa 1932 |
| 6 | 7 | Irma Eis, circa 1914-1937 |
| 6 | 8 | Jakob Eis, circa 1920-1945, 2000 |
| 6 | 9 | Josef Eis, circa 1947-1959 |
| 6 | 10 | Max Eis, circa 1920s, 1991 |
| 6 | 11 | Max Eis, Industrial Process Engineers, circa 1950s |
| 6 | 12 | Regina Eis, circa 1930s |
| | | Restitution |
| 6 | 13 | Albert Eis, 1966-1968, 1973-1974 |
| 6 | 14 | Jakob Eis, 1952 |
| 6 | 15 | Max Eis, 1961 |
| | | Books |
| 6 | 16 | Jakob Eis' Prayer Book, <i>Thephillah Vethachanunim</i> , 1883 |
| 6 | 17 | Seligmann Meyer's Sermons, <i>Festbetrachtungen</i> , 1901 |

Oversize, 1932, 1937

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|------------------------|
| | | Max Eis, Awards |
| 7 | 1 | Awards, 1932, 1937 |