

## **Reinsch family papers, 1900-1985**

### **2013.402.1**

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

#### **Descriptive summary**

Title: Reinsch family papers

Dates: 1887-1994

Accession number: 2013.402.1

Creator: Hannie Reinsch  
Helga Reinsch

Extent: 9 boxes

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

Abstract: Consists of legal, financial, taxation, construction, and restitution documents and correspondence related to the efforts of the Reinsch family, particularly Hannie Reinsch, to regain the residential and commercial properties her family owned in Berlin and Leipzig prior to World War II. Includes some family documents regarding the pre-war lives of the family, including participation in World War I and the purchase of investment properties, which were confiscated before and after the family fled Europe. Also includes digital images of the family's pre-war, wartime, and post-war photograph albums.

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: No restrictions on use.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Reinsch family papers (2013.402.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Roy Parker donated this collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2013.

Processing history: Rebecca Erbelding, 2013.

### **Biographical note**

Roy Parker was born Romano Nunzio Voltango Pelligrino on March 9, 1938. His maternal great-grandparents, Abraham Isaak Abraham (known as Issak) and Olga Freudenthal Abraham, were in the fur business prior to World War I. Members of the Abraham family emigrated to the United States in the mid-nineteenth century and started a fur export/import business with family remaining in Germany. During World War I, the business was broken up. Issak and Olga Abraham had one daughter, Helene "Hannie" Abraham. After World War I, the family moved from Leipzig to Berlin and the Abrahams began investing in real estate. They purchased several residential and commercial buildings in and around Berlin.

After World War I, Hannie Abraham met and married Karl Reinsch, who trained as a pharmacist prior to World War I and fought in the war. They had a daughter, Helga, born in June 1920. The Reinsches bought a pharmacy in eastern Berlin, which housed a retail shop on the first floor and apartments above. In the 1930s, the family began to be affected by the anti-Jewish persecutions. Helga had to leave her public school and attend a private school for Jewish girls. Karl was briefly interned in Ravensbrück, and the family had to pay a ransom for his release. By the mid-1930s, they began to make plans to emigrate.

In 1936, while on a family vacation, Helga met Mario Pelligrino, a non-Jewish Italian naval recruit. She married him, giving birth to Romano (Roy) in 1938. In the meantime, the Abrahams and Reinschs were planning to emigrate to Cuba and from there, to the United States. Their plans were delayed when Isaak Abraham died of natural causes on November 9, 1938. Their real estate, stocks, and personal property confiscated by the Nazi state, Olga, Hannie, and Karl immigrated to Cuba in 1939. They had to remain there until 1941 while they gathered enough money to pay to immigrate to the United States. They were finally able to leave, reaching New York City in 1941. Soon after, Olga Abraham died and is buried on Staten Island and Karl died and is buried in New Jersey. Hannie supported herself by doing odd jobs and working as a milliner.

Helga, Mario, and Roy remained in Europe throughout the war. In the spring of 1939, Mario purchased tickets for their emigration to Cuba on the MS St. Louis. The family never boarded the ship, as Helga found out that her trousseau was missing and refused to board. Returning to Berlin, Mario, who spoke six languages, took a job attached to the Italian embassy in Berlin, supervising the 100,000 Italian laborers who worked in Germany filling the positions left vacant by departing German soldiers. Helga and Roy became Italian citizens and were able to move about unmolested as long as Helga displayed an Italian flag on Roy's baby carriage. By 1941, Mario became nervous for his family's safety and the workers began to return to Italy. He commandeered train cars to carry their personal possessions to Italy and told Helga he was taking Roy to Italy. Helga, who did not want to leave Germany, refused until the last minute, but finally joined her husband and son. They spent the rest of the war near Mario's family in Via Reggio in Tuscany, and in Montecatini. Mario was the leader of a partisan group, but also worked with both the German and Allied officers stationed in the area to make sure he could keep his family safe. Helga and Roy had to hide from the Germans frequently, particularly in 1943-1944.

After the war, Mario registered with the Red Cross, which enabled Hannie to locate her daughter, son-in-law, and grandson. In 1945, Hannie was one of the first refugees to return to Europe, spending several months in Italy with her family. In 1947, Helga, and Roy immigrated to the United States from Genoa on the SS Victory Shark, landing in New York. Mario, who was born in Tunisia, was officially on the French quota and joined them several months later. Helga and Mario divorced in 1950; Mario remarried and moved to Venezuela.

Hannie Reinsch began trying to get restitution for the family's confiscated property in the early 1950s. It was a multi-decade battle, with the various properties being returned to the family slowly over the years. The family's former residence at Uhlandstrasse 108/9 was destroyed during the war, and was one of the first properties to be returned to Hannie. She took advantage of a German rebuilding fund to rebuild the property, but had to make it into an apartment building. Over the years, Hannie fought to regain the other properties, selling them to make enough money to live. She returned to Germany several times, permanently in 1974, living in one of the apartments at Uhlandstrasse 108/9. After her mother's death in 1977, Helga finally sold that property. After the Berlin Wall fell in 1988, Helga fought for restitution for two additional properties located in eastern Berlin: the building which housed her father's pharmacy and a cottage on a lake in Furstenburg. The family successfully regained these properties and sold them in the 1990s. Helga Reinsch Pelligrino died in 2001.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The vast majority of this collection relates to the post-war restitution and management of the Reinsch family's numerous properties in Germany. Their properties included:

Hermannstrasse 37/38, Berlin  
Güntzelstrasse 42, Berlin  
Galvanistrasse 13/14, Berlin  
Rathenaustrasse 3, Berlin  
Langhansstrasse 82, Berlin  
Uhlandstrasse 108/109, Berlin  
Uhlandstrasse 70, Berlin  
Schillerstrasse 75, Berlin  
Tauchaer Strasse 2, Leipzig  
Mockernsche Strasse, Leipzig

Of these properties, the majority of the documents related to the restitution, construction, and management of Uhlandstrasse 108/109. This apartment building was destroyed during World War II. After it was rebuilt in 1954, the Reinsch family owned and controlled the management of the building until the late 1970s. The documents provide a case study of a family's attempt to regain property and struggle to retain, manage, and profit from the property that was confiscated prior to World War II.

### **System of arrangement**

The collection was originally arranged into labeled folders by Hannie Reinsch. This arrangement has been retained, though the documents have been removed from the metallic fasteners and placed in archival folders, with the description retained. Since the folder content seems to overlap and in some cases is difficult to determine, the folders were given date ranges and organized by the earliest date in the range.

### **Indexing terms**

Reinsch, Helene.  
Reinsch, Karl.  
Pellegrino, Helga Reinsch.  
Pellegrino, Mario.  
Parker, Roy.

Confiscations—Germany—Berlin.  
Jewish property—Germany—Berlin.  
World War, 1939-1945—Claims—Germany—Berlin.  
Berlin (Germany)  
Leipzig (Germany)

## CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	
1	1	Contract, 1887
1	2	Birth, personal certificates, property manager contracts, 1895-1967
1	3	Related to property in Leipzig, rebuilding Uhlandstrasse, 1900-1967
1	4	Karl Reinsch, 1909-1966
1	5	Karl Reinsch, 1912-1933
1	6	World War I Pharmacist work, 1915-1960
1	7	Uhlandstrasse 1926-1950
1	8	Original documents related to pharmacy on Langhanstrasse 82, 1926-1937
1	9	Uhlandstrasse 108/9, 1930-1932
1	10	Copies of pharmacy documents, post-war reimbursement, 1930-1962
1	11	Schillerstrasse 75, 1931-1952
1	12	Karl Reinsch, 1931-1959
1	13	Hermannstrasse 37/38, 1935-1956
1	14	Sale of Stocks, including IG Farben, 1935-1939
1	15	Otto Scheurmann, 1935-1978
2	1	Confiscation of Uhlandstrasse, 108/109, 1936-1961
2	2	Apartment in Berlin, 1936-1976
2	3	First restitution claims, 1937-1950
2	4	Roy Charles Parker, 1937-1957
2	5	Deutsche Bank forms 1938-1961
2	6	Property taxes, 1938-1958
2	7	Miscellaneous, 1939-1960
2	8	Personal property, 1939-1965
2	9	Deutsches Reich refund of securities, 1943-1962
2	10	Proof of inheritance, 1943-1969
3	1	Death certificates, 1945-1950
3	2	Kurt Landesberger, 1947
3	3	Miscellaneous, 1948-1964
3	4	Miscellaneous, 1948-1964
3	5	Dr. Willy Neuendorff, 1947-1968
3	6	Israel Abraham, 1950-1952
3	7	Uhlandstrasse 108/109, 1950-1971
3	8	Miscellaneous, 1952-1957
3	9	Confiscation of personal property, 1952-1961
3	10	Copyright agreements, 1952-1956
3	11	Freudenthal, 1952-1960
3	12	Miscellaneous, 1952-1968 (1 of 2)

4	1	Miscellaneous, 1952-1968 (2 of 2)
4	2	Miscellaneous, 1954-1959
4	3	Miscellaneous, 1955-1959
4	4	Related to the sale of stocks, 1955-1960
4	5	Uhlandstrasse 108/109, 1954-1956
4	6	Uhlandstrasse 70, 1955-1956
4	7	Personal property seizure, 1956-1972
4	8	Miscellaneous, 1957
4	9	Uhlandstrasse 108/109, 1957-1959
4	10	Miscellaneous, 1957-1963
4	11	Miscellaneous, 1958-1959
5	1	Uhlandstrasse 70, 1958-1959
5	2	Securities with Karl Barsch, 1958-1963
5	3	Deutsche Bank, 1958-1963
5	4	Uhlandstrasse 108/109, 1958-1964
5	5	United Restitution Organization, 1958-1967
5	6	Miscellaneous, 1958-1967
5	7	Securities, 1958-1968
5	8	Miscellaneous, 1959-1960
5	9	United Restitution Organization, 1959-1962
5	10	Construction project, Uhlandstrasse 108/109, 1960
5	11	Uhlandstrasse 108/9, 1960-1961
6	1	Uhlandstrasse 108/9, 1960-1962
6	2	Construction documents, Uhlandstrasse 108/9, 1960-1962
6	3	Bolle correspondence, Uhlandstrasse 108/9, 1960-1963
6	4	Miscellaneous, 1960-1964
6	5	Miscellaneous, 1960-1965
6	6	Heirs of Paul Freudenthal, 1960-1967
6	7	Miscellaneous, 1960-1969
6	8	Construction book, Uhlandstrasse 108/9, 1961
6	9	Reinsch-Bolle correspondence, 1961
7	1	Lag Hamel-Klein, 1961-1962
7	2	Miscellaneous, 1961-1962
7	3	Miscellaneous, 1961-1962
7	4	Construction receipts Uhlandstrasse 108/9, 1961-1968
7	5	Medical care, 1961-1966
7	6	Miscellaneous, 1962-1963
7	7	Letters from Bolle about construction, 1963
7	8	Herbert-Hamel-Heinzelmannbau, 1963
7	9	Miscellaneous, 1963-1964 (1 of 2)
8	1	Miscellaneous, 1963-1964 (2 of 2)
8	2	Horst Hamel-Schindler bills and receipts, 1963
8	3	Firma Bolle, Uhlandstrasse 108/9, 1963-1964
8	4	Hannie Reinsch, 1963-1965
8	5	Uhlandstrasse 108/9, 1964-1965
8	6	Block 10, Charlottenburg, 1964-1966

8	7	Miscellaneous, 1967
8	8	Uhlandstrasse 108/9, 1967-1968
8	9	Miscellaneous, 1967-1968
8	10	Kurfürstendamm 61, 1968-1973
8	11	Miscellaneous, 1971
8	12	Damage to Uhlandstrasse 108/9, 1972-1973
9	1	Uhlandstrasse 108/9, 1974-1975
9	2	Uhlandstrasse taxes, 1975
9	3	Uhlandstrasse 108/9, 1975-1976
9	4	Income from Germany, 1978
9	5	Miscellaneous, 1990-1998
9	6	Income from Germany, 1990
9	7	Income from Germany, 1991
9	8	Income from Germany, 1992
9	9	Sale of the Furstenberg villa, 1993
9	10	Income from Germany, 1993
9	11	Income from Germany, 1994