

MAX RIESS PAPERS
1930-1942
2013.514.3

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Max Riess papers

Dates: 1930-1942 (bulk, 1937-1941)

Accession number: 2013.514.3

Creator: Riess, Max.

Extent: 5 folders

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

Abstract: Tax records pertaining to the business owned by Max Riess in Berlin, which specialized in the sales of men's accessories, including socks, gloves, and neckties. The records pertain mostly to income taxes paid by Riess during the late 1930s, up until his business was expropriated in 1941, and include taxes he has paid on his personal belongings and business inventories as part of the "Judenvermögensabgabe" and other taxes targeting Jews during this period.

Languages: German

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), Max Riess papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Purchased from Kedem Auction House, Ltd., 2013.

Custodial history: File was given by a member of the Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland, e.V. (ZWST) to a representative of the European Council of Jewish Communities (ECJC) in 2010, during efforts to memorialize Riess. No information is available about the earlier provenance of these records.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Brad Bauer, August 2013.

Biographical note

Max Riess was born in Berlin-Charlottenburg on 10 February, 1897. He operated a business on Invalidenstrasse 156 in Berlin, which sold socks, gloves, and neckties. His business was dissolved in 1941, and Riess was transported from Berlin to Auschwitz on 4 August 1943, on transport number 40. His fate is unknown and he is presumed to have perished there. [Source: Gedenkbuch Berlins: der jüdischen Opfer des Nationalsozialismus; and internal documentation in Max Riess papers].

Scope and content of collection

Tax records pertaining to the business owned by Max Riess in Berlin, which specialized in the sales of men's accessories, including socks, gloves, and neckties. The records pertain mostly to income taxes paid by Riess during the late 1930s, up until his business was expropriated in 1941, and include taxes he had paid on his personal belongings and business inventories as part of the "Judenvermögensabgabe" and other taxes targeting Jews during this period.

Through the records that Riess kept, including correspondence with officials at the tax offices in Berlin-Mitte and Scharnhorst, a picture emerges of the declining sales and income of Riess's business as it was targeted as a Jewish-owned business, and as additional taxes were levied on him, including the "Judenvermögensabgabe," or the tax levied on German Jews following Kristallnacht in 1938. Riess was forced to accept a loan from his widowed mother, Olga Riess, but even this didn't prevent the eventual loss of his business. Aryanization procedures were initiated in 1939, and by February 1941 he had recorded the dissolution of his business with the tax office in Berlin-Scharnhorst. Documents from 1942 show the forced collection of clothing from members of the Jewish Community of Berlin, and the items that Riess and his mother were forced to hand over.

An additional file of print outs of e-mails from 2010, show how the Berlin office of the European Council of Jewish Communities sought to have a memorial "Stolperstein" placed on the sidewalk of Invalidenstrasse 156, outside of the building that once housed Riess's business. This action was taken after a member of the Berlin office of the Council had received this file of Riess's tax records, and decided to find a way to memorialize Riess.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged in five file folders, and then subdivided by topic within each folder, and within chronological order in each sub-folder.

Indexing terms

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Economic aspects--Germany--Berlin.

World War, 1939-1945--Confiscations and contributions--Germany--Berlin.
Aryanization--Germany--Berlin.
Jews--Persecutions--Germany--Berlin.
Jewish businesspeople--Germany--Berlin.

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Sub-folder</u>	
		General documentation
1	1	Max Riess—Mode Neuheiten: Business stationery, declaration of dissolution of business, 1941 and undated
1	2	Memorial: efforts to place a “Stolperstein” marker at site of Riess’ business, Invalidenstrasse 156, Berlin, 2009-2010
1	3	Professional and commercial associations, 1937-1941
1	4	Zadek, Heinrich, re: bankruptcy proceedings and wine shipment, 1930
		Income
2	1	Balance sheets, 1937-1940
2	2	Income tax declarations, 1936-1940
		Other taxes
3	1	Business tax (Gewerbesteuer), 1937-1940
3	2	Sales tax (Umsatzsteuer), 1936-1940
		Property
4	1	Collection of personal property through the Jewish Congregation of Berlin, 1942
4	2	Decisions on “Judenvermögensabgabe,” 1938-1939
4	3	Declaration and inventories of property, including “Jewish property,” 1938-1941
		Tax offices, Berlin (Mitte and Scharnhorst)
5	1	Correspondence with, 1937-1941
5	2	Receipts of payment, 1936-1941