

**LICHTENBERG AND STEIN FAMILIES PAPERS, approximately 1901-2001
2014.408.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Translations

The following translations were created by Uta Allers and provided by the collection's donor, Kathryn Lichtenberg.

Folder 1.9: Stein Family, approximately 1937-1950

#1

Copy

Etablissements IMPEX

Imports Exports

January 28, 1939

4 Avenue Louis Betrand, Bruxelles III

Dear Herr Stein,

I received your letter of January 21 and regret that you have had to undergo an operation.

But now I have some very good news for you today, which I hope will contribute to your recovery.

Frau Baer just informed me that the efforts of your son in New York have been successful and that a Professor Goldstein (formerly of Berlin) has managed to arrange that 100 dollars will be made available to you from a special fund for German refugees.

Now it is imperative that you send all necessary papers, as well as your application, to the address below and then the matter pertaining to you will be taken care of.

It would be good if you were to send a few words of thanks to Frau Pauline Baer c/o Ansbacher, 212 Ave. Dailly, Bruxelles.

I hope that everything will go according to your wishes and I send my best greetings,

Your
Ludwig A. Isaak

Address:
Richard H. Baer
New York
410 West 58 Street

#2

Incomplete letter, looks like Papa Max's handwriting.

Köln, December 23, 1939

Dear Irmgard,

Right after receiving your dear letter, I confirmed receipt of your airmail card and it is therefore possible for you to save yourself the money for the cable, for which we've been waiting. You wrote us right after your arrival in New York, which I never doubted (*that you would*), but we needed to know that you arrived there in good health and how you are doing. And we couldn't know that an airmail letter would take 22 days, especially since Frau Meyer-Behrens received an airmail letter from her brother within 10 days. I can see from your handwriting, which is usually much better, that you have not had the necessary rest, were not only still dealing with the effects of the ocean crossing, but were also emotionally affected by Siegfried's absence. Besides, it is no small matter for you and for anyone to be in a foreign country and make your way under totally new circumstances, and then on top of that the struggle to make a living and that, unfortunately, knowing you won't be supported by the relatives (*probably referring to Siegfried*), which is also for us a painful realization and allayed only through the reason that made your emigration necessary. For us, it is also a reassurance that the dear relatives, as you write, have taken you in with such a welcoming way and want to continue to help you. We are very grateful to them ...

Rest of letter is missing.

#3

Old script handwritten, 4-page letter

1) You can keep this letter, perhaps forward it to Lili.

Frankfurt am Main, November 28, 1940

Dear Hedwig, dear Max,

Yesterday I received your letter of November 24, also got the one from Hamburg and thank you very much for both. That you were in Hamburg must have been a good diversion during this time we have to live through. I'm happy that you can be pleased with your dear children. Especially dear Siegfried is to be admired for being able to manage in a far-away country. From dear Irmgard I had a nice card at Rosh Hashanah, which made me extremely happy, she is such a 2) dear, good girl, I am very fond of her, may she have a happy life and may you have much joy from her, also for Adolf & Benny, I wish that their plans will soon become reality. I had an airmail letter from Rudi, he

writes so nicely and cares so much about me, he writes that I should have heeded his warnings about the threatening situation, as he had been willing to sponsor me, but I don't think I could tolerate the climate there (*Argentina, as per letter #5*), right now it's summer there and 50 degrees. From Alice Benj. had mail at Rosh Hashanah. In Argentina 3) it's going alright, but in terms of business, it's harder and only now it's beginning to be possible to bring in products from North America. Ernst Fr. wants to emigrate to Chile to his two sisters and brothers-in-law, who have been able to build up a nice business (men's clothing factory). Guste Fr. wants to go there too, also Otto & J... B. want to be sponsored by Marienberg or by Ernst. They are in southern France at the moment. From Lili I don't hear anything, can't imagine what happened and I'm sorry about that, if dear Irmgard could write to her and have her write me, whatever the matter may be, I'll be agreeable to everything, whatever it is. I've not heard anything from Erna and my brother since September '39. Lina & Martin (?) don't have much good to write from over there. I feel very sorry for Lina, may she soon be able to return to her children, she will then be well taken care of. Now I'm sending you and your dear children heartfelt greetings from your loving brother-in-law David

#4

Typed 2- page letter from Lilo

Kfar Jedidjah, October 29, 1941

My dear Irmgard!

On October 17 I received your dear letter of July 7 and was really very happy to hear from you again, as you are the only friend with whom I still correspond and still have a good relationship with; I'm always so sorry that we are so far away from each other, can't talk to each other and the exchange of letters is a poor substitute for that. Again today, as is the case with my response to your previous letter in April, I need to use the typewriter, so you can read it better, also it's takes less time than by hand. Although I'm very tired at night, I decided to write you more often, so the times in between are shorter and we will hear from each other more often. As I said, I have plenty of work, at times in the household, at times in the settlement; my mother has had colitis for several months now, so I have to do much of the work she's responsible for, like cooking, house cleaning and such; I take care of our chickens, often go out to the field to help with the vegetable farming, then there's a chance of pace with laundry, ironing, etc. Even though the work is hard at times, I do enjoy it, especially when seeing the results. It would be so nice if you could come here some time after the war. But before that, you have other concerns and I hope you are able to get your family over there. I think about them a lot and the times we used to spend together, and I hope that my good wishes for them will come to fruition. – I was very interested in the report of your life over there, it's too bad you feel so isolated, but I, too, have to acknowledge how important dancing is as a part of social life, even in the rural areas, something is very much lacking if one can't go dancing; I wrote you about our lovely Purim celebration and I constantly regret not having followed my father's advice back then, who always said that despite the social upbringing we had, one day the day will come,

when not being able to dance will prove to be a big deficit; and now I realize how right he was. I have a small circle of young people here, who went through difficult times and whom fate brought here as Poalim (*Hebrew for male workers*) and Poalot (*female workers*). One of them wants to teach me to dance and I'm curious if I can learn it. As for the cultural life, we sometimes have a movie, a guest speaker and a musical evening here, or we drive with the cart (1 horse!) to a neighboring town – Natania – where we go to the cinema, a theater, a café. In the summer on Shabbat afternoons we drove to Natania, which has a fabulous beach; all that can't be compared to the circumstances there, of course. (*in the U.S., Germany?*)

P. 2 Hans Eli Schneemann will soon have been married for a year, they live quite near us; Ruthilde is here too now, she was at an agricultural school, but had to stop because of back issues. I've never heard from Inge Katz, who is supposedly married, but I did speak frequently with Hilde Bauer; Thea Weil is working in a household in Jerusalem, Esther Nürnberg married a musician and Gudula works in a night café there. Mosche (now Martin) Goldmann is living in Tel Aviv and has a one-year old child; you already know about Addi Epstein that she is an infant nurse and is earning well.

Unfortunately, I can't send you a photo, as that is forbidden at the moment. With my address, you can omit the c/o – with the quickest way for mail to reach Kfar Jedidjah, add Doar (Post) Tel Aviv.

I'll stop for today, as my eyes are closing. Since I don't know when this letter will reach you, I'm sending my congratulations for your birthday today already and hope that you'll be able to spend it in the circle of your loved ones. Where is Siegfried and what is he doing? Lulu Neumann is in N.Y. too, you can get her address via telephone from Walter Hirschmann (Riverside Drive), as he wrote us once that they live next door.

Wishing you all the best and sending you heartfelt greetings

Your Lilo

My parents and Kurt send you lots of greetings.

Handwritten: Sincere greetings

Your ... Rothschild

#5

Typed, two-page letter

Harry Benjamin

c/o S. Posen

P.O.B. 83

Petah Tiqva (Palestine)

Petah Tiqva, June 3, 1942

Miss Irmgard Stein

c/o Katz

607 West 137 Street

New York City

Dear Irmgard,

My sister Alice wrote a while ago that she's had a letter from you and gave me your address, and even though I'm way behind on my ongoing correspondence, I want to give you a sign of life after a long time. The members of the family who can still correspond with each other directly are few and far between – everything has been torn apart. My thoughts are often with your loved ones; about six months ago my sister Marta wrote me via the Red Cross, that she's had word from your parents, but since then I've heard nothing more. Hopefully, you hear something now and then; when one reads a lot about Köln, one often thinks mainly of your dear relatives. Where are your parents and siblings? For us, we have only our big trust in God and must have hope. May the Almighty, protect and give us shelter. We hope with confidence that this terrible war will soon come to a victorious end, so that people all over the world, especially we Jews, may again live in peace and serenity. - - I was happy to read that you have settled in nicely over there and I hope that you are pleased with your work and are getting ahead. I hope the same for your brother Siegfried; where does he live and what does he do? – You will have heard about me when you visited my dear mother and Marta. I've been in this country now for three years, in general I've settled in well and feel fine. It's just the Parnasah (*earning a living*) that is very difficult, especially as a businessman. But it's a lot a matter of luck, for some it happens sooner, but I have not been successful yet. First I lived in Haifa and as of a 1½ years I've lived with our distant relatives Posen, who settled in Petah Tiqva. – The older one (Salo) runs a chicken farm, the younger one (Meier) has a “padres” (orange plantation) and cows. Both are married, Salo with two children, Meier with three. The physician (*fem.*) (Henny) lives in Tel Aviv and has a good practice. I've been working along in Lul (the chicken farm), but as of a year ago, I work with Herr Beifus (who used to work at the Beer, Sondheimer Company too), who makes a living as an economic advisor and real estate agent. I can speak Irwith somewhat and people generally understand our former language Yiddish almost everywhere; I also use English a bit, which I know from back then and I continue to add to it. – The struggle to make a living is so hard that one can hardly force oneself to do anything else in the evening and one feels the climate more every year, and the events of the last ten years or so have taken their toll, especially since 1938, and one is getting older after all. But I am healthy, thank God, and that is the main thing, and otherwise we really can't complain here, may we continue to be spared here for the good. – Fortunately, I hear from my dear sister Alice regularly, she seems to be contented, has managed to do well there, the Sassoon family is always good to her. I hear only occasionally via the Red Cross from my dear mother and Marta and her husband, the last time was the beginning of February and that is a long time already and one is in a constant state of worry and hopes and waits for good news without being able to do anything about it. My mother is 72 already, and was not allowed to stay with Marta back then, and lives in a small place and one constantly reads in the press about new measures being taken, but one has to keep one's spirits up, and as mentioned above, to have steadfast trust in God, may the Almighty grant his protection to all. – Our cousin Erna Frankfurter also lives here near us, her husband, unfortunately, is a prisoner-of-war, but she hears from him regularly. – I recently had a letter from Rudolfo in Buenos Aires. Marta wrote something at the

beginning of the year that Onkel David is doing well (he must be about 80 now). Lilly got married in the U.S.A. There's no lack of acquaintances here in this country, and I'm always happy when in Tel Aviv I run into distant relatives, good friends or acquaintances from our former circles. – You, too, will surely run into acquaintances in such a world metropolis every now and then, or may have found a nice new circle of friends.

I'll close for today, I wish you the best always and would be happy to hear good news from you again, hopefully we have only happy and pleasant things to share.

Now take these heartfelt greetings together with the best wishes for your well-being,

From your cousin

Handwritten: Give Siegfried my best.

Harry Benjamin

#6

Undated, handwritten, 2-page letter from Tante Lina, probably the fall of 1940

Dear Irmgard!

Thank you very much for your dear letter, from which I was pleased to learn that you are pretty much contented. I can report the same about my well-being after all that happened. One has to be very thankful for that, the thought of an upcoming peace allows one to bear many hard times. Among those matters is that I can't tell you anything about Alice and Harry, who are so worried about me and us. Have you written to Onkel David's Erna? Surely she could send greetings to Harry. Onkel David is doing well, thank God, he's still living at the same boarding house/retirement home; my acquaintances visit him frequently. From your letter, I gathered that your parents are doing well, I haven't heard from them in a long time and didn't know that Wolf is with Paul. Does Siegfried have good work? I hope you'll soon find suitable work that you like. You've surely learned a lot of new things that can be useful and the language will not be difficult for you. I'm sure you can imagine that life here has changed a lot, I would never have thought I'd live through another war. A new year is starting for which I wish you all the best. My heartfelt greetings, all the best from your loving

Tante Lina

Folder 1.10: Miscellaneous, approximately 1937-1992

Old script, 3-page handwritten letter from Tante Auguste, Onkel David

Frankfurt am Main, September 11, 1937

Dear Irmgard, dear Benny!

My thanks to you for your mail for Rosh Hashanah. I return your wishes that everything may turn out well and that we will remain in good health. You, dear Irmgard, can imagine that I would be very interested in hearing directly from you more details about

your activities there. It looks like you are not lacking for work; on the other hand, you are content with the treatment and all that goes with it. In any case, you've settled in nicely and more easily there knowing that you have dear Benny there. You are right to spend your vacation here, short though it is. I'm also happy to know p.2 that dear Benny is doing well, for in another country one has to be humble and struggle hard. (*She must mean that IF they were in a foreign country, it would be harder.*) Herbert Frisch has now been swimming for two weeks on the way to Montevideo. We have heard very little from your parents since Lili is here. As you know, they often had a good time together. I'm wondering where they'll land. From Rudi, Erna too, I have some good reports, thank God. Those arrived right on the first Jomtefday (*Yom Kippur*), right on time. Rudi made sure that happened. In contrast to here, the winter is just coming to an end. As you know, he works half-days in an office, the other half days for himself. The office work changes a lot, but not of his choosing. You've surely heard, too, how it goes with that in America. He's been gone almost a year. That's how fast time passes. Erna has a lot of work and that's especially hard with the extreme heat. The conditions just are not changing, so we have to make do with letters. Now something for dear Irmgard, I know it will be of interest to her. You knew our housemaid, she abandoned us a week before Yomtef day, just didn't show up. Of course, it's hard to find anyone at this time. The N...s have a boy, who is learning to cook just where you learned it too. There was a course there at some time, as he says. I happened to know him, as he had gotten something for us at some point. One just has to see how one gets by. Thank God, that I'm healthy and can do something, for there's a lot to do for these days (*holidays*). Otherwise, I would have written sooner. P. 3 For today I wish good fasting and breaking the fast.

With heartfelt greetings, Tante Auguste

Dear Irmgard, dear Benny

Eve if we write each other during the year only sparingly, we know how much we mean to each other. I, too, add my best and heartfelt wishes, may the new year bring you good things, most of all good health. May your wishes and longings come to fulfillment. I hope you are in the best state of well-being and I wish you happy holidays and good fasting on Yom Kippur. My heartfelt greetings,

Your Onkel David