

JOSEF AND JOSEFINE SCHMITZ PAPERS, 1904-1974
2014.475.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Josef and Josefine Schmitz papers

Dates: 1904-1974

Accession number: 2014.475.1

Creator: Schmitz, Josef, 1894-1973

Additional creator: Schmitz, Josefine, 1903-2000

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Josef and Josefine Schmitz papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, emigration files, photographs, and restitution files documenting their lives in Břeclav, Brno, and Vienna; their emigration from Czechoslovakia to Palestine in 1939 with their daughter Judith; and their efforts to recover their property and receive restitution after the war.

Languages: German, Czech, Hebrew

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), Josef and Josefine Schmitz papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Eyal and Rony Rolnizki donated the Josef and Josefine Schmitz papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2014.

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, July 2014

Biographical note

Josef Schmitz (1894-1973) was born in Lundenburg, Moravia (Břeclav, Czech Republic) to Koloman and Mathilde Schmitz. He worked in textiles in Vienna before relocating to Brno in 1930. His wife, Josefine Schmitz (1903-2000), was born in Brno to Heinrich (Jindřich) and Henriette (Jindřiška) Schlesinger (1879-1943), and the couple worked at Henriette's coffeehouse. They had daughter Judith in 1931. Josef, Josefine, and Judith relocated to Tel Aviv in November 1939. Henriette was deported to Theresienstadt in 1942 and then to Auschwitz in 1943, where she was killed.

Scope and content of collection

The Josef and Josefine Schmitz papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, emigration files, photographs, and restitution files documenting their lives in Břeclav, Vienna, Brno, and Tel Aviv; their emigration from Czechoslovakia to Palestine in 1939 with their daughter Judith; and their efforts to recover their property and receive restitution after the war.

Biographical materials include birth, marriage, and health certificates; school records; and identification and military papers documenting Josef, Josefine, and Judith Schmitz along with correspondence and forms documenting Josef's Austrian citizenship and the family's citizenship status in Czechoslovakia.

Correspondence documents family members and friends in Czechoslovakia, Israel, Germany, and Austria; emigration plans; Holocaust experiences; postwar lives; efforts to trace family members and witnesses; and efforts to obtain restitution.

Emigration files include packing lists and evaluations of items the Schmitz family intended to take to Palestine as well as records documenting preparations and expenses related to emigration.

Photographs depict Josef, Josefine, and Judith Schmitz with family and friends in Europe and on the boat to Palestine.

Restitution files include correspondence, forms, statements, notifications, and printed materials document the Schmitz family's efforts to recover financial assets and real property inherited from the Schmitz and Schlesinger families, and to receive insurance and pension payments.

System of arrangement

The Josef and Josefine Schmitz papers are arranged as five series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1904-1973 (bulk 1904-1939)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1924-1967
- Series 3: Emigration files, 1939-1941

- Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1919-1939
- Series 5: Restitution files, 1913-1974

Indexing terms

Jews--Czech Republic--Brno.
Jewish refugees--Israel--Tel Aviv.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Reparations.

Brno (Czech Republic)
Břeclav (Czech Republic)
Vienna (Austria)
Czech Republic--Emigration and immigration.
Israel--Emigration and immigration.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1904-1973 (bulk 1904-1939)

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Schmitz, Josef, 1904, 1911, 1918-1927, 1935-1939
1	2	Schmitz, Josefine, 1909, 1934-1939, 1973
1	3	Schmitz, Judith, 1933-1939
1	4	Austrian citizenship, 1925-1926, 1938
1	5	Czechoslovakian citizenship, 1936-1939

Series 2: Correspondence, 1924-1967

Box	Folder	Title
1	6	Beneš, Adolf, 1940-1946
1	7	Jahodová, Olga, 1945-1946, 1951-1955, 1961-1965
1	8	Niessner, Josza, 1961-1967
1	9	Schlesinger, Henriette, 1941-1943
1	10	Schmitz, Koloman, 1939
1	11	Schreiber, Olga, 1961-1965
1	12	"Mama" and "Hilde," approximately 1939-1940
1	13	Miscellaneous, 1924, 1935-1941, 1946, 1952, 1960-1961

Series 3: Emigration files, 1939-1941

Box	Folder	Title
1	14	Evaluation of jewelry to be taken out of the country, 1939

1	15	Packing lists, 1939
1	16	Preparations, assets, and expenses, 1939-1941

Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1919-1939

Box	Folder	Title
1	17	Photographs, approximately 1919-1939

Series 5: Restitution files, 1913-1974

Box	Folder	Title
1	18	Amt für Wiedergutmachung des Landes Rheinland-Pfalz, 1974
1	19	Bank records, 1938-1939, 1946
1	20	Health, 1961-1963
1	21-24	Insurance and pensions, 1913-1921, 1927-1939, 1950-1958, 1967 (4 folders)
1	25	Schlesinger and Schmitz estates, 1932-1939, 1946-1947, 1961, 1968
1	26	United Restitution Organization, 1960-1974