

**ROSWELL AND MARJORIE MCCLELLAND PAPERS, 1940-1995, BULK 1944-1945
2014.500.1**

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

Title: Roswell and Marjorie McClelland papers

Dates: 1940-1995, bulk 1944-1945

Accession number: 2014.500.1

Creator: Roswell McClelland
Marjorie McClelland

Extent: 3 boxes (36 folders)

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

Abstract: Consists of correspondence, reports, and drafts created and collected by Roswell and Marjorie McClelland regarding their work for the American Friends Service Committee in Europe between 1940-1945, and Roswell McClelland's work as a War Refugee Board representative in Switzerland, 1944-1945. Includes personal correspondence to family, War Refugee Board weekly reports, drafts and copies of the Auschwitz Protocols, McClelland's copies of War Refugee Board cables and notes, and correspondence with historians and documentarians studying American response to the Holocaust.

Languages: English, 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), Roswell and Marjorie McClelland papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Kirk McClelland donated his father's collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2014.

Related archival materials: See also RG-43.002*01, "An unpublished chapter in the history of the deportation of foreign Jews from France in 1942" which was written by Roswell McClelland. The American Friends Service Committee refugee case files (2002.296) also include extensive correspondence between the McClellands and various refugees.

Processing history: Rebecca Erbelding, May 2014.

Biographical note

Roswell Dunlop McClelland was born on January 25, 1914 to Ross St. John McClelland and Alys M. Mitchell. His mother passed away when he was 1 ½ years old, and, as his father was unable to care for him, Roswell moved between family members, family friends, and boarding schools, including schools in England and Switzerland. During the 1930s, he spent time in Italy and Germany, where he witnessed Adolf Hitler give a speech in Munich. He graduated with a BA from Duke University in 1936 and an MA from Columbia University in 1940. On November 19, 1938, he married Marjorie Helen Miles. Marjorie was born on August 17, 1913 to Dr. Walter Miles and Elizabeth Kirk Miles. Like her husband, Marjorie lost her mother as a child, and Walter remarried Dr. Catherine Cox. Walter, an experimental psychologist, held professorships at Stanford, and later at Yale University. Marjorie graduated from Stanford and did graduate work at the University of Cincinnati and Yale University, training in child psychology. She directed Manhattanville Day Nursery School in Harlem in New York City. After his graduation from Columbia, Roswell applied for and received a scholarship from the Quakers to study an archival collection related to Voltaire in Geneva, Switzerland, but due to the outbreak of war in Europe he was not able to use the scholarship. However, Marjorie was a Quaker and was friends with a number of members of the American Friends Service Committee, who were looking for aid workers to send overseas. Due to Roswell's capacity with languages, Mary Hoxie Jones, a friend of the couple and AFSC worker, recruited them to go overseas for the AFSC. In August 1940, the couple went to Europe, spending a month in Lisbon before traveling to Rome to set up a refugee aid office. In August 1941, the office closed and the couple moved to Marseilles, where they joined an extant AFSC office. During their year in Marseilles, among other activities, Roswell worked with relief for the Les Milles concentration camp and Marjorie worked with the selection of children for the USCOM children's transport to the United States in the summer of 1942. In the late summer of 1942, the couple moved to Geneva and headed the AFSC offices in Switzerland. After the War Refugee Board was created, Roswell was selected to be the Board's representative in Switzerland beginning in April 1944. He commuted to Bern four days a week, while Marjorie ran the AFSC offices in Geneva. After the end of the war, Roswell became a United States Foreign Service officer. The family remained in Switzerland until 1949, when they moved to Washington, DC. During his Foreign Service career, McClelland served in Madrid (1953-1957), West Africa (covering Gambia, Senegal, Mauritania) (1960-1962), Southern Rhodesia (1965) Athens (1967-1970) and was the United States Ambassador to Niger (1970-1973). The couple had four children: Barre (b. 1943), Kirk (b. 1944), Alice (b. 1947) and Caroline (b. 1951). Marjorie McClelland passed away on June 12, 1978. In 1988, Roswell married Charlene Keeley, and gained two step-children, Linda and Nicholas. Roswell McClelland passed away on May 6, 1995.

Scope and content of collection

The Roswell and Marjorie McClelland papers contains a unique set of correspondence and documents related to the American Friends Service Committee's work in Rome, Marseilles, and Geneva during World War II, and the work of the War Refugee Board in Switzerland from 1944-1945.

The collection includes photographs and copies of photographs of Roswell and Marjorie McClelland after their 1938 wedding; in Rome in 1940; of AFSC workers in France in 1941-1942; of the Gurs and Les Milles camps; of Roswell with their sons Barre and Kirk in 1945; and of the entire family in Switzerland ca. 1949. Copies of photographs taken by and of Roswell McClelland on a tour of the Mauthausen concentration camp in the summer of 1945 are also included.

Biographical information includes curriculum vitae written by Roswell McClelland and a biographical statement written by Kirk McClelland of his father's life, written after Roswell's death.

Original documents includes newsclippings announcing their 1940 trip to Europe; the McClelland's 1941 Cartes d' Identite in France; artwork given to them as thank-you gifts from prisoners in French internment camps; Roswell McClelland's handwritten notes in preparation for and after meeting with Pierre Laval in the summer of 1942 regarding the deportation of Jews, and copies of various reports.

Personal correspondence includes letters written from the McClellands, mainly to members of the Miles family. Marjorie McClelland is the main author of the lengthy letters, which are numbered in a series which she resets when the family moves to a new location. The correspondence covers their personal and professional lives.

The War Refugee Board papers include copies of weekly reports of the Board's activities, compiled by the staff in Washington; the copies in this collection cover the period August 1944-September 1945. This series also includes copies and various handwritten drafts of the Auschwitz Protocols, copies of various reports written and submitted by McClelland, miscellaneous notes related to ransom negotiations, and correspondence with various aid organizations in Switzerland.

Correspondence with historians and documentarians include documents regarding McClelland's work as a War Refugee Board representative; most of the material focuses on ransom negotiations, the Auschwitz Protocols, and the proposal to bomb the Auschwitz concentration camp. This series includes correspondence with many of the leading historians working in the field of American response to the Holocaust in the late 1970s and early 1980s. A transcript of a 1967 interview of McClelland by Yehuda Bauer includes McClelland's handwritten notes and corrections.

Roswell McClelland and members of his family gathered articles, reports, clippings and copies of documents related to Auschwitz, the War Refugee Board, ransom negotiations, and the work of the AFSC in France. Includes drafts of McClelland's essay, "An unpublished chapter in the history of the deportation of foreign Jews from France in 1942," copies of documents included in David Wyman's archival source series, a copy of Dino Brugioni's report on the possibilities of bombing Auschwitz, and other collected materials.

As Roswell McClelland had a habit of annotating documents as he was reading them, many of the reports and correspondence include handwritten notes and comments.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged in eight series:

Series 1: Photographs, 1938-ca. 1949

Series 2: Biographical material, 1948-1995

Series 3: Original documents, 1940-1989

Series 4: Personal correspondence, 1940-ca. 1970

Series 5: War Refugee Board papers, 1944-ca. 1973

Series 6: Correspondence with historians and documentarians, 1969-1993

Series 7: Research material prepared and collected by Roswell McClelland and family, undated

Series 8: Miscellaneous, 1965-1973

Indexing terms

McClelland, Roswell.

McClelland, Marjorie.

Bauer, Yehuda.

Dawidowicz, Lucy.

Lanzmann, Claude.

Mayer, Saly.

O'Dwyer, William.

Pehle, John.

Riegner, Gerhart.

Wyman, David.

United States. War Refugee Board.

American Friends Service Committee.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

World Jewish Congress.

World War, 1939-1945—Jews—Rescue.

World War, 1939-1945--United States.

Rome (Italy)

Marseilles (France)

Bern (Switzerland)

Washington (D.C.)

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Photographs, 1938-ca. 1949

| Box | Folder | |
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| 1 | 1 | Photographs, 1938-ca. 1949 |

Series 2: Biographical information, 1948-1995

| Box | Folder | |
|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | Biographical information, 1948-1995 |

Series 3: Original documents, 1940-1989

| Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 3 | Original documents, 1940-1989 |

Series 4: Personal correspondence, 1940-ca. 1970

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| 1 | 9 | Correspondence, 1951-1956 |
| 1 | 10 | Correspondence to or about the McClellands, 1940-ca. 1970 |

Series 5: War Refugee Board papers, 1944-ca. 1973

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| 2 | 5 | War Refugee Board correspondence and reports, 1944 |
| 2 | 6 | War Refugee Board correspondence and reports, January 1—September 15, 1945 |
| 2 | 7 | Correspondence and reports, October 1945—ca. 1973 |

Series 6: Correspondence with historians and documentarians, 1969-1993

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| 3 | 2 | Yehuda Bauer, 1967-1976 |
| 3 | 3 | Andre Biss, 1975-1976 |
| 3 | 4 | Joel Carmichael, <u>Midstream</u> , 1983 |
| 3 | 5 | John Conway, 1979-1980 |
| 3 | 6 | Lucy Dawidowicz, 1974-1983 |
| 3 | 7 | Joan Fredericks, 1969 |
| 3 | 8 | Milton Goldin, 1983 |
| 3 | 9 | <u>Who Shall Live and Who Shall Die</u> , Laurence Jarvik, 1978-1982 |
| 3 | 10 | <u>Shoah</u> , Claude Lanzmann, 1977-1979 |
| 3 | 11 | Nahas, Anthony Edwin, 1993 |
| 3 | 12 | Monty Penkower, 1979-1980 |
| 3 | 13 | David Wyman, 1978-1984 |

Series 7: Research material prepared and collected by Roswell McClelland and family, undated

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| 3 | 14 | "An Unpublished Chapter..." |
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| 3 | 17 | Reports and articles |

Series 8: Miscellaneous, 1965-1973

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