

**HENNY WENKART PAPERS, 1916-2013
(bulk, 1928-1939)
2015.578.1**

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

Title: Henny Wenkart papers

Dates: 1916-2013 (bulk, 1928-1939)

Accession number: 2015.578.1.

Creator: Wenkart, Henny.

Extent: 10 folders.

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

Abstract: Passports, postcards, photographs, and printed material, related to the childhood and emigration of Henny (Henriette) Wenkart from Nazi-occupied Austria as one of the "50 Children" on the transport organized by Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus in June 1939. Includes childhood photographs of Wenkart and her family, German passports for Wenkart and her mother, Rose (Rachela) Wenkart, postcards sent by Wenkart's father, Hermann, including those sent to family members during World War I, and several publications containing poetry written by Wenkart reflecting on her experiences of emigration and being a refugee from Nazi Germany.

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: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Henny Wenkart papers (2015.578.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Gift of Henny Wenkart, 2015.

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, January 2016.

Biographical note

Henny (Henriette) Wenkart was born in Vienna, Austria on 5 July 1928, the daughter of Hermann (b. 1896) and Rose (b. 1904, nee Stein) Wenkart. In 1939, she was chosen to be one of the "50 Children" who immigrated to the United States as part of a transport organized by Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus in June 1939. After her own immigration, Henny was reunited with her parents and sister Elenore, who arrived in New York on September 1, 1939. The Wenkart family lived in Brooklyn, then moved to Baltimore, and eventually, Providence, Rhode Island, where Henny later earned a bachelor's degree from Pembroke College. She subsequently earned a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, and a doctorate in philosophy from Harvard, where she also taught philosophy and writing. Of her extended family, her paternal grandmother, Drorah Chaya Wenkart, was able to escape to Switzerland via Italy, where she took refuge in a convent during the war, and after the war joined Henny's uncle, Ignaz Wenkart, who had immigrated to New York in 1938. On her mother's side, an uncle, Leo Stein, was killed at Buchenwald, and an aunt, Marie, managed to escape to Palestine, via Latvia, with her husband and son.

Scope and content of collection

Passports, postcards, photographs, and printed material, related to the childhood and emigration of Henny (Henriette) Wenkart from Nazi-occupied Austria as one of the "50 Children" on the transport organized by Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus in June 1939. Includes childhood photographs of Wenkart and her family, German passports for Wenkart and her mother, Rose (Rachela) Wenkart, postcards sent by Wenkart's father, Hermann, including those sent to family members during World War I, and several publications containing poetry written by Wenkart reflecting on her experiences of emigration and being a refugee from Nazi Germany.

Included in the collection is a folder of biographical documents, chiefly about Wenkart's later writings and reminiscences about her experiences, as well as two German-issued passports for Henny and her mother, Rose (Rachela), prior to their emigration from Austria.

Among the family photographs, the bulk are childhood photographs of Henny taken in Austria, from her infancy up to the time of her departure in 1939. Also included are photos of her mother's family, the Steins, and her father's family, the Wenkarts, along with portraits of Henny's parents, Rose and Hermann Wenkart. Also included is a childhood photograph of Henny's future husband, Heinz David Epstein, prior to his family's emigration from Germany.

The folder of postcards are chiefly those sent by Hermann Wenkart to his family, and to his future wife, Rose Stein, while Wenkart served in the Austrian army during World War I.

Published material consists largely of poetry and autobiographical essays by Wenkart, from the 1990s and 2000s, which reflect upon her experiences of emigration and exile.

System of arrangement

The Henny Wenkart papers are arranged in one series, in alphabetic order, by document type.

Indexing terms

Personal:

Wenkart, Rose.
Wenkart, Hermann.
Wenkart, Elenore.

Topical:

Austria--Emigration and immigration.
Jews--Austria--Vienna.
World War, 1914-1918--Jews--Austria--Vienna.
Jewish refugees--New York (State)--New York.
Holocaust survivors--Poetry.

CONTAINER LIST

- 1 Biographical, 2007-2013
- 2 Passports, German, for Henriette Wenkart, Rachela (Rose) Wenkart, 1938-1939
- Photographs
- 3 Epstein, Heinz David (future husband), with family, undated
- 4 Henny as child (12 images), 1928-1939
- 5 Stein family members (4 images), 1920 and undated
- 6 Wenkart family members, including Henny and her parents (6 images), 1928-1935, and undated
- 7 Postcards, from Hermann Wenkart, 1916-1917
- Published material
- 8 "A Child Must be Sheltered," by Henny Wenkart. *Jewish Women's Literary Annual*, Vol. 3, 1998 (New York: National Council of Jewish Women)
- 9 "The Facts of Life" and "My Golden Childhood," by Henny Wenkart. *Jewish Women's Literary Annual*, Vol. 9, 2013 (New York: National Council of Jewish Women)
- 10 "Love Poems of a Philanderer's Wife," by Henny Wenkart (New York: Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publishing House / National Council of Jewish Women, 2005)