

WOLF AND SCHLESINGER FAMILIES PAPERS, 1846-2008
2016.160.1

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

Title: Wolf and Schlesinger families papers

Dates: 1846-2008 (bulk 1924-1972)

Accession number: 2016.160.1

Creator: Wolf, Rudolf (Frankfurt :Germany)
Schlesinger Wolf, Gretel (Frankfurt :Germany)

Extent: 3.25 linear feet (11 boxes, 3 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The collection documents the pre-war lives of Rudolf Wolf and Gretel Schlesinger Wolf and their families in Frankfurt, Germany, as well as their immigration and post-war experiences in the United States. Included are biographical materials such as identification papers, diaries, and genealogical research; pre-war correspondence along with war-time letters written from family and friends in Germany as well as those who fled; immigration papers; restitution papers; and pre-war and post-war photographs of family and friends in Frankfurt and the United States.

Languages: German, English, French

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), Wolf and Schlesinger families papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Katherine H. Page in 2016. Katherine is the daughter of Rudolf and Gretel Schlesinger Wolf.

Related archival materials: There is related material in the Rudolf Wolf papers, Architecture and Design Collection. Art, Design & Architecture Museum; University of California, Santa Barbara.

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

Processing history: Adam Fielding, March-April 2016

Biographical note

Rudolf Wolf (1907-2005) was born in Frankfurt, Germany to Hermann (1877-1970) and Ella (born Gisella Moser, 1886-1972) Wolf. He had one brother, Ernst (b. 1912). His father Hermann served in the German Army during World War I, and worked as a draftsman. Rudolf studied law in Munich, but was kicked out for being Jewish. He then studied to become an architect. Facing increased Nazi persecution, the family all began to make plans to emigrate from Germany. Rudolf immigrated to the United States in 1938. He settled in Los Angeles, California and worked as an architect. Rudolf knew Gretel from Frankfurt, and they married in 1942. His mother and father faced increasing difficulties emigrating from Germany. His father, Hermann, left Frankfurt for Milan, Italy in 1938 and then went to Cuba in 1939. He came to the United States in 1941. Ella remained in Germany until 1940 when she left by Trans-Siberian rail through Shanghai, China. She booked passage to the United States in September, 1940 on the *S.S. Brasil Maru* via Yokohama, Japan. Rudolf's grandmother, Mathilde Moser (b. 1855), also immigrated to the United States, and his brother immigrated to England.

Gretel Schlesinger Wolf (born Gretel Schlesinger, 1909-2004) was born in Frankfurt to Paul (1872-1955) and Alice (née Schmidt, 1887-1973) Schlesinger. She had two brothers, Hans (later John Slade, b. 1908) and Fritz (later Fred Slade, 1918-1974). She married Leonard Moser (b. 1899) in 1926. They immigrated to the United States on the *S.S. Statendam* in 1938. They divorced in 1942, and she married Rudolf the same year. Gretel's parents, Paul and Alice, and her brothers Fritz and Hans all immigrated to the United States.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the pre-war lives of Rudolf Wolf and Gretel Schlesinger Wolf and their families in Frankfurt, Germany, as well as their immigration and post-war experiences in the United States. Included are biographical materials such as identification papers, diaries, and genealogical research; pre-war correspondence along with war-time letters written from family and friends in Germany as well as those who fled; immigration papers; restitution papers; and pre-war and post-war photographs of family and friends in Frankfurt and the United States.

The biographical materials primarily contain identification papers and genealogy research. The identification papers include passports, driver's licenses, marriage and death certificates, estate documents, and employment and education papers. There are also two pre-war diaries of Gretel Wolf, and undated writings that were likely authored by Rudolf Wolf. The genealogy papers include family trees, collected research, and correspondence with distant relatives related to the Wolf, Moser, and Schlesinger families.

The correspondence series primarily contains the correspondence of Ella Wolf, Hermann Wolf, Gretel Wolf, and Rudolf Wolf. The bulk of the material belongs to Rudolf Wolf, and includes pre-war correspondence along with war-time letters written from family and friends in Germany as well as those who fled. There are also letters from Ella and Hermann Wolf together in Frankfurt, and separately after they were split up early in the war. The majority of the letters from Ella were written from Frankfurt. The letters from Hermann document his flight from Frankfurt to Milan, Italy and Cuba before his immigration to the United States. There is also correspondence between Rudolf and Gretel from 1942, as well as post-war letters from 1947. Additionally, there are letters from relatives and condolence letters regarding his mother's death in 1972. All correspondence is arranged by recipient. The correspondence of Rudolf Wolf also contain letters sent to and received by Gretel Wolf.

The immigration papers include immigration and naturalization papers for Ella Wolf, Gretel Wolf, and Hermann Wolf. There are also documents related to efforts by Rudolf Wolf to help his friends Ernst Kahn and Hilde Schröder immigrate to the United States.

The restitution papers include claims paperwork of Rudolf Wolf, pension documents of Ella and Hermann Wolf, and German property compensation claims filed by Hans Schlesinger (John Slade).

The photographs chiefly contain family and personal photographs of the Wolf, Moser, and Schlesinger families in Frankfurt, Germany. Included are portraits, childhood photographs, and casual photographs of friends and relatives. There are also vacation photographs, photograph postcards of pre-war Frankfurt, and post-war photographs of family life in the United States.

The printed material contains two copies of *Aufbau* newspaper; a commemorative booklet from the German national shooting competition (Deutsche Bundesschiessen), held in Frankfurt in 1887; a German refugee etiquette card; and a passenger list from the S.S. *Europa*.

System of arrangement

The Wolf and Schlesinger families papers are arranged as six series:

Series 1: Biographical material, 1846-1993 and undated

Series 2: Correspondence, 1924-1972 and undated

Series 3: Immigration papers, 1938-1944

Series 4: Restitution papers, 1954-2008

Series 5: Photographs, circa 1860-circa 1990

Series 6: Printed material, 1887-circa 1939

All series are arranged alphabetically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Wolf, Rudolf, 1907-2005

Wolf, Gretel, 1909-2004

Wolf, Ella, 1886-1972

Wolf, Hermann, 1877-1970

Schlesinger, Alice, 1887-1973

Schlesinger, Paul, 1872-1955

Topical:

Emigration & immigration--United States.
 Jewish families--Germany--Frankfurt am Main.
 Restitution and indemnification claims (1933-)--Germany.
 Refugees, Jewish--Cuba--Havana.

Geography:

Frankfurt am Main (Germany)

Genre/Form:

Photographs.
 Photograph albums.
 Negatives.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical material, 1846-1993 and undated

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Family trees, circa 1970s-circa 1980s
OS	1	<i>Two oversize family trees are in OS 1</i>
1	2	Genealogy correspondence, 1973-1992
1	3-4	Genealogy research, 1846-1992 and undated (2 folders)
1	5	Moser family book, 1926
	6	Moser, Mathilde: Identification papers, 1897-1942
1	7	Moser, William: Estate, 1970-1971
1	8	Neuburger, Selma: Estate, 1949-1968
1	9	Schlesinger, Alice: Identification papers, 1957; 1993
1	10	Schlesinger, Fritz and family, 1918-1974
1	11	Schlesinger, Hans: Identification document, 1908
1	12	Schlesinger, Paul: Identification papers, 1955-1956; 1993
1	13	Wolf, Ella: Identification papers, 1940-1972
OS	2	<i>Newspaper obituary in OS 2</i>
1	14	Wolf family, 1853-1925
1		Wolf, Gretel:
7	4	Diary, 1924-1925 (brown book)
7	5	Diary, 1936 (tan book)
1	15	Divorce papers, 1942
1	16	Education and employment papers, 1941-1944
1	17	Identification papers, 1934-1993
2	1	Wolf, Hermann: Identification papers, 1879-1971
		Wolf, Rudolf:
2	2	Address book, circa 1937
2	3	Education and employment papers, 1938-1947
2	4	Health insurance documents, 1938-1940
2	5	Identification papers, 1932-1947 and undated
2	6	Writings, undated <i>These papers have no author listed, but are likely by Rudolf.</i>

Series 2: Correspondence, 1924-1972 and undated

Box	Folder	Title
2	7	Loos, Grete, 1939
2	8	Schleslinger, Paul, 1942
		Wolf, Ella:
2	9	Moser, William, 1939
2	10	General correspondence, 1970-1972
		Wolf, Gretel:
2	11	Wallach, Reinhold, 1924-1925
2	12	General correspondence, 1945
		Wolf, Hermann:
2	13	Wolf, Ella, 1939-circa 1940
2	14	Correspondence books, 1955-1959
2	15	General correspondence, 1929 and undated
		Wolf, Rudolf:
2	16	Bloch, Walter, 1931-1936 and undated
2	17	Goldmeier, Erich, 1938-1940 and undated
2	18	Karsch, Liesel, 1932-1942
2	19	Lewin, Michael, 1940; 1945
		Loos, Hilde and Erich:
2	20	1937
2	21	1938 January-April
2	22	1938 May-November
2	23	1939-1941 and undated
2	24	Moser, Ernst and Beate, 1969-1972
		Schröder, Hilde and Rudy:
2	25	1931-1937
3	1	1938-1963 and undated
		Wolf, Ella:
3	2	1938
3	3	1939
3	4	1940; 1971 and undated
3	5	Wolf, Ernst and Ruth, 1938-1972
		Wolf, Gretel:
3	6	1947-1950, letters received
3	7	1942, letters sent
3	8	1947 February-March, letters sent
10	1	<i>Pressed flower from empty envelope from Drake Hotel in Box 10</i>
3	9	1947 April-May, letters sent
3	10	1949-1950 and undated, letters sent
		Wolf, Hermann:
3	11	1938
3	12	1939-1940
3		General correspondence:
3	13	1931-1938

3	14	1939
3	15	1940-circa 1945
4	1	1957-1972

Series 3: Immigration papers, 1938-1944

Box	Folder	Title
4	2	Kahn, Ernst, 1938
4	3	Schlesinger, Hans, 1943
4	4	Schröder, Hilde, 1939-1942
4	5	Wolf, Ella, 1938-1941
4	6	Wolf, Gretel, 1938-1944
4	7	Wolf, Hermann, 1938-1939
4	8	Wolf, Rudolf, 1938

Series 4: Restitution papers, 1954-2008

Box	Folder	Title
4	9	German property compensation, 1990-2008
4	10	Wolf, Ella: Pension documents, 1970-1973
4	11	Wolf, Hermann: Pension documents, 1968-1970 and undated
4		Wolf, Rudolf restitution papers:
4	12	1954-1955
4	13	1956
4	14	1957-1966
4	15	Payment and deposit slips, 1956-1966

Series 5: Photographs, circa 1860-circa 1990

Box	Folder	Title
5	1	Buildings and landscapes, circa 1930s-1963
5	2-3	Frankfurt, Germany postcards, 1909-circa 1940s (2 folders)
5	4	Friends and family, 1881-1971 <i>25 negatives have been moved to cold storage</i>
5	5	Jacob, Lilly, 1923-1924
5	6	Japha, Leigh, 1950-1962
5	7	Karsch, Leisel, circa 1930s-1942
5	8	Levy, Ray, 1937; 1943
5	9	Loos, Hilde and Erich, circa 1930s
5	10	Moser, Anneliese, circa 1930s-circa 1942
5	11	Moser, Anneliese and Hans Schlesinger: Wedding, 1940
5	12	Moser, Ernst and Beate, 1947-1970
5	13	Moser, Ernst and Ruth, circa 1945-1985
5	14	Moser, Julius and Martha, circa 1940s-1950
5	15	Moser, Leonard, 1924-circa 1938
5	16	Moser, Mathilde, circa 1890-1935
5	17	Moser, Moritz, circa 1890-circa 1920
5	18	Moser, Moritz and Mathilde with Ella Wolf, circa 1910
5	19	Moser, Rolf and Doris Ruth with parents, 1931-1952

5	20	Moser, Salli, 1901
5	21	Nordschild, Elsbeth, 1924-circa 1930s
5	22	Rosenstock, Tilly, 1924-1954
5	23	Schlesinger, Alice, circa 1880-circa 1940s
5	24	Schlesinger, Alice and Paul, 1912-1953
5	25	Schlesinger family, circa 1890-circa 1990
5	26	Schlesinger, Fritz and family, circa 1920s-1973
5	27	Schlesinger, Paul, 1924-1953 <i>One negative has been moved to cold storage</i>
5	28	Schröder, Hilde, 1931-circa 1960s <i>One negative has been moved to cold storage</i>
5	29	Wallach, Reinhold, 1924-1926
5	30	Weinstein, Flora and Karl, circa 1920s
5	31	Wolf and Moser families, circa 1915-1963
6	1	Wolf, Ella, 1908-circa 1940s
6	2	Wolf family, Los Angeles, California, 1949
		Wolf, Gretel:
6	3	1924-circa 1990
6	4	Childhood photographs, 1909-1913 <i>One negative has been moved to cold storage</i>
7	1	Photograph album, family, circa 1920-circa 1925 (small red album)
7	2	Photograph album, friends, 1924-1925 (large gray album)
7	3	Photograph album, vacations, 1924-1925 (small gray album)
11	1	Photograph album, vacations and family, 1915-1930 (unbound album)
6	5	Photograph album, vacations, 1930-1934 (unbound album)
6	6	With friends, 1924
6	7	With Leonard Moser, 1925-circa 1930s
6	8	With Leonard Moser, vacation, circa 1920s-circa 1930s
6	9	Wolf, Hermann, 1880-1952
6	10	Wolf, Herman and Ella, 1964
		Wolf, Rudolf:
6	11	1924-1947
6	12	Architecture class, 1935
6	13	Childhood photographs, circa 1907-circa 1911
6	14	Fencing club, circa 1935
6	15	With Fred Baum and Kurt Heiselheim, 1925
6	16	With Gretel, circa 1940s
		Framed photographs:
8	1-2	Goldschmidt family, circa 1860 (2 folders)
8	3	Goldschmidt, Jakob, circa 1860
8	4	Moser, Mathilde with sibling, circa 1862
8	5	Moser, Mathilde, circa 1880
8	6	Moser, Mathilde and Moritz, circa 1880
8	7	Moser, Mathilde and Moritz, circa 1910
9	1-2	Empty photograph albums, circa 1940s (two albums)

Series 6: Printed material, 1887-circa 1939

Box	Folder	Title
OS	3	<i>Aufbau</i> newspapers, 1956; 1970
6	17	German national shooting competition booklet (Deutsche Bundesschiessen), 1887
6	18	German refugee etiquette card, circa 1939
6	19	<i>S.S. Europa</i> passenger list, 1936