

LILIENTHAL AND FRAENKEL FAMILIES PAPERS, 1938-1946
2016.170.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Lilienthal and Fraenkel families papers

Dates: 1938-1946

Accession number: 2016.170.1

Creator: Lilienthal, Eugen; and Fraenkel family.

Extent: 6 folders

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

Abstract: Correspondence from Eugen Lilienthal, originally of Berlin, sent following the end of World War II, from Theresienstadt following his liberation from that concentration camp, and from the Deggendorf displaced persons camp, during the period when he was trying to establish contact with the families of his two daughters, who were living in New York. The collection also contains correspondence and documents sent to one of the daughters, Margot Fraenkel, from various officials and aid organizations as she sought to help her father immigrate to the United States. The collection also contains documents related to the immigration of Margot Fraenkel and her husband, Max, when they left Germany in 1939 and immigrated to the United States, including German passports, affidavits from sponsors in the United States, and menus and postcards from the ship that they travelled on, the S.S. Deutschland.

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), Lilienthal and Fraenkel families papers (accession number), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Gift of Ronald Fraenkel, the son of Max and Margot Fraenkel, and grandson of Eugen Lilienthal, 2016.

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, May 2016.

Biographical note

Dr. Eugen Lilienthal (1876-1947?) was born in Cologne, Germany on 24 July 1876. After obtaining his medical degree from the University of Freiburg in 1901, he set up an internal medicine practice in Berlin, being accepted into the Berliner Medizinische Gesellschaft (Berlin Medical Society) in 1905. Directories from the period note that as of 1913, his practice, which treated gastric and intestinal diseases, as well as diabetes, was located on Nollendorfplatz in the borough of Schöneberg. By 1933, he had relocated his practice a couple of miles to the south, on the Martin-Luther-Strasse, near the Rathaus Schöneberg. Following the Nazi seizure of power in 1933, Dr. Lilienthal was eventually forced to give up his medical practice, and on 18 March 1943, was deported to Theresienstadt, where he was eventually liberated by Allied forces in 1945. Following his liberation, he found his way to the Deggendorf displaced persons camp in Bavaria, where he tried to establish contact with his daughter and son-in-law, Margot and Max Fraenkel, who had emigrated prior to the war. Eventually he was successful, and managed to immigrate to the United States and rejoin them in New York. His internment at Theresienstadt, however, left him with a number of serious health problems, including diabetes, and he eventually succumbed from those a couple of years after his immigration, in 1947.

Margot Lilienthal Fraenkel (1909-1988) was born on 16 February 1909 in Berlin, and her husband, Max Fraenkel (1903-1980), was born on 22 February 1903 in Beuthen, Germany (present-day Bytom, Poland). After their marriage, they established a home in Berlin (Leibnizstrasse 68), but due to Nazi persecution, sought to emigrate, seeking assistance from relatives of Max who had settled in the United States. They were successful, and left Germany on 16 March 1939 on the S.S. Deutschland, and arriving in New York a week later. They settled in Brooklyn, where Max, who had previously worked as a businessman in Germany, was initially a night watchman at a department store, before obtaining a position as a salesman at a luggage store in Manhattan. Subsequently he worked as a freight-forwarder, which led him to relocate the family to Miami in 1952, due to a position he took with Pan American Airways. Margot trained to work as a diamond cutter in New York, but after moving to Miami, joined her husband in the freight-forwarding business. The Fraenkels had one son, Ronald, who after obtaining law degrees from the University of Florida and George Washington University, served in the United States Army for 20 years as a JAG officer, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He subsequently served as general counsel in the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs and as assistant state attorney for the State of Florida, until his retirement in 2010.

In addition to Margot and her father, Margot's sister, Ellen, who was a ballet dancer, managed to defect from her ballet company while on tour, and immigrate to the United States, where she married Kurt

Lewin, an executive with the Esso (now Exxon) oil company. Max's brother, Karl (later Carl Franklin), immigrated in 1936, and served in the United States Army during World War II.

Scope and content of collection

The Lilienthal and Fraenkel families papers consists of correspondence from Eugen Lilienthal, originally of Berlin, sent following the end of World War II, from Theresienstadt following his liberation from that concentration camp, and from the Deggendorf displaced persons camp, during the period when he was trying to establish contact with the families of his two daughters, who were living in New York. The collection also contains correspondence and documents sent to one of the daughters, Margot Fraenkel, from various officials and aid organizations as she sought to help her father immigrate to the United States. The collection also contains documents related to the immigration of Margot Fraenkel and her husband, Max, when they left Germany in 1939 and immigrated to the United States, including German passports, affidavits from sponsors in the United States, and menus and postcards from the ship that they travelled on, the S.S. Deutschland.

System of arrangement

The Lilienthal and Fraenkel families papers are arranged in order by person, and then alphabetic by folder title within those groupings.

Indexing terms

Personal headings:

Fraenkel, Max.

Fraenkel, Margot.

Lilienthal, Eugen.

Fraenkel, Erich.

Corporate headings:

United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

United States. Department of State.

Topical headings:

Germany--Emigration and immigration.

Jews--Germany—Berlin.

Jewish refugees--New York (State)--New York.

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)

Deggendorf (Displaced persons camp)

CONTAINER LIST

- | | |
|---|--|
| | Fraenkel, Max and Margot |
| 1 | Affidavits, 1938 |
| 2 | Menu cards and postcards, S.S. Deutschland, 1939 |
| 3 | Passports, German, 1939 |
| | Lilienthal, Eugen |

- 4 Correspondence about, 1945
- 5 Correspondence from, 1945-1946
- 6 Newspaper clipping