

COHN AND SIEBENBERG FAMILIES PAPERS, 1900-2001

2016.254.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
Tel. (202) 479-9717
e-mail: reference@ushmm.org

Descriptive summary

Title: Cohn and Siebenberg families papers

Dates: 1900-2001

Accession number: 2016.254.1

Creator: Cohn family (Leipzig :Germany)
Siebenberg family (Offenbach am Main :Germany)

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box, 1 oversize box, 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The collection documents the experiences of the Cohn family from Leipzig, Germany and the Siebenberg family of Offenbach am Main, Germany during the Holocaust. The collection includes biographical material of Heinrich and Klara Siebenberg and the Cohn family; immigration records of Erma and Georg Cohn and Georg's brother Walter Cohn; wartime correspondence to Georg Cohn from his brothers Gerhard Werner and Walter; letters to Heinrich and Klara Siebenberg from Klara's sister Ella Liepold, who was imprisoned in the Gurs concentration camp in France; restitution papers regarding Georg Cohn's family business in Erfurt, Germany; and pre-war and wartime family photographs.

Languages: English, German, Spanish

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), Cohn and Siebenberg families papers (2016.254.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Cohn and Siebenberg families papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Jacqueline Hill and Vivian Lamangan in 2016. They are the daughters of George and Erma Cohn.

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, September 2016

Biographical note

Georg Helmuth Cohn (later George Cohn, 1903-1972) was born on 9 August 1903 to Hyman (1866-) and Johanna (née Weinstein, 1879-1920) Cohn in Leipzig, Germany. He had two brothers, Walter (1912-1962) and Gerhard Werner (1905-1940). Georg worked in a fur factory prior to the war. He was arrested in November 1938 and sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp. He was released in January 1939 and emigrated from Germany on the S.S. *Orduna* in May 1939 to Cuba. He then went to Panama briefly before securing an American visa and arriving in New York on 23 September 1939. He married Erma Siebenberg in 1942. They had two daughters, Jacqueline (1948-) and Vivian (1946-).

Walter Cohn immigrated to Barranquilla, Columbia in 1938, and then to the United States in 1950. Gerhard Werner lived in Erfurt, Germany with Henriette (d. 1940) and Nathanel (1872-1940) Cohen, his aunt and uncle on his mother's side who co-owned a women's clothing factory. They were forced to sell the business in 1937, and by 1940 Gerhard, Henriette, and Nathanel had fled to Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Gerhard's non-Jewish girlfriend, Minna Vollrath, turned them in to the Nazi's, and they were murdered in May 1940.

Erma Cohn (née Siebenberg, 1912-1981) was born on 27 February 1912 to Heinrich (1885-1972) and Klara (née Liepold, 1882-1961) Siebenberg in Offenbach am Main, Germany. She had three siblings, Ernest (1913-), Frederick (1917-), and Herta (1926-). Erma moved to Paris, France in the 1930s to work. Her parents and siblings emigrated from Bad Kreuznach, Germany to the United States in 1938, and she emigrated from Paris in 1939. They all settled in New York, and Erma worked as a seamstress. Ernest and Frederick both served in the United States Army. Klara's sister, Ella Liepold (1879-1942), was sent to the Gurs and Drancy concentration camps in France, and then sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp where she perished in 1942.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the experiences of the Cohn family from Leipzig, Germany and the Siebenberg family of Offenbach am Main, Germany during the Holocaust. The collection includes biographical material of Heinrich and Klara Siebenberg and the Cohn family; immigration records of Erma and Georg Cohn and Georg's brother Walter Cohn; wartime correspondence to Georg Cohn from his brothers Gerhard Werner and Walter; letters to Heinrich and Klara Siebenberg from Klara's sister Ella Liepold, who was imprisoned in the Gurs concentration camp in France; restitution papers regarding Georg Cohn's family business in Erfurt, Germany; and pre-war and wartime family photographs.

System of arrangement

The Cohn and Siebenberg families papers are arranged as three series:

Series 1: Biographical and immigration records, 1900-2001

Series 2: Correspondence, 1939-1943

Series 3: Photographs, circa 1920-circa 1940s

Each series is arranged alphabetically by folder title. Documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Cohn, Erma, 1912-1981.

Cohn, Georg, 1903-1974.

Cohn, Gerhard Werner, 1905-1940.

Cohn, Walter, 1902-1962.

Siebenberg, Heinrich, 1885-1972.

Siebenberg, Klara, 1882-1961.

Liepold, Ella.

Corporate:

Gurs (concentration camp)

Topical Subject:

Jewish families--Germany.

Emigration and immigration--United States.

Restitution and indemnification claims (1933-)--Germany.

Geography:

Leipzig (Germany)

Offenbach am Main (Germany)

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

Correspondence.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical and immigration records, 1900-2001

Box	Folder	Title
		Cohn, Erna:
1	1	1945
2	1	Autograph book (blue), 1921-1925
2	2	Autograph book (red), 1926-1935
1	2	Cohn family album (<i>Stammbuch</i>), 1900 [photocopy]
1 OS	3 1	Cohn, Georg, 1939-1941
1	4	Cohn, Gerhard Werner, 1945
1	5	Cohn, Walter, 1948-1957

1	6	Restitution papers, 1947-2001
1	7	Siebenberg, Heinrich and Klara, 1916; 1938

Series 2: Correspondence, 1939-1943

Box	Folder	Title
1	8	Cohn, Georg: Cohn, Gerhard Werner, 1939-1943
1	9	Cohn, Georg: Cohn, Walter, 1939
1	10	Siebenberg, Heinrich and Klara: Liepold, Ella, 1940-1942

Series 3: Photographs, circa 1920-circa 1940s

Box	Folder	Title
1	11	Cohn, Erma, circa 1920-circa 1935
1	12	Siebenberg family, circa 1920-circa 1940s
2	3	Siebenberg, Georg and Klara, 1926
1	13	Tombstone for Gerard Werner Cohn and Nethanel and Henriette Cohen, circa 1940