

**THEODORE MATTERN FAMILY PAPERS, 1924-1999**  
**2016.306.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Theodore Mattern family papers

Dates: 1924-1999 (bulk 1930-1941)

Accession number: 2016.306.1

Creator: Mattern, Theodore (Vienna :Austria)

Extent: .63 linear feet (2 boxes)

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

Abstract: The collection contains correspondence, photographs, and other related documents, documenting the immigration of the Mattern (originally Matfus) family from Vienna, Austria in 1938-1939. Includes correspondence to Theodore Mattern, living in the United States, from his parents, Izak (Josef) and Olga, his grandmother, Leontine Loewy, and his sister, Kitty, during the various stages of their emigration from Europe, including the period that Mattern's parents spent in Shanghai prior to their immigration to the United States. Also includes photographs of the family during this period, earlier family and travel photographs, as well as photocopied biographical documents.

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), Theodore Mattern family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Theodore Mattern family papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Lynne M. Karen in 2016. Lynne is the daughter of Theodore Mattern.

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

Processing history: Adam Fielding, September 2016

### **Biographical note**

Theodore Mattern (born Theodor Matfus; 1909-2003) was born on July 26, 1909 in Vienna, Austria to Izak (later Josef; 1882-1963) and Olga (née Loewy; 1882-1966) Matfus. He had one sister, Katherine Franziska (known as Kitty; 1912-1998). Josef was a veteran of World War I and a dentist. Theodore became a lawyer and married a non-Jewish woman named Lucie Bittrich, whom he had a daughter with. Lucie's brother was a Nazi, and warned Theodore to leave Austria. He emigrated from Vienna in March 1938, arriving in New York on the *M.S. Alex van Opstal*. He briefly lived in New York with his cousin Edith Danziger, and then moved to New Orleans, Louisiana. By 1942, he was divorced from Lucie and married Sarah Goodman Fisher. They moved back to New York by 1944, and their daughter Lynne was born in 1945. Theodore continued to practice law, and beginning in the 1950s he focused on restitution claims.

Theodore's sister, Kitty, emigrated from Austria in 1938, and settled in New York, where she became an actress. She married M.B. Zerwick in 1940. In 1953, she married actor Sig Arno (1895-1975) and continued to act in film and television.

Josef emigrated from Austria in 1938 to Shanghai, China. Olga, and Olga's mother, Leontine Loewy, left Austria in early 1939, arriving in Shanghai in March. Josef and Olga were able to secure visas to come to the United States, and they arrived in New York by April 1940. Leontine was not able to get a visa, and remained in Shanghai.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The collection contains correspondence, photographs, and other related documents, documenting the immigration of the Mattern (originally Matfus) family from Vienna, Austria in 1938-1939. Includes correspondence to Theodore Mattern, living in the United States, from his parents, Izak (Josef) and Olga, his grandmother, Leontine Loewy, and his sister, Kitty, during the various stages of their emigration from Europe, including the period that Mattern's parents spent in Shanghai prior to their immigration to the United States. Also includes photographs of the family during this period, earlier family and travel photographs, as well as photocopied biographical documents.

### **System of arrangement**

The Theodore Mattern family papers are arranged as three series:

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1940-1999

Series 2: Correspondence, 1925-1943

Series 3: Photographs, 1924-1941

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

### **Indexing terms**

Person:

Mattern, Theodore, 1909-2003.

Matfus, Josef, 1882-1963.

Matfus, Olga, 1882-1966.

Mattern, Kitty, 1912-1998.

Topical Subject:

Jewish families--Austria--Vienna.

Jewish refugees--China.

Emigration & immigration--United States.

Geography:

Vienna (Austria)

Shanghai (China)--Jewish refugees.

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

Correspondence.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Series 1: Biographical materials, 1940-1999

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Mattern family, circa 1940 and undated
1	2	Mattern, Kitty, 1940-circa 1992
1	3	Mattern, Theodore, 1943-1999

### Series 2: Correspondence, 1925-1943

Box	Folder	Title
1	4	Matfus, Josef and Olga: Mattern, Theodore, 1925
1	5	Matfus, Josef and Olga: Mattern, Theodore, 1930
		Mattern, Theodore:
1	6	1938 and undated
1	7	Bittrich, Lucie, 1938-1941
1	8	Matfus, Josef, 1937-1943
1	9-11	Matfus, Olga, 1938-1942 (3 folders)
1	12-13	Mattern, Kitty, 1938-1942 (2 folders)

### Series 3: Photographs, 1924-1941

Box	Folder	Title
2	1	Matfus family, 1939
Digital		Matfus family: Bad Gastein, Austria, 1928 <i>Photograph is on loan.</i>
2	2	Matfus, Josef and Olga: Shanghai, China, 1939-1941
2	3	Matfus, Josef, Olga, and Kitty: Böckstein, Austria, 1929
		Mattern, Theodore:
2	4	Bulgaria and Turkey, 1930

2	5	Class photograph, 1924
2	6	England, 1928; 1930
2	7	Italy, 1933
2	8	New Orleans, Louisiana, 1938
2	9	Sonnenblick Mountain, Austria, 1927
2	10	Spain, 1931
2	11	Travel, 1925-1930
2	12	Vienna, Austria [commercial photographs], circa 1930
2	13	Vienna, Austria [commercial picture cards], circa 1930