

STRAUSS FAMILY PAPERS, 1792-2003
2016.565.1

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

Title: Strauss family papers

Dates: 1792-2003 (bulk 1844-1966)

Accession number: 2016.565.1

Creator: Strauss family (Marburg :Germany)

Extent: 1.33 linear feet (2 boxes, 4 oversize boxes, 2 book enclosures, 2 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The collection primarily documents the wartime and post-war experiences of the Strauss family as they fled Nazi persecution in Marburg, Germany to Amsterdam, the Netherlands; their internment at Westerbork concentration camp; and their deportations to Theresienstadt and Auschwitz concentration camps. Included are biographical papers, correspondence, immigration documents, restitution claims paperwork, photographs, and printed materials.

Languages: German, English, Dutch, Hebrew

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), Strauss family papers (2016.565.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Strauss family papers were donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Daniel Sapir in 2016.

Separate materials: Daniel Sapir also donated 34 stamps, a booklet of stamps, a metal box, and a Honour Cross of the World War medal and ribbon.

Related material: The Marion Sapir collection consists of Theresienstadt ghetto scrip (2005.522.1-2005.522.7).

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, May 2016

Biographical note

Siegfried Strauss (later Fred Strauss, 1898-1956) was born in Marburg, Germany to Hermann (1856-1934) and Johanna (née Wertheim, 1859-1942) Strauss. He had three brothers, Bruno (b. 1887), Ernst (b.1889), and Julius (b. 1890). Siegfried served in World War I and operated a leather importer and exporter business in Frankfurt, Germany that was likely started by his grandfather Koppel Strauss (1831-1917). He married Marguerite Wolff (1902-1944) and had two children, Marion Carola (later Marion Sapir, b. 1926) and Karl Heinz (1929-1945).

Due to increasing Nazi persecution, Siegfried moved his family to Amsterdam, the Netherlands by 1938. His brother Ernst and his wife Hedwig (later Hedy Strauss, neé Liebenberg) immigrated to the United States and Bruno moved to England around the same time. In August 1942 the family was arrested and sent to the Westerbork concentration camp. In April 1943 they were deported to Theresienstadt concentration camp. In early 1944 Siegfried was sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. He was then sent as a metalworker to a weapons factory in the Gleiwitz subcamp. In January 1945 Siegfried was sent to the Blechhammer subcamp and was liberated by the Red Army on January 22.

Several months after Siegfried was sent to Auschwitz, Karl was selected to go there. Marguerite and Marion worked in factory and were exempt, but decided to accompany him. Upon arrival, Marguerite was separated from her children and was sent to the gas chamber. Marion was sent to the Oederan sub camp of the Flossenburg concentration camp, where she worked construction of a weapons factory. In April 1945, she, along with other prisoners was sent on a forced-march to Theresienstadt where they were liberated by the Red Army on May 9. Her brother Karl survived the war, but perished shortly after being liberated.

Marion reunited with her father in Amsterdam, and they immigrated to the United States in 1947 with help from Siegfried's brother Ernst. They settled in Chicago, Illinois where Siegfried worked with his brother at a leather company. Marion became a physical therapist. She married Albert Sapir (born Avram Sapir, d. 2005) in 1950, and they had six children.

Scope and content of collection

The collection primarily documents the wartime and post-war experiences of the Strauss family as they fled Nazi persecution in Marburg, Germany to Amsterdam, the Netherlands; their internment at Westerbork concentration camp; and their deportations to Theresienstadt and Auschwitz concentration

camps. Included are biographical papers, correspondence, immigration documents, restitution claims paperwork, photographs, and printed materials.

The biographical material includes identification papers such birth, marriage, and death certificates; genealogy research; documents regarding Siegfried and Marion Strauss's displaced persons status; and Karl Walter Strauss's United States Army papers. There are also some biographical papers related to Marguerite Strauss's father Carl Wolff.

The correspondence includes letters exchanged with extended family members while the Strausses were in Amsterdam and Westerbork; correspondence with John Kok who taught Marion while in the family was in Amsterdam; prewar correspondence of Siegfried's father, Hermann Strauss, and his grandfather, Koppel Strauss; prewar correspondence of Marguerite's parents Adele and Carl Wolff; and postwar letters sent to Marion from her aunt Julie Rosenau.

The immigration papers contain affidavits, letters supporting visa requests, travel documents, and naturalization certificates.

The restitution claims of Marion Strauss include correspondence, personal narratives, financial documents, and paperwork regarding stolen artwork. There is also a small amount of restitution paperwork for Ernst Strauss.

The photographs contain prewar and postwar photos of the Strauss family in Germany and the United States. Included are candid, portrait, and travel photographs.

The printed material includes clippings; copies of poems, a copy of *Indrukken in Westerbork*, a collected book of poems about Westerbork; a French *assignat*, and two medical textbooks belong to Marion Strauss with homemade book covers and ex libris plates.

System of arrangement

The Strauss family papers are arranged alphabetically as six series:

- Series 1: Biographical material, 1844-2001
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1874-1999
- Series 3: Immigration papers, 1938-1955
- Series 4: Restitution claims, 1954-2003
- Series 5: Photographs, circa 1920-circa 1982
- Series 6: Printed material, 1792-1958

Indexing terms

Person:

- Strauss, Siegfried, 1898-1956
- Strauss, Marguerite, 1902-1944
- Strauss, Karl Heinz, 1929-1945
- Strauss, Marion, 1926-
- Strauss, Ernst, 1889-

Corporate:

- Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)

Auschwitz (Concentration camp)
Westerbork (Concentration camp)

Topical Subject:
Jewish families--Germany.
Jewish children in the Holocaust--Germany.
Holocaust survivors--Germany.
Forced labor--Czech Republic--Terezín (Ústecký kraj)
Emigration & immigration--United States--1940-1950.
Restitution and indemnification claims (1933-)--Germany.
World War, 1939-1945--Deportations from the Netherlands.

Geography:
Marburg (Germany)
Amsterdam (Netherlands)
Frankfurt am Main (Germany)

Genre/Form:
Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical material, 1844-2001

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Genealogy research, 1981-1997
1	2	Sapir, Dan: Clipping, circa 1956
1 OS	3 1	Strauss, Ernst, 1923-1957
1	4	Strauss family, 1844-circa 1990
1	5	Strauss, Hedwig, 1913-1939
1	6	Strauss, Hermann, 1934
1	7	Strauss, Irma, 1935-1938
1	8	Strauss, Karl Heinz, 1946
1	9	Strauss, Karl Walter, 1922-2001
1	10	Strauss, Koppel, 1844-1847
1	11	Strauss, Marguerite, 1946
		Strauss, Marion:
1	12	Diplomas, 1949-1958
1	13	Displaced person papers, 1945-1946
1	14	Identification papers, 1945-1950
1	15	Medical exams and notes, 1949
		Strauss, Siegfried:
BE 1, BE 2		Address books, 1947; 1950
1	16	Displaced person papers, 1945-1947

1	17	Identification papers, 1945-1959
1	18	Wolf, Carl, 1886-1921

Series 2: Correspondence, 1874-1999

Box	Folder	Title
1	19	Strauss and Wolff families, 1891-1935
		Strauss, Bruno:
1	20	1900-1945
1	21	Kok, John, 1945
1	22	Strauss, Ernst, 1920
1	23	Strauss, Siegfried and Marion, 1943-1945
		Strauss, Ernst:
1	24	1918-1953
1	25	Strauss, Ernst, 1937-1956
1	26	Strauss, Karl Walter, circa 1938-1953
1	27	Strauss, Marion, 1965
1	28	Strauss, Siegfried, 1941
1	29	Strauss, Hedwig, 1948
1	30	Strauss, Hermann, 1874-1925
1	31	Strauss, Koppel: Business correspondence, 1881-1935
1	32	Strauss, Marguerite, 1913-1940
		Strauss, Marion:
1	33	1957-1999
1	34	Kok, John, 1943-1983
1	35	Rosenau, Julie, 1955-1957
1	36	Sapir, Avram, circa 1949
		Strauss, Siegfried:
1	37	1918-1949 and undated
1	38	Kok, John, 1944-1945
1	39	Wolff, Adele: Ansbacher, Henry and Betty, 1938-1940
2	1	Wolff, Carl, 1912-1925

Series 3: Immigration papers, 1938-1955

Box	Folder	Title
2	2	Strauss, Ernst, 1938-1940
2	3	Strauss, Hedwig, 1938-1944
2	4	Strauss, Karl Walter, 1941-1944
2	5	Strauss, Siegfried, 1938-1955

Series 4: Restitution claims, 1954-2003

Box	Folder	Title
2	6	Strauss, Ernst, 1963
2	7	Strauss, Marion, 1954-1966
2	8	Strauss, Marion, 1968-2003

Series 5: Photographs, circa 1920-circa 1982

Box	Folder	Title
2 3	9	Photograph album, 1934-1947 (album is empty)
2	10	Strauss family, circa 1920-circa 1982
2	11	Strauss, Marion, 1946-1955
2	12	Strauss, Marion and Karl Heinz, circa 1930-circa 1933
2	13	Strauss, Siegfried, circa 1946

Series 6: Printed material, 1792-1958

Box	Folder	Title
OS	2	Clippings, 1914, 1958
2	14	Copies of poems, circa 1940s
2	15	French <i>assignat</i> , 1792
2	16	<i>Indrukken in Westerbork</i> poetry collection, circa 1940s
4		Jongbloed, J., <i>Overzicht van de Physiologie van den Mensch</i> , 1946
2	17	<i>Nederland Jubelt</i> souvenir book, 1948
5		Scheffer, J.M., <i>Grondslagen der Lichamelijke Opvoeding</i> , 1924
2	18	School booklet, 1939
6		School textbook, 1940