

**BRAUNWASSER FAMILY PAPERS, approximately 1900-2014  
2016.89.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Braunwasser family papers

Dates: approximately 1900-2014

Accession number: 2016.89.1

Creator: Braunwasser (Family : Vienna, Austria)

Extent: 0.5 linear foot (1 box)

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

Abstract: The Braunwasser family papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, and restitution files documenting the Braunwasser family in prewar Vienna, Inge Braunwasser's immigration to the United States as one of fifty Jewish children rescued by Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus, her parents' immigration shortly after, and their new life in Alice, Texas.

Languages: German, English, Polish

**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), Braunwasser family papers (2016.89.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Gift of Sidney Steinberger and Ruth Steinberger Pincus (children of Inge Braunwasser Steinberger), 2016.

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: Processed by Brad Bauer in 2016, updated by Julie Schweitzer in 2017

### **Biographical note**

Inge Steinberger (1930-2003) was born Inge Marion Braunwasser in Vienna, Austria to Simon (1894-1956) and Elsa (née Weisz, 1897-1956) Braunwasser. The Braunwassers managed to include Inge among the fifty Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Austria that Americans Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus rescued and brought to the United States in May 1939. Inge was initially sent with the other children to a summer camp operated by Brith Shalom in Collegeville, Pennsylvania. Shortly thereafter, her father's uncle and aunt, Max (Mendel) and Clara Geschwir, picked her up and brought her to their home in Alice, Texas, where she spent the next decade. Her parents immigrated to the United States in December 1939 aboard the S.S. *Veendam* and joined their daughter and relatives in Texas. Simon Braunwasser, who was a salesman in Vienna, established a dry goods business in Texas in the years following his arrival. In 1951, Inge married Bernard Steinberger, a native of Scranton, Pennsylvania who had moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, to help his widowed sister, and whom Inge had met through a Jewish social club in Corpus Christi. The Steinbergers, had two children, Sidney and Ruth, and subsequently moved to Cincinnati, Ohio.

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

The Braunwasser family papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, and restitution files documenting the Braunwasser family in prewar Vienna, Inge Braunwasser's immigration to the United States as one of fifty Jewish children rescued by Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus, her parents' immigration shortly after, and their new life in Alice, Texas.

Biographical materials include identification papers; birth, marriage, naturalization, and death certificates; student records; employment records and letters of recommendation; name change records in accordance with Nazi laws about Jewish middle names; property records; medical prescriptions; and two pages of handwritten recipes. These records primarily document the Braunwasser's life in Vienna and their immigration to the United States.

Correspondence includes a letter of gratitude from Elsa to the Geschwir relatives for taking care of Inge; three messages from Elsa in Texas to her mother in Vienna during the war; a letter from Simon's brother Isadore regretting that he could not supply an affidavit for the Braunwasser family; a telegram confirming that Inge had arrived in Texas; two letters from Gilbert Kraus enclosing Inge's identification and immigration documents and promising to try to help her parents; postcards and a letter from Inge in Texas to her parents in Vienna; birthday postcards to Inge; and thank you letters to Inge from a group of schoolchildren to whom she had given a presentation about her immigration experience.

Photographs depict Simon Braunwasser's family in Poland during the 1910s; the Braunwasser family in Vienna during the 1930s, including childhood photos of Inge, and in Alice, Texas during the 1940s and 1950s; and the children and grandchildren of Inge Braunwasser Steinberger. Also included are images of

Gusti Weber, a neighbor and friend of the Braunwassers in Vienna, and of Weber's son, who was killed while serving in the Germany Army during World War II. Additional photographs depict the Geschwir family, who welcomed Inge to Texas, the Weiss family, and Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus with the "50 children," including Inge Braunwasser.

Restitution files include correspondence with Fonds zur Hilfeleistung an politisch Verfolgte, Finanzdirektion fur Wien, and a lawyer named Julius Klügler documenting Inge's efforts to receive compensation for Holocaust-era household damage and occupational injury.

### **System of arrangement**

The Braunwasser family papers are arranged in four series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, approximately 1917-1946
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1938-1998
- Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1900-2014
- Series 4: Restitution files, 1958-1965

### **Indexing terms**

Kraus, Gilbert, -1975.

Braunwasser, Simon (1894-1956)

Braunwasser, Elsa (1897-1956)

Jews--Austria--Vienna.

Jews--Persecutions--Austria--Vienna.

Jewish refugees--Texas.

Refugee children--United States.

World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue.

Vienna (Austria)

Alice (Tex.)

Austria--Emigration and immigration.

Photographs.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Series 1: Biographical materials, approximately 1917-1946**

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>
1.1	Braunwasser, Elsa, approximately 1917-1946
1.2	Braunwasser, Inge, 1930-1939, 1946
1.3	Braunwasser, Liane, 1926
1.4	Braunwasser, Simon, 1920-1946

**Series 2: Correspondence, 1938-1998**

Box/Folder	Title
1.5	Braunwasser, Elsa, 1939-1943
1.6	Braunwasser, Simon, 1938-1939, 1947
1.7	Kraus, Gilbert J., 1939
1.8	Steinberger, Inge, 1939, 1998

**Series 3: Photographs, approximately 1900-2014**

Box/Folder	Title
1.9	Braunwasser, Isadore and Chaim, approximately 1931
1.10	Braunwasser, Simon, Elsa, and Inge, approximately 1904-1954
1.11	Braunwasser family businesses in Vienna, approximately 1930s
1.12	Braunwasser extended family, approximately 1900-1940
1.13	Braunwasser family and friends, unidentified, approximately 1900-1995
1.14	Geschwir, Max (Mendel) and Clara, approximately 1940s
1.15	Kraus, Gilbert and Eleanor, with the "50 children," 1939
1.16	Steinberger, Bernard and Inge, approximately 1951
1.17	Steinberger family, at wedding of Eli and Melissa, Ohio, 2014
1.18	Weber, Gusti and Gustav, approximately 1930s-1940s
1.19	Weiss family, approximately 1900s-1930s

**Series 4: Restitution files, 1958-1965**

Box/Folder	Title
1.20	Restitution files, 1958-1965