

**ROSENWALD AND STAHL FAMILIES PAPERS, 1885-1980
(bulk, 1920-1955)
2017.222.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Rosenwald and Stahl families papers

Dates: 1885-1980 (bulk, 1920-1955)

Accession number: 2017.222.1

Creators: Rosenwald, Otto; Stahl, Gerhard.

Extent: 2 boxes (1 linear foot)

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

Abstract: Correspondence, identification and travel documents, postcards, photographs, album, book, financial documents and restitution files, and other similar materials related to the emigration of the family of Otto and Elfriede Rosenwald, and their daughter, Helene, from Germany in 1936, to escape Nazi persecution. Includes materials from their extended family, including financial documents of Otto Rosenwald's father, Simon, as well as selected photographs and documents related to the family of Helen Rosenwald Stahl's husband, Gerhard (Gerald) Stahl, documenting their own lives in pre-war Germany and Gerhard's immigration to Great Britain.

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), Rosenwald and Stahl families papers (2017.222.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Gift of Helen Rosenwald Stahl, 2017.

Related archival materials: The Rosenwald, Block and Kupferschlag families papers (1999.A.0278) document the families of Fritz (Fred) Rosenwald, the brother of Bertha Rosenwald Schwarz. That collection also includes material about Fritz and Bertha's parents, Bendix and Emma Rosenwald. Additional collections that contain material related to the role of the family of William Rosenwald in rescuing relatives from Germany include the Schwarz and Rosenwald families papers (IRN 555445), which document the emigration from Germany of the family of Richard and Bertha (nee Rosenwald) Schwarz, which likewise was made possible through the efforts of the William Rosenwald Family Association. In addition, one book, titled *Die jüdischen Gefallenen des deutschen Heeres, der deutschen Marine und der deutschen Schutztruppen, 1914-1918: Ein Gedenkbuch*, was donated with this collection and is cataloged separately in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Library.

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

Processing history: Processed by Brad Bauer, February 2017.

Biographical note

Otto Rosenwald (1895-1979) was born on 29 July 1895 in Bünde (Westfalen), the son of Simon and Helene (née Isaac, 1869-1915) Rosenwald. He served in the German Army during World War I (First Division, Field Artillery, Regiment 58), seeing action in France, including at Verdun, the Vosges, and other locations in Alsace and Lorraine. He was an accomplished singer (a tenor), and after returning from the war, studied at a conservatory in Osnabrück, and regularly performed in concerts around the region. He belonged to a number of organizations, including the volunteer firefighters in Bünde, from which he was asked to step down from his post as secretary due to anti-Semitic regulations in 1933, and as a veteran he also belonged to the Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten (Herford chapter). In 1929, he married Elfriede Rose (born 8 June 1908 in Nienburg/Weser), and with their daughter, Helene (later Helen), immigrated to the United States in 1936, with assistance from their distant American relatives, through the William Rosenwald Family Association. He died in New York on 22 December 1979.

Simon Rosenwald (1862-1955) was born on 26 March 1862, in Bünde (Westfalen). He married Helene Isaac in 1895, and worked in the family-owned cigar making business until its expropriation during the Nazi era. The Rosenwalds had three children: Otto (1895-1979), Ernst (1898-1990) and Charlotte (1903-2003). Although his son and daughter-in-law, Otto and Elfriede, left Germany in 1936, Simon stayed until 1938, and then joined his son in New York. Simon Rosenwald died in New York at the age of 93, on 29 September 1955.

Gerhard (later Gerald) Stahl was born on 3 May 1922, to Martin and Sofie (née Bauer) Stahl, in Nuremberg, Germany. He left for Britain (on a Kindertransport), arriving in England on 23 August 1939, and subsequently worked as a dyer's apprentice, and later an agricultural laborer. He immigrated to the United States in April 1946.

Scope and content of collection

The Rosenwald and Stahl families papers consists of correspondence, identification and travel documents, postcards, photographs, an autograph album, financial documents and restitution files, and other similar materials related to the emigration of the family of Otto and Elfriede Rosenwald, and their daughter, Helen, from Germany in 1936, to escape Nazi persecution, as well as the later emigration of Otto's father, Simon. Includes selected photographs and documents related to the family of Helen Rosenwald Stahl's husband, Gerhard (Gerald) Stahl, documenting their own lives in pre-war Germany and Gerhard's immigration to Great Britain in 1939. The collection is divided into two series: Biographical and Financial.

In the Biographical series, documents that help identify various biographical data about family members are included, such as birth certificates, passports, identification cards, military records, driver's licenses, and similar materials. Also included are printed programs and clippings of reviews from musical performances that featured Otto Rosenwald from 1919 to 1936, and records from organizations that Otto Rosenwald belonged to in Germany, including some from which he had to leave, due to anti-Semitic policies after 1933 (such as the local fire brigade). Also included is a file regarding the Luise Ochs, the widow of Otto Rosenwald's cousin, Fritz, who sought to prove in the post-war years that she had converted to Judaism during the Nazi era, so that she would be eligible to receive benefits (which Rosenwald family members affirmed). Also included in the Biographical series are materials related to the family of the husband of Helen Rosenwald Stahl, Gerald (Gerhard) Stahl, documenting both his immigration to Great Britain in 1939, as well as photographs and other documents from his family, including an autograph book kept by his mother, Sophie, in the early 1900s, and documents related to his parents' attempt to leave Germany in 1940, including their passports and an unused affidavit.

The Financial series largely consists of records from Otto's father, Simon, related to bank accounts, debts owed to him, and mortgages held by him, which were frozen after his emigration. Such records include correspondence with banks, and date mostly from late 1938 onward (after Kristallnacht), showing efforts to consolidate assets, sell securities, provide for indigent relatives, and recover debts and outstanding mortgage payments, prior to his departure from Germany. After arriving in New York, Simon Rosenwald continued to pursue these matters up until the time when the United States entered World War II. Following the war, he resumed efforts to recover frozen bank accounts, and to press claims against those who he had given mortgages to, and who had not made payments or from which he had not received any interest since the late 1930s. In addition to the financial matters of Simon Rosenwald, this series also contains some restitution-related records, in which the Rosenwald family sought to receive compensation during the 1950s for their lost business and real estate; as well as a file of correspondence from Max Perlman, who distributed assistance to the family from the William Rosenwald Family Association.

System of arrangement

The Rosenwald and Stahl families papers are arranged in two series, and then in alphabetic order within each series: I. Biographical, II. Financial.

Indexing terms

Topical headings:

Jews--Germany--Bünde.

Jews--Germany--Nuremberg.

Germany--Emigration and immigration.

Jewish refugees—New York.
Restitution--Germany.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Reparations.

Geographic headings:
Bünde (Germany)

CONTAINER LIST

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1	3	Rosenwald, Elfriede: Identification documents: German passport, international driver's license, German drivers license, 1934-1935 Rosenwald, Elfriede and Otto
1	4	Letters of reference, 1942
1	5	Marriage certificate, 1929 Rosenwald family,
1	6	General: includes letter from Elfriede to an uncle, 1910, documents related to contributions made to an aid fund for the Reichsvertretung der Juden in Deutschland, undated, circa 1930s, and a Photostat copy of a Red Cross prisoner-of-war letter from Ivan Lieblich to his relatives in the United States, 1942.
1	7	Photographs (most from trip to United States), 1935-1936
1	8	Voyage to the United States, (postcard, souvenir program, correspondence about), 1936-1956 Rosenwald, Otto
1	9	Concert programs and announcements, 1919-1936
1	10	Concert reviews, 1930
1	11	Concert reviews, 1931
1	12	Death announcement, <i>Aufbau</i> , 11 January 1980
1	13	Identification documents: German passport, business identification card, International driver's license, 1926-1935
1	14	Military documents, 1914-1918
1	15	Organizations (membership), 1933-1936 Rosenwald, Simon:
1	16	Identification documents (passport and military), 1885-1938
1	17	List of assets, 1938
1	18	Will, 1952 Stahl family
1	19	Affidavit (unused), 1940
1	20	Passports, for Martin and Sofie Stahl, 1940
1	21	Photographs, including Martin Stahl in army during World War I, 1914, class room photo including Heinrich Stahl, circa 1920s, and album pages from 1929.

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| 1 | 22 | “Poesie-Buch” (autographs), for Sofie Bauer (Stahl), 1904-1909
Stahl, Gerhard |
| 1 | 23 | Identification, British, 1939-1946 |
| 1 | 24 | Identification, German (copy of birth certificate, vaccinations), 1922-1941 |

II. Financial, 1906-1957

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| | | Restitution documents |
| 2 | 1 | American authorities, 1946 |
| 2 | 2 | Hirschfeld, Emil (uncle of Elfriede Rosenwald), property of, 1906-1960
Mortgages, outstanding (Bauhaus and Schneider cases) |
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| 2 | 8 | Rosenwald family, 1948-1957 |
| 2 | 9 | Rosenwald, Otto: notebook of expenses, 1938
Rosenwald, Simon |
| 2 | 10 | Archenhold, Rosina, estate of, 1938 |
| 2 | 11 | Devisenstelle, Oberfinanzpräsident Westfalen (Münster), 1939-1941
Dresdner Bank: Correspondence |
| 2 | 12 | 1938-1939 |
| 2 | 13 | 1940-1941 |
| 2 | 14 | 1945-1947
Dresdner Bank: statements |
| 2 | 15 | 1937 |
| 2 | 16 | 1938: January-June |
| 2 | 17 | 1938: July-December |
| 2 | 18 | 1939 |
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| 2 | 20 | 1941 |
| 2 | 21 | Cover for statements, with writing on it |
| 2 | 22 | Finanzamt, Bünde, 1938-1940 |
| 2 | 23 | Isaac, Hermann (Berlin), brother-in-law, 1940 |
| 2 | 24 | Katz, Otto (Hamburg), 1939 |
| 2 | 25 | Konversionskasse für deutsche Auslandsschulden (Berlin), 1939-1941 |
| 2 | 26 | Levy, Adolf, 1939-1940 |
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| 2 | 28 | Perlman, Max, 1939-1940 |
| 2 | 29 | Stratmann, Ernst, 1939 |