

ODENHEIMER FAMILY PAPERS, 1934-2003
2017.241.2

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Odenheimer family papers

Dates: 1934-2003

Accession number: 2017.241.2

Creator: Odenheimer (Family : Odenheim, Germany)

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 Odenheimer family papers consist of correspondence, family history and genealogy, immigration files, photographs, and restitution files documenting the history of the Odenheimer family in Odenheim, Germany, Kurt and Ilse Odenheimer's immigration to the United States in 1939, Marie and Isidor Odenheimer's deportation to and internment in southern France in October 1940, the deaths of Isidor and Julius Odenheimer in concentration camps, and Marie's immigration to the United States in 1941.

Languages: German, English, French, Russian

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), Odenheimer family papers, 2017.241.2, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Judith Odenheimer, granddaughter of Marie and Isidor Odenheimer, donated the Odenheimer family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2017 and added an accretion the same year. The accessions formerly cataloged as 2017.241.1 and 2017.547.1 have been incorporated into this collection.

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 Julie Schweitzer, July 2018.

Biographical note

Isidor Odenheimer (1883-1940) was born in Odenheim, Germany and inherited a grocery and dry goods store from his father. He married Marie Herz (1897-1971) from Kochendorf, Germany in 1921. Their children were Kurt (1922-2004) and Ilse (1924-1996). Isidor and his brothers Julius (1881-1941) and Sigmund (1886-approximately 1941) were imprisoned in Dachau for several weeks following Kristallnacht. Kurt and Ilse immigrated to the United States in August 1939 with their father's sister, Frieda Elsas, and were picked up in New York by their mother's sister and brother-in-law, Siegfried and Lina Metzger from Toledo. Marie and Isidor applied for their visas three weeks after applying for their children's visas, so their wait was much longer. They tried to immigrate in the spring of 1940 through Genoa, but Isidor suffered a heart attack, and by the time he recovered, Italy had entered the war, blocking the Italian exit route. Marie tried to immigrate through Russia and Japan but was unable to obtain Russian transit visas. Marie, Isidor, and Julius were deported with other Jews from Baden to internment camps in southern France in October 1940. Isidor died in Gurs in November 1940. Marie was released from Gurs and stayed in Marseilles until she boarded the SS *Winnipeg* bound for Martinique. The ship was diverted to Trinidad, and Marie arrived in America aboard the SS *Evangeline* in June 1941. Julius Odenheimer was interned at Les Milles and deported via Drancy and Auschwitz in August 1942. Ilse Odenheimer married Henry B. Jacobsen in 1946, and Kurt Odenheimer married Gertrude Mendelson in 1947.

Scope and content of collection

The Odenheimer family papers consist of correspondence, family history and genealogy, immigration files, photographs, and restitution files documenting the history of the Odenheimer family in Odenheim, Germany, Kurt and Ilse Odenheimer's immigration to the United States in 1939, Marie and Isidor Odenheimer's deportation to and internment in southern France in October 1940, the deaths of Isidor and Julius Odenheimer in concentration camps, and Marie's immigration to the United States in 1941.

Correspondence primarily consists of letters exchanged between the Odenheimer family in Germany and later as refugees in France with their relatives in America, particularly in Toledo and New Orleans. Included are letters from Marie Odenheimer while she was interned at Gurs, a refugee in Marseilles, and aboard the SS *Winnipeg* on her way to the United States; letters from Julius Odenheimer while he was interned at Les Milles; and correspondence between Kurt and Ilse Odenheimer after they immigrated to the United States with their parents who were still in Europe.

Family history includes clippings, interviews, personal narratives, family trees, and Yad Vashem testimony documenting the Odenheimer, Herz, Lowell, Merzbacher, and Wertheim families.

Immigration files include German and French financial and customs records documenting the Odenheimer family's efforts to clear European emigration requirements; applications, affidavits, correspondence, and travel documents related to their efforts to immigrate to the United States; and Russian transit visas applications related to their unsuccessful efforts to immigrate via Russia.

One photograph depicts an Odenheimer family reunion in Germany in approximately 1934. Isidor Odenheimer is standing fourth from the left in the fifth row; Julius Odenheimer is standing third from right in the third row; Sigmund Odenherim is seated fourth from right in the second row; and Kurt Odenheimer is seated third from left in the first row. Five unlabeled photographs were taken aboard a ship and might depict Marie Odenheimer's immigration to the United States aboard the *SS Winnipeg* and the *SS Evangeline*.

Restitution files include certificates documenting Marie Odenheimer's internment and Isidor Odenheimer's death at Gurs, and correspondence, financial records, affidavits, and property records documenting the Odenheimer family's efforts to receive restitution for real estate, property, and financial assets lost during the Holocaust.

System of arrangement

The Odenheimer family papers are arranged as five series:

- Series 1: Correspondence, approximately 1936-1970
- Series 2: Family history, approximately 1944-2017
- Series 3: Immigration files, 1938-1941
- Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1934-1941
- Series 5: Restitution files, 1940-2003

Indexing terms

Gurs (Concentration camp)

Les Milles (Concentration camp)

Jews--Germany--Baden.

Concentration camp inmates--France--Correspondence.

Jewish refugees--Ohio--Toledo.

France--Emigration and immigration.

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Odenheimer (Germany)

Marseille (France)

Toledo (Ohio)

Correspondence.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Correspondence, approximately 1936-1970

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Odenheimer, Isidor, approximately 1937-1940
1.2	Odenheimer, Julius, mostly from Les Milles, 1936-1942
1.3	Odenheimer, Marie, in Gurs, Marseilles, and aboard the <i>SS Winnipeg</i> , (some photocopies), 1940-1941
1.4-1.6	Odenheimer, Marie, from her family in Toledo, approximately 1940-1941 (3 folders)
1.7	Elsas, Walter and Frieda, 1941
1.8	Kessler family, 1948-1954, 1966
1.9	Miscellaneous, approximately 1936-1970

Series 2: Family history, approximately 1944-2017

Box/Folder	Title
1.10	Odenheimer, Ilse, clipping, 1944
1.11	Odenheimer, Kurt, interview, 1989
1.12	Odenheimer, Sigmund, photocopy of 1889 article
1.13	Odenheimer family narratives, undated
1.14	Odenheimer family trees, undated
1.15	Herz family trees, undated
1.16	Lowell, Rose, personal narrative, 1978
1.17	Merzbacher family, 1999, 2017
1.18	Wertheim family, Yad Vashem testimony, approximately 1979-1987

Series 3: Immigration files, 1938-1941

Box/Folder	Title
1.19	Accounting and receipts, 1939-1941
1.20	Affidavits, 1938, 1941
1.21	American Consulate in Marseille, 1941
1.22	Application for immigration visa, Isidor Odenheimer, 1939-1940
1.23	Devisenstelle, 1940
1.24	Finanzamt, 1940
1.25	French customs and currency clearance, 1941
1.26	Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland, Abteilung Wanderung, 1940
1.27	Russian transit visa applications, approximately 1939
1.28	Telegrams, approximately 1940-1941
1.29	Travel (many photocopies), 1941

Series 4: Photographs, approximately 1934-1941

Box/Folder	Title
1.30	Odenheimer family reunion, approximately 1934
1.31	Shipboard photographs (possibly <i>SS Winnipeg</i> or <i>SS Evangenline</i>), approximately 1941

Series 5: Restitution files, 1940-2003

Box/Folder	Title
1.32	Gurs certificates, 1940-1941
1.33-1.34	Restitution files, 1946-2003 (2 folders)