

MIRA AND HEINZ WALLERSTEIN PAPERS, CIRCA 1880-1985 2017.258.1

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

Title: Mira and Heinz Wallerstein papers

Dates: circa 1880-1985 [bulk 1931-1944]

Accession number: 2017.258.1

Creator: Heinz Wallerstein, 1914-1987.
Mira Wallerstein, 1919-2016.

Extent: 1.59 linear feet (1 box, 2 oversize boxes, 2 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The collection documents Heinz Wallerstein of Kassel, Germany, his wife Mira Wallerstein of Prague, Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic), and their families in the time leading up to the Holocaust. Biographical materials include employment, identification, education, and military papers of Heinz from Saarbrücken, Germany; military and naturalization papers of Heinz's brother Rolf; and Mira's Czechoslovakian passport along with some stories written as a child. Correspondence includes a letter sent to Ida Schanzer from Mira's step-parents Julius and Anna Taussig regarding plans to emigrate from Czechoslovakia, and a letter from the Hamburg-American Line in 1939 cancelling the trip she helped fund to try and them to the United States; and letters to Mira from her birth mother in Russia, her birth father Arnošt, and her sister Klara. Photographs include depictions of Heinz, his brother Rolf, and his family in Kassel; Heinz and Rolf in the United States Army; Heinz's maternal relatives in the Stern family; Mira Wallerstein, and her step-parents Julius and Anna Taussig; and photograph albums of Mira.

Languages: English, German, Czech, 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), Mira and Heinz Wallerstein papers (2017.258.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by the Estate of Mira and Heinz Wallerstein in 2016.

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, March 2017

Biographical note

Heinz Wallerstein (later known as Henry Wallerstein, 1914-1987) was born in Kassel, Germany in 23 July 1914 to Jenny (née Stern, b. 1881) and Harry Wallerstein. He had one brother, Rolf (1920-1987). Harry died while Heinz was still a child. From 1933-1936, Heinz worked in Saarbrücken, Germany as a driver, car mechanic, and locksmith. Jenny's sister, Irma Brandt, moved to the United States in the 1920s, and was able to help Heinz, Rolf, and Jenny immigrate to the United States. Heinz arrived in the United States on the *SS Manhattan* on 19 February 1937. He married Clara Rotschild, but she died giving birth. Both Heinz and his brother Rolf served in the United States Army during World War II.

Mira Wallerstein (born Miriam Fleischmann, 1919-2016) was born on 6 September 1919 in Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (present-day Belarus) to Riva Schulmann and Arnošt Fleischmann. Arnošt was born in Plzeň, Bohemia (present day Plzeň, Czech Republic) in 1896. She had one sister, Klara (b. 1921). In 1923, the family moved to Plzeň to live with Mira's grandmother and great-grandfather. Her mother was then sent back to Russia. Klara was sent to live with her grandmother's sister, and she later lived with Arnošt after he remarried. She died of tuberculosis in the 1930s.

Mira was sent to live with Arnošt's aunt Sophie Taussig and her husband Julius Taussig (b. 1879) in Prague. Sophie died while Mira was still a child, and Julius married Ani Glazer (Anna, 1896-), who also had a daughter, Josephine Winter (b. 1922), with her first husband.

In February 1940 Mira was able to take a train to Trieste, Italy, and from there was able to book passage on a boat to the United States. She initially stayed with Julius's sister, Ida Schanzer. She studied to become a nurse, and married Heinz in 1943. Their son, Harvey, was born in 1945, and their daughter, Ruth, was born in 1949.

On 17 December 1941, Julius, Anna, and Josephine were deported from Prague to Theresienstadt. On 15 January 1942 they were deported to Riga where they likely perished. Her father, Arnošt, was deported from Prague to the Łódź ghetto in 1941 where he likely perished. Her mother Riva also perished during the war.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents Heinz Wallerstein of Kassel, Germany, his wife Mira Wallerstein of Prague, Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic), and their families in the time leading up to the Holocaust. Biographical materials include employment, identification, education, and military papers of Heinz from Saarbrücken,

Germany; military and naturalization papers of Heinz's brother Rolf; and Mira's Czechoslovakian passport along with some stories written as a child. Correspondence includes a letter sent to Ida Schanzer from Mira's step-parents Julius and Anna Taussig regarding plans to emigrate from Czechoslovakia, and a letter from the Hamburg-American Line in 1939 cancelling the trip she helped fund to try and them to the United States; and letters to Mira from her birth mother in Russia, her birth father Arnošt, and her sister Klara. Photographs include depictions of Heinz, his brother Rolf, and his family in Kassel; Heinz and Rolf in the United States Army; Heinz's maternal relatives in the Stern family; Mira Wallerstein, and her step-parents Julius and Anna Taussig; and photograph albums of Mira.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as three series. Folders are arranged alphabetically, and documents are arranged chronologically.

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1911-1985 and undated

Series 2: Correspondence, 1934-1941 and undated

Series 3: Photographs, circa 1880-1944

Indexing terms

Person:

Wallerstein, Heinz, 1914-1987.

Wallerstein, Mira, 1919-2016.

Wallerstein, Rolf M., 1920-1987.

Wallerstein, Harry.

Wallerstein, Jenny.

Taussig, Anna.

Taussig, Julius.

Corporate:

Hamburg-American Line.

United States Army.

Topical Subject:

Jewish families--Czechoslovakia.

Jewish families--Germany--Kassel--History.

Emigration & immigration--United States.

Holocaust Jewish (1939-1945)

Geography:

Kassel (Germany)

Prague (Czechoslovakia)

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

Photograph albums.

Correspondence.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1911-1985 and undated

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Wallerstein, Harry and Jenny Stern: 1911-1985
		Wallerstein, Heinz:
1	2	Education, 1931-1974
1	3	Employment, 1935-1936
1	4	Identification papers, 1933-1939
1	5	United States Army, 1944-1945
		Wallerstein, Mira:
1	6	Czechoslovakia passport, 1940
1	7	Writings, 1935
1	8	Wallerstein, Rolf: 1944-1946 and undated

Series 2: Correspondence, 1934-1941 and undated

Box	Folder	Title
		Schanzer, Ida:
1	9	Hamburg-American Line, 1939
1	10	Taussig, Anna, 1938
1	11	Wallerstein, Jenny: Wallerstein, Heinz, 1937
		Wallerstein, Mira:
1	12	Fleischmann, Arnošt, 1940
1	13	Fleischmann, Klara, 1934-1935 and undated
1	14	Schulmann, Riva, 1936-1941 and undated
1	15	Taussig, Anna and Julius, 1940
1	16	Unidentified sender, 1940

Series 3: Photographs, circa 1880-1944

Box	Folder	Title
OS	1	Stern, Emma, circa 1900
1	17	Stern family, circa 1890
1	18	Stern, Jakob, circa 1880-circa 1900
OS	2	
1	19	Taussig family, circa 1883-1937
1	20	Taussig family photograph album, 1920-1939
1	21	Taussig family photograph album, loose photographs
1	22	Wallerstein family, 1890-circa 1925
1	23	Wallerstein, Heinz, 1916-circa 1942
1	24	Wallerstein, Heinz and Rolf, 1931-1944
1	25	Wallerstein, Jenny, circa 1900
1	26	Wallerstein, Jenny: Clothing store, Kassel, Germany, circa 1900
		Wallerstein, Mira:
1	27	1922-1928
3	1	Photograph album "Japanese motif cover", 1932-1937
1	28	Photograph album "Japanese motif cover", loose photographs
2	1	Photograph album "ship motif cover", 1937-1941

1	29	Photograph album "ship motif cover", loose photographs
1	30	Wallerstein, Rolf, circa 1930s