

LEVY AND LUSTIG FAMILIES PAPERS, circa 1825-2004 2017.554.2

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Levy and Lustig families papers

Dates: circa 1825-2004

Accession number: 2017.554.2

Creator: Levy (Family : Cologne, Germany)

Additional creator: Lustig (Family : Leipzig, Germany)

Extent: 22 linear feet (10 boxes, 17 oversize boxes, 8 oversize folders, 11 book enclosures)

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

Abstract: The collection documents the prewar, wartime, and postwar lives of the Levy family of Cologne, Germany, and the Lustig family of Leipzig, Germany including Fritz Levy's World War I experiences as a prisoner of war in Omsk, Fritz and Käte Levy's immigration to London in 1933, the forced sale of his family business in Germany, and restitution claims. The collection includes extensive family correspondence, photographs, family history, financial documents, poems, diaries, and personal narratives.

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.

Physical access: Negatives in the collection are kept in cold storage for preservation reasons and would require additional time for acclimatization before they can be served to researchers.

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), Levy and Lustig families papers (2017.554.2), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Philip Hamburger, Jeffrey Hamburger, and Annette Levy in 2017. Three accretions were donated in 2018. The accessions formerly cataloged as 2017.554.1, 2018.500.1, 2018.501.1, and 2018.502.1 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: Adam Fielding, October-December 2018

Biographical note

Julius Isaac Lustig (1864-1950) was born on 29 March 1864 in Unsleben, Germany to Kalmann or Callmann (1818-1902) and Rosa (née Franken, 1828-1908) Lustig. He had at least one brother, Bernhard (b. 1862) and one sister Gretchen (later Gretchen Zander). He was a co-owner of Frank and Lustig, Leipzig, a clothing manufacturer.

Helene Henriette Lustig (née Lieberg, 1877-1966) was born on 24 August 1877 in Kassel, Germany to Max Michael (1848-1914) and Sophie (née Wulff, 1857-1933) Lieberg. She had three brothers, Ernst (1879-1897), Fritz (1886-1856), and Heinz, and one sister, Gertrud (Trudi, 1886-1956, later Gertrud Oppenheim).

Julius and Helene married in Kassel in 1900. They lived in Leipzig and had three daughters, Margot (later Margot Kaufmann, 1900-1928), Käte Edith (later Käte Levy, 1902-1998), and Alice (later Alice Fein, b. 1904). The family was wealthy and made frequent donations to their synagogue in Leipzig.

Fritz Levy (Friedrich Levy, 1890-1954) was born on 1 May 1890 in Cologne, Germany to Siegmund (1848-1920) and Bertha (née Lowenberg, 1856-1915) Levy. He had two brothers, Otto and Ernst. Fritz's father Siegmund owned a high-end hat manufacturing business called S. Levy and Sie. Fritz served as an officer in the German Army officer during World War I, and was captured in 1915. He remained a prisoner of war in Omsk until the end of the war, but was able to write to his family often. Fritz married Käte Lustig in 1923. Their daughter Lotte Edith (later Lotte Hamburger, 1924-2012) was born in 1924.

Fritz and his brothers Ernst and Otto inherited their father's hat manufacturing business in Cologne. In 1933, after learning about his daughter Lotte getting in trouble in school for refusing to sing Nazi songs, Fritz and Käte made plans to emigrate from Cologne to England. They sent Lotte to Leipzig to live with Käte's parents and attend a Jewish school. Fritz and Käte immigrated to London later that year, and Lotte joined them in 1934. Fritz continued to work in the hat manufacturing business, primarily with Rivoli Hats Ltd. His brother Otto left Germany in 1937, but his other brother Ernst was paralyzed and unable to leave. They were forced to sell their business in Cologne in 1939 at a loss. Fritz and Käte helped her parents immigrate to England in 1939. They also helped other relatives emigrate from Germany including Käte's sister Alice, and her aunt Trudi.

Käte would later become the director of Kangol Hats Ltd. and Bergmann & Co. Ltd. Lotte immigrated to the United States in 1953. She married Joseph Hamburger in 1954, and they had three children, Philip, Jeffrey, and Annette.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the prewar, wartime, and postwar lives of the Levy family of Cologne, Germany, and the Lustig family of Leipzig, Germany including Fritz Levy's World War I experiences as a prisoner of war in Omsk, Fritz and Käte Levy's immigration to London in 1933, the forced sale of his family business in Germany, and restitution claims. The collection includes extensive family correspondence, photographs, family history, financial documents, poems, diaries, and personal narratives.

Biographical material consists of family books, family trees, grades, birth and death certificates, marriage certificates, identification papers, German passports, immigration documents, financial documents regarding the forced sales of Fritz's business, military papers, account books, and papers related to Käte's sister Margot's death in 1928. There are also papers related to Fritz's WWI experiences, including his imprisonment in Omsk, and restitution paperwork related to claims filed by both the Levy and Lustig families.

Correspondence primarily consists of extensive amounts of pre-war letters exchanged between members of the Levy and Lustig families including Fritz's letters to his family while he was serving in WWI, correspondence between Fritz and Käte during his business travels, and letters to Fritz and Käte from their daughter Lotte while she was in school. The bulk of the Lustig family correspondence are letters to Fritz and Käte from her parents and other relatives. There are also five bound books with typed transcribed letters from Fritz to his family during WWI.

Writings include Fritz's WWI diaries, Käte's diary about Lotte's first six years, Lotte's wartime diary she kept in England as a teenager, her personal narratives she wrote in 2002-2004 reflecting on her family's history, and numerous poems written by various members of the Lustig family.

Photographs primarily consist of prints and albums of pre-war depictions of the extended Levy and Lustig families. Also included are Fritz's WWI photographs and depictions of Fritz, Käte, and Lotte in England before, during, and after the war.

Printed material includes a copy of *British Millinery* with an article on Käte (page 21), business cards, clippings (primarily in German), postcards, and a Yom Kippur program from 1938. Also included is a copy of the German children's book *Bilderbücher : Sport u. Spiel* with enclosures by the family describing how Fritz saw Käte with the book and began talking with her, thus beginning their courtship.

Artwork includes bookplates, floor plan drawings, childhood drawings of Lotte, and cartoons drawn by relative Kurt Levy of Käte packing and moving in 1932 and 1933, the latter likely related to her emigration to England.

Miscellaneous material includes various notes, receipts, and pre-war documents.

System of arrangement

The collection has been arranged as seven series.

- Series 1. Biographical material, circa 1825-circa 2004
 - Subseries 1.1. Levy family, 1900-circa 2004
 - Subseries 1.2. Lustig family, circa 1825-1969
- Series 2. Correspondence, 1894-1968 and undated
 - Subseries 2.1. Levy family, 1894-1968 and undated
 - Subseries 2.2. Lustig family, 1897-circa 1968 and undated
- Series 3. Writings, circa 1900-2004
 - Subseries 3.1. Levy family, 1914-2004
 - Subseries 3.2. Lustig family, circa 1900-1923
- Series 4. Photographs, circa 1880-circa 1990
 - Subseries 4.1. Levy family, circa 1880-circa 1990
 - Subseries 4.2. Lustig family, 1881-1966
- Series 5. Printed material, 1912-1966 and undated
- Series 6. Artwork, circa 1910-1981 and undated
- Series 7. Miscellaneous, 1906-1954 and undated

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Levy, Fritz.
Levy, Käte.
Levy, Siegmund.
Lustig, Julius.
Lustig, Helene.
Lustig, Margot.
Lustig, Alice.
Levy, Lotte.

Topical Subject:

Jews--Germany--Cologne.
Jews--Germany--Leipzig.
Jewish businesspeople--Germany.
Jewish businesspeople--England.
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Reparations.

Geography:

Cologne (Germany)
Leipzig (Germany)
London (England)
Hague (Netherlands)
United States--Emigration and immigration.

Genre/Form:

Photographs.
Photograph albums.
Correspondence.
Personal narratives.

Diaries.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Biographical material, circa 1825-circa 2004

Subseries 1.1. Levy family, 1900-circa 2004

Box/Folder	Title
1.1, BE 1	Account book, 1900-1950
1.2	Immigration documents, 1933-circa 1972
1.3	Inventory lists, circa 1933-circa 1938
1.4	Levy, Fritz: Account book, 1908
1.5	Levy, Fritz: Restitution, 1946-1967
1.6	Levy, Fritz: Rivoli Hats Limited, 1933-1988
1.7-1.8	Levy, Fritz: S. Levy and Sie, forced sale, 1934-1939 (2 folders)
1.9	Levy, Fritz: World War I, 1915-1935
1.10	Levy, Fritz, 1904-1939
1.11	Levy, Käte, 1902-1998
1.12	Levy, Lotte: Scrapbook, 1927-circa 2004
1.13	Levy, Lotte, 1924-1954
1.14	Levy family: Family book (<i>Stammbuch</i>), 1923
1.15	Levy family, circa 1913-1923

Subseries 1.2. Lustig family, circa 1825-1969

Box/Folder	Title
1.16	Account book, 1903-1907
2.1	Account book, 1934-1938
2.2	Account book, 1938-1939
OS 1	Family trees
2.3	Lieberg family, 1847-1963
2.4-2.5	Lustig, Helene: Restitution, 1951-1966 (2 folders)
2.6	Lustig, Helene, 1877-1961
2.7	Lustig, Julius: Financial documents and taxes, 1900-1946
2.8, OS 2	Lustig, Julius: Religious donations, 1912-1934
2.9	Lustig, Julius, 1886-1950
2.10, OS 8	Lustig, Margot, 1924-1969
2.11	Lustig family: Family book (<i>Stammbuch</i>), 1900
2.12	Lustig family, circa 1825-1967 and undated

Series 2. Correspondence, 1894-1968 and undated

Subseries 2.1. Levy family, 1894-1968 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
3.1	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, 1914 March-September
3.2	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, 1914 October-November

3.3	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, 1914 December
3.4	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, 1915 January-February
3.5	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, 1915 March-April
3.6	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, 1915 May-October
3.7	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, 1915 November-1916 February
3.8	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, 1916 March-December
3.9	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, 1917-1919
11	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, transcribed correspondence book, 1914 August 12-November 21
12	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, transcribed correspondence book, 1914 November 22-1915 March 17
13	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, transcribed correspondence book, 1915 March 21-May 15
BE 3	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, transcribed correspondence book, 1915 June 1-December 11
14	Levy family: Levy, Fritz, transcribed correspondence book, 1915 December 15-1918 June 13
4.1-4.2	Levy family, 1894-1942 and undated (2 folders)
4.3	Levy, Fritz, 1910-1942 and undated
4.4	Levy, Fritz and Käte, 1921-1924
4.5	Levy, Fritz and Käte, 1925
4.6	Levy, Fritz and Käte, 1926-1929
4.7	Levy, Fritz and Käte, 1930-1933
4.8	Levy, Fritz and Käte, 1934-1939
5.1	Levy, Fritz and Käte, undated
5.2	Levy, Fritz and Käte: Levy, Lotte, 1933-1954 and undated
5.3	Levy, Käte, 1916-1968
5.4	Levy, Lotte, 1928-1955 and undated

Subseries 2.2. Lustig family, 1897-circa 1968 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
5.5	Lustig, Alice, 1919-1927
5.6	Lustig, Alice, 1928-1929
5.7	Lustig, Alice, 1930-1949 and undated
5.8	Lustig, Helene, 1908-circa 1968
5.9	Lustig, Julius, 1905-1932
5.10	Lustig, Margot, 1915-1924
6.1	Lustig, Margot, 1925-1928 and undated
6.2	Lustig family, 1897-1922
6.3	Lustig family, 1923-1924
6.4	Lustig family, 1925
6.5	Lustig family, 1926
6.6	Lustig family, 1927
6.7	Lustig family, 1928
6.8	Lustig family, 1929
6.9	Lustig family, 1930
7.1	Lustig family, 1931
7.2	Lustig family, 1932

7.3	Lustig family, 1933
7.4	Lustig family, 1934
7.5	Lustig family, 1935
7.6	Lustig family, 1936
7.7	Lustig family, 1937
7.8	Lustig family, 1938
7.9	Lustig family, 1939-1960
7.10-7.11	Lustig family, undated and fragments (2 folders)
7.12	Oppenheim, Gertrud, 1933-1939 and undated
8.1	Empty envelopes

Series 3. Writings, circa 1900-2004

Subseries 3.1. Levy family, 1914-2004

Box/Folder	Title
BE 4	Levy, Fritz: Diary, 1914
8.2	Levy, Fritz: Diary, circa 1915-circa 1918
BE 5	Levy, Käte: Diary, 1925-1931
8.3	Levy, Käte, circa 1930
15	Levy, Lotte: Diary, 1939-1941
8.4	Levy, Lotte: Personal narratives, 2002-2004
8.5	Levy, Lotte, 1936-1939 and undated

Subseries 3.2. Lustig family, circa 1900-1923

Box/Folder	Title
8.6	<i>Die Reformschule</i> , 1910
8.7, 16	Lustig, Margot: Poetry book for Fritz and Käte Levy, 1923
BE 2	Notebook, 1910
8.8-8.10	Poems, circa 1900-circa 1960 (3 folders)

Series 4. Photographs, circa 1880-circa 1990

Subseries 4.1. Levy family, circa 1880-circa 1990

Box/Folder	Title
8.11	Levy, Fritz: World War I, 1914-1918
8.12	Levy, Fritz, circa 1905-circa 1952
9.1	Levy, Fritz, Käte, Lotte and family, circa 1923-1955
9.2	Levy, Käte, circa 1907-circa 1990
9.3-9.4	Levy, Lotte, 1924-circa 1955 (2 folders)
9.5, 17, negatives stored separately	Levy family, circa 1880-1941
OS 3	Levy family photograph collage
9.6	Miscellaneous, circa 1930-1948
9.7, 18	Photograph album: Brown, large, circa 1933-1939

BE 6	Photograph album: Brown, medium, circa 1910-1925
9.8, BE 7	Photograph album: Brown with pattern, circa 1914-circa 1920
9.9, 19	Photograph album: Flower, circa 1929-circa 1933
BE 8	Photograph album: Purple, circa 1900-circa 1945
9.10, BE 9	Photograph album: Striped, circa 1924-1931

Subseries 4.2. Lustig family, 1881-1966

Box/Folder	Title
9.11	Lieberg family, circa 1910-1933
9.12	Lustig, Alice, circa 1907-circa 1930
9.13, negatives stored separately	Lustig, Alice, Käte, and Margot, circa 1903-circa 1920
9.14, 20-21	Lustig, Helene, circa 1890-1917
22	Lustig, Helene and Julius framed tintype, 1900
9.15	Lustig, Julius, 1881-circa 1950
10.1, 23	Lustig, Margot, 1914-1925
10.2-10.3, OS 4	Lustig family, 1900-1966 (2 folders)
10.4, 24	Photograph album: Blue, circa 1920-1962
BE 10	Photograph album: Brown, small, circa 1920
10.5, BE 11	Photograph album: Circle pattern, circa 1910-circa 1930
25	Photograph album: Green, circa 1920s
26	Photograph album: Maroon album, 1900-circa 1915

Series 5. Printed material, 1912-1966 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
10.6	<i>British Millinery</i> , March 1961 (see page 21)
10.7	Business cards, undated
10.8, OS 5- OS 7	Clippings, 1915-1966 and undated
10.9	Miscellaneous, 1912-circa 1933
10.10	Postcards, undated
27	von Frenhold, K.F. <i>Bilderbücher : Sport u. Spiel</i> , circa 1922
10.11	von Frenhold, K.F. <i>Bilderbücher : Sport u. Spiel</i> , enclosures, 1942-1999
10.12	Yom Kippur program, 1938

Series 6. Artwork, circa 1910-1981 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
10.13	Bookplates and card, circa 1925 and undated
10.14	Floor plan drawings, undated
10.15	Levy, Kurt, 1932-1933, 1980-1981
10.16	Levy, Lotte, 1930
10.17	Papercut, circa 1910
10.18	Print of cathedral (Dom), Cologne, undated

Series 7. Miscellaneous, 1906-1954 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
10.19	Document book and folder (empty)
10.20	Notes, 1946 and undated
10.21	Receipts, 1906-1954