

LANGER FAMILY PAPERS, 1906-2009
2017.616.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
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Descriptive summary

Title: Langer family papers

Dates: 1906-2009

Accession number: 2017.616.1

Creator: Langer family.

Extent: .83 linear feet (2 boxes, 1 book enclosure, 3 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The collection documents the Holocaust experiences of Robert Langer and his parents Igantz and Stefanie Langer, including their emigration from Vienna, Austria to Shanghai, China after the German annexation of Austria in 1938, and post-war immigration to the United States. The collection consists of biographical material, immigration documents, correspondence, and photographs.

Languages: German, English, Hebrew

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), Langer family papers (2017.616.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Barbara L. Landes in 2017. Barbara is the niece of Robert Langer.

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, April 2018

Biographical note

Robert Langer and his parents Ignatz and Stefanie Langer emigrated from Vienna, Austria to Shanghai, China after the German annexation of Austria in 1938. They survived the Holocaust in Shanghai and later immigrated to the United States.

Ignatz Langer (1893-1960) was born on 22 April 1893 in Lwów, Poland (Lviv, Ukraine) to Majlech Langer and Chane Rywe (née Klapp). He had three siblings, Sabine Steinhauser (nicknamed Salci, later Sabine Binder), Jakob Steinhauser (1902-1972), and Amalie (nicknamed Malci, later Amalie Müller).

Stephanie Waldapfel (1896-1954) was born on 27 July 1896 in what is present-day Považská Bystrica, Slovakia to Edmund Waldapfel (1853-1935) and Martha Rosenberg (d. 1898). She had two siblings, Leopold (1894-1986) and Melanie (later Melanie Washkansky, 1898-1999).

Ignatz and Stefanie married in Vienna in 1925. Their son Robert was born on 22 January 1929 in Vienna where Ignatz worked as a waiter and restaurateur.

After the annexation of Austria by Germany in March 1938, the Langer family was evicted from their apartment in December 1938. They moved in with relatives and left Austria on 23 January 1939 for Genoa, Italy. From there they sailed to Shanghai on the *SS Conte Biancamano*. After they arrived in Shanghai, Robert enrolled in a Jewish school and his father found a job as a waiter. After Ignatz's brother arrived in Shanghai, they opened a restaurant called Delikat. Robert quit school in 1942 and worked in a weaving factory. He also took secretarial courses.

After the war, Robert worked for the American Joint Jewish Distribution Committee. In 1948 he received a student visa and scholarship funded by industrialist Lawrence Kadoorie to attend Brooklyn College in the United States. He graduated in 1952 and then attended Columbia University where he earned his Masters' degree in social work in 1954. After a stint in the Army, he married Claire Katz (known as Betty, b. 1929) and pursued a career in social work. Robert and Claire later divorced and he married Elizabeth H. Levy in 1958. Robert's parents left Shanghai by 1949 and immigrated to the United States from Austria in 1951.

All of Ignatz and Stefanie's siblings survived the Holocaust.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the Holocaust experiences of Robert Langer and his parents Ignatz and Stefanie Langer, including their emigration from Vienna, Austria to Shanghai, China after the German annexation of Austria in 1938, and post-war immigration to the United States. The collection consists of biographical material, immigration documents, correspondence, and photographs.

Biographical material includes clippings and articles about the Jewish community in Shanghai, identification papers such as birth and marriage certificates, identification cards, passports, work books (arbeitsbuch), employment and education papers, documents and clippings related to the death of

Charles H. Jordan of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and restitution paperwork. There is also an oral history transcript and drafts of personal narratives related to Robert's experiences.

Immigration material includes documents related to Robert's immigration to the United States from Shanghai in 1948 on a school visa and his parents' immigration to the United States in 1951 from Vienna.

Correspondence primarily consists of post-war letters from Ignatz and Stefanie's siblings and relatives. Robert's correspondence includes letters from Charles H. Jordan and letters regarding the Tikvah club in Shanghai. Photographs include depictions of Robert, Ignatz, Stefanie, and unidentified family and friends.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series.

Series 1. Biographical material, 1906-2009

Series 2. Immigration, 1946-1956

Series 3. Correspondence, 1915-2003

Series 4. Photographs, circa 1920-1997

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Langer, Robert.

Langer, Ignatz.

Langer, Stefanie.

Jordan, Charles, 1908-1967.

Corporate:

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Topical Subject:

Jews--Austria--Vienna.

Jewish refugees--China--Shanghai.

Geography:

Vienna (Austria)

Shanghai (China)

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

Personal narratives.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Biographical material, 1906-2009

Box/Folder	Title
1.1, OS 1-2	Clippings and articles about Shanghai, 1945-2004 (3 folders)
1.2	Genealogy, 1998-2001
1.3	Jordan, Charles H., 1965-2004
	Langer, Ignatz:
1.4	Employment, 1908-1937
1.5	Passport, Austria, 1948 (date issued)
1.6	Work books, 1914-1950
1.7, OS 3	1906-1960 (2 folders)
	Langer, Robert:
BE 1	Autograph book, 1947-1948
1.8	Education, United States, 1948-1953
1.9	Employment, United States, 1950-1951
1.10	Oral history transcript, 1999
1.11	Personal narrative drafts, undated
1.12	Report cards, Shanghai, 1939-1941
1.13	Report cards, Vienna, 1929-1939
1.14	1929-1960
1.15	Langer, Stefanie, 1912-1954
1.16	Restitution, 1964-2004
1.17	Shanghai documents, circa 1939-circa 1945
1.18	Wald, Berta, 2009
1.19	Waldapfel family, 1904, 1986
	Washkansky, Melanie:
1.20	Passport, Austria, 1929 (date issued)
2.1	Work books, 1915-1924
2.2	1934-1999

Series 2. Immigration, 1946-1956

Box/Folder	Title
2.3	Affidavits from Karoline Wald, 1947-1950
2.4	Langer, Ignatz and Stefanie: Correspondence, 1948-1951
2.5	Langer, Ignatz and Stefanie: Documents, 1946-1956
2.6	Langer, Robert, 1946-1955

Series 3. Correspondence, 1915-2003

Box/Folder	Title
2.7	Langer, Ignatz, 1939-1958
	Langer, Ignatz and Stefanie:
2.8	Bernstein, Loli, 1951-1960
2.9	Binder, Sabine, 1952-1960
2.10	Lange, Klara, 1948-1960
2.11-2.12	Langer, Robert, 1942-1960 and undated (2 folders)
2.13	Müller, Amalie, 1936-1955 and undated
2.14	Steinhauser, Jakob, 1952-1960

2.15	Washkansky, Melanie, 1951-1960
2.16	1951-1953
	Langer, Robert:
2.17	Jordan, Charles H./American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 1949-1952
2.18	Langer, Ignatz and Stefanie, 1951 and undated
2.19	Schlochauer, Horst, 1949-1950
2.20	Tikvah Club, 1949-1965
2.21	1942-2003
2.22	Langer, Stefanie, 1915-1953
2.23	Waldapfel, Leopold, 1952-1953

Series 4. Photographs, circa 1920-1997

Box/Folder	Title
2.24	Family and friends, circa 1920-circa 1990
2.25	Langer, Ignatz, circa 1925-circa 1948
2.26	Langer, Robert, circa 1933-1997
2.27	Langer, Stefanie, circa 1938-circa 1948
2.28	Washkansky, Melanie, circa 1930