

**ERNEST BRAUN PAPERS, 1929-circa 2005
2017.649.1**

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

Title: Ernest Braun papers

Dates: 1929-circa 2005 (bulk 1940-circa 1954)

Accession number: 2017.649.1

Creator: Braun, Ernest, 1914-1996

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box, 2 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 Ernest (Eliezer) Braun of Vienna, Austria, including his escape from Austria in 1938 to Yugoslavia and Italy, his immigration to the United States in 1944, and his time living at the Fort Ontario refugee camp in Oswego, New York. Included is a small amount of biographical material; a false identification card from Italy; correspondence from his parents Josef and Gisela Braun and his sister Nelly Braun, all of whom perished during the Holocaust; writings; and photographs.

Languages: Italian, English, Hebrew, Yiddish, German, Hungarian

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), Ernest Braun papers (2017.649.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Sophia Lewinter Braun in 2017. Sophia is the widow of Ernest Braun.

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, July 2018

Biographical note

Ernest (Eliezer) Braun (born Ernő Braun, 1914-1996) was born in 1914 in Czechoslovakia to Josef (1884-1943) and Gisela (née Perels, 1889-1943) Braun. He had three sisters, Nelly (later Nelly Mozes Braun), Hilde (later Hilde Schwarz), and Hinda. Ernest and his family moved to Vienna, Austria when he was three. After the German annexation of Austria in 1938, Ernest was arrested. After he was released, he fled to Zagreb, Yugoslavia (Zagreb, Croatia) where his sister Nelly and her husband lived. By 1941 he had gone to Spalato, Italy, and then Rome. Using a false identity, Enrico di Carlo Bianchi, he posed as a rabbi and found employment translating Hebrew texts from the Biblioteca Lancisiana, a medical library near the Vatican. In 1944 he immigrated to the United States and lived at Fort Ontario, a refugee camp in Oswego, New York. He married Hertha Dershovitz in 1947 and they moved to Portland, Maine in 1949 with their two children Judy and Jeffrey. Ernest worked in the field of pharmaceutical product development and was granted five patents for his discoveries. They immigrated to Israel in 1970. His parents were deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp in 1942. They were deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1943 where they perished. His sister Nelly also perished during the Holocaust.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the Holocaust experiences of Ernest (Eliezer) Braun of Vienna, Austria, including his escape from Austria in 1938 to Yugoslavia and Italy, his immigration to the United States in 1944, and his time living at the Fort Ontario refugee camp in Oswego, New York. Included is a small amount of biographical material; a false identification card from Italy; correspondence from his parents Josef and Gisela Braun and his sister Nelly Braun, all of whom perished during the Holocaust; writings; and photographs.

Biographical materials include birth certificates, address books, and Italian identification documents. One document is false identification card identifying Ernest as Enrico de Carlo Bianchi.

Correspondence includes letters to Ernest from his parents from Vienna and letters from his sister Nelly in Zagreb. Other correspondence includes letters from Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, whom Ernest began corresponding with while living at Fort Ontario regarding distant relatives in Vienna.

Writings include essays and lectures authored by Ernest, notes and translations of documents from his work in Italy, and a series of weekly writings based on the Torah he produced as the "Tree of Life" for his synagogue in Portland where he served as rabbi from 1954-1955. Other writings not by Ernest include newspapers clippings, a copy of the 26 July 1945 edition of the *Ontario Chronicle* newsletter published at Fort Ontario, and two post-war Italian language publications.

Photographs consist of pre-war family photographs, depictions of Ernest and friends in Italy during World War II, and post-war family photographs taken in Israel.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series.

Series 1. Biographical material, 1929-circa 2005

Series 2. Correspondence, 1940-1980 and undated

Series 3. Writings, 1937-1985 and undated

Series 4. Photographs, circa 1920s-circa 1990 and undated

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Braun, Ernest, 1914-1996.

Frankfurter, Felix, 1882-1965.

Corporate:

Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter.

Topical Subject:

Jews--Austria--Vienna.

Refugees, Jewish--Italy.

Refugees, Jewish--United States.

Geography:

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Biographical material, 1929-circa 2005

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Address books, circa 1944-circa 1946
1.2	Birth certificate and other papers, 1929-circa 1950s
1.3	Italy, 1941-circa 2005

Series 2. Correspondence, 1940-1980 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
1.4	Braun, Josef and Gisela, 1940
1.5	Braun, Josef and Gisela, 1941
1.6	Braun, Josef and Gisela, 1942 and undated
1.7	Braun, Nelly, 1940-1941 and undated
1.8	Frankfurter, Felix, 1945-1957
1.9	1941-1944
1.10	1945-1980

Series 3. Writings, 1937-1985 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
OS 1	Clippings: Italy, 1943
1.11	Clippings: United States, 1945-1949
1.12	"God did not want to sign," undated
1.13	<i>Incanto di Asolo</i> , 1968
1.14	Notebooks, 1937-1945
1.15	<i>Ontario Chronicle</i> , 1945
1.16	Palma, Angelo: <i>Breve Guida Storica al S. Pirito in Saxia</i> , 1985
1.17	"A short cut to happiness" lecture, 1949
1.18	Temple Beth El newsletters, 1950-1951
1.19	"The Tree of Life," circa 1954
1.20	Writings and notes, 1943-1948

Series 4. Photographs, circa 1920s-circa 1990 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
1.21	Family and friends, circa 1920s-1938
1.22	Family and friends, 1967-circa 1990
OS 2	Frankfurter, Felix, undatd
1.23	Italy, 1941-1945