

## **RUTH MUELLER PAPERS, 1899-1986 and undated 2017.651.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2126  
Tel. (202) 479-9717  
e-mail: [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org)

### **Descriptive summary**

Title: Ruth Mueller papers

Dates: 1899-1986 and undated

Accession number: 2017.651.1

Creator: Mueller, Ruth, 1917-2015

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (5 folders, 1 oversize box, and 2 book enclosures)

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

Abstract: The Ruth Mueller papers include biographical material, a diary, correspondence, and photographs relating to the pre-war, wartime, and post-war experiences of Ruth Mueller and her family, originally of Frankfurt, Germany. Biographical material includes a birth certificate, marriage certificate, death certificate, and driver's license for Paul, Ruth's father, as well as a copy of a death certificate for Maria, Ruth's mother. The diary is written in German and was started by Ruth in 1930. In the diary Ruth writes about escaping Germany, her voyage to the United States, and adjusting to life in America. The entries stop in 1943 then resume from 1960 to 1986. The collection also includes a family history book as well as photographs, a photo album, and a scrapbook documenting the Mueller family including pre-war and wartime photographs of family, friends, day trips, and a visit to the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

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.

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), Ruth Mueller papers (2017.651.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC.

Acquisition information: Robert T. Slatoff donated the Ruth Mueller papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2017.

Related material: The library holds *One Minute Before Midnight: A Memoir*, by Ruth Mueller as told to Mark Bego.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at [collections.ushmm.org](https://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

Processing history: Morgan Voth, January 2019.

### **Biographical note**

Ruth Mueller (1917-2015) was born in Mannheim, Germany to a non-Jewish father, Paul Mueller (1890-1937) and a Jewish mother, Marie Mueller (1895-1975). They lived in Frankfurt, Germany where Paul worked as an engineer for Mercedes-Benz. Paul died in 1937 from natural causes. Marie's brother, Robert Halfen, immigrated to the United States in 1912, and he sponsored Ruth, Marie, and Ruth's Uncle Adolf's immigration to the United States. Their visas were not valid until March 1940 so they fled Germany in 1939 through France. Marie and Adolf left together and Ruth left with a friend, John. Once Ruth and John reached France, they went their separate ways. Ruth went from Strasburg, France, to Luxemburg, and then to Brussels, Belgium where she met her Aunt Erna and Uncle Jub. Her aunt and uncle stayed in Brussels and Ruth continued to England where she was reunited with her mother and uncle. They lived in Manchester and Ruth and Marie worked in various households. After a few months in England, they sailed to the United States in March 1940 and settled in New York. Ruth went on to become a successful business owner and graduated from Fordham University in Manhattan in 1979.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The Ruth Mueller papers include biographical material, a diary, correspondence, and photographs relating to the pre-war, wartime, and post-war experiences of Ruth Mueller and her family, originally of Frankfurt, Germany. Biographical material includes a birth certificate, marriage certificate, death certificate, and driver's license for Paul, Ruth's father, as well as a copy of a death certificate for Maria, Ruth's mother. The diary is written in German and was started by Ruth in 1930. In the diary Ruth writes about escaping Germany, her voyage to the United States, and adjusting to life in America. The entries stop in 1943 then resume from 1960 to 1986. The collection also includes a family history book as well as photographs, a photo album, and a scrapbook documenting the Mueller family including pre-war and wartime photographs of family, friends, day trips, and a visit to the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

### **System of arrangement**

The Ruth Mueller papers are arranged as a single series.

### **Indexing terms**

Mueller, Ruth, 1917-2015.

Olympic Games (11th : 1936 : Berlin, Germany)  
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives.

Mannheim (Germany)  
United States--Emigration and immigration--History.

Diaries.  
Photographs.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Series 1: Ruth Mueller papers, 1899-1986 and undated

Box/Folder	Title
Folder 1 of 5	Biographical material, 1899-1975
Folder 2 of 5	Correspondence, 1947-1955
Folder 3 of 5 & BE 1	Diary, 1930-1986
Folder 4 of 5	Family history book, undated
Folder 5 of 5	Photographs, 1915-1940s
Box 1	Album, 1928-1937
BE 2	Scrapbook, 1931-1937