

LÖWENSTEIN AND STERN FAMILIES PAPERS, circa 1900-1981
2017.661.1

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

Descriptive summary

Title: Löwenstein and Stern families papers

Dates: circa 1900-1981

Accession number: 2017.661.1

Creator: Löwenstein (Family: Ortenberg, Germany)

Additional creator: Stern (Family: Redwitz an der Rodach, Germany)

Extent: .5 linear feet (7 folders, 1 oversize folder, 1 oversize box)

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

Abstract: Documents and photographs regarding the experiences of Alfred Löwenstein and Lola Stern, both of whom separately fled Germany for Shanghai aboard the *MN Victoria* in 1939, survived the Holocaust in Shanghai, and later married in the United States. Also contains biographical information on their families, including the deaths of Alfred's parents at Theresienstadt.

Languages: German, English, Chinese

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), Löwenstein and Stern families papers (2017.661.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Gary Loy in 2017.

Related materials: A red leather document portfolio used by Lola Stern and a black leather document portfolio used by Julius Löwenstein were also donated.

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, August 2018

Biographical note

Alfred Löwenstein (b. 1910) was born in Ortenberg, Germany to Siegmund (1876-1942) and Sophie (1885-1942) Löwenstein. He had one brother, Julius (b. 1913). Alfred and a friend fled Germany for Shanghai aboard the *MN Victoria* in 1939. He survived the war in Shanghai and immigrated to the United States in 1947 aboard the *SS General Cordon*. He married Lola Stern (whom he had known in Shanghai) in 1948 and they had one son, Gary. His brother, Julius, survived the Holocaust in a work camp and later immigrated to the United States. His parents were deported to Theresienstadt in 1942. Siegmund perished there in 1943. Sophie was deported to Auschwitz in 1943 where she also perished.

Lola Stern (born Irma Karola Stern in 1923) was born in Redwitz an der Rodach in Bavaria to Hugo (d. 1965) and Käthe (née Gutmann, b. 1900) Stern. She had one sister, Lisa (b. 1932). Hugo was a World War I veteran and worked as a merchant and insurance agent. Lola primarily grew up in Nordhausen. When she was fourteen, she was expelled from school for being Jewish. During Kristallnacht, Hugo was arrested in Erfurt and Käthe and Lisa were arrested in Nordhausen. After they were released, they applied for passports to emigrate from Germany. They were then fortunate to purchase tickets for the *MN Victoria* and sailed from Genoa, Italy to Shanghai in April 1939. In Shanghai, Hugo sold used clothing and Lola worked as a waitress. They were confined to the Hongkew section of Shanghai after Japan entered the war in 1941. The family immigrated to the United States in 1947 and settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Scope and content of collection

Documents and photographs regarding the experiences of Alfred Löwenstein and Lola Stern, both of whom separately fled Germany for Shanghai aboard the *MN Victoria* in 1939, survived the Holocaust in Shanghai, and later married in the United States. Also contains biographical information on their families, including the deaths of Alfred's parents at Theresienstadt.

Biographical materials of Alfred and Lola include German passports, employment references, identification cards, and documents related to immigration to the United States. There are documents related to Alfred's parents, Siegmund and Sophie Löwenstein, including birth certificate and copies of archival documents from "Beit Theresienstadt" regarding their deaths at Theresienstadt, and documents of his brother Julius who survived in a work camp. There are also a small amount of documents of Lola's parents, Hugo and Käthe Stern, who also survived in Shanghai. Additionally, there is an annotated poster of the *MN Victoria*.

Photographs include prewar family photographs and depictions of Alfred's and the Sterns' travels on the *MN Victoria* in 1939. The photograph album primarily depicts the Sterns' trip aboard the *MN Victoria* in

1939, but also includes postwar photographs of the Sterns' immigration to the United States in 1947 and their lives in Philadelphia.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as two series.

Series 1. Biographical material, 1910-1981

Series 2. Photographs, circa 1900-circa 1980

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Topical Subject:

Refugees, Jewish--China--Shanghai.

Geography:

Shanghai (China)--Jewish refugees.

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

Photograph albums.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Biographical material, 1910-1981

Box/Folder	Title
Folder 1 of 7	Löwenstein, Alfred, 1939-1953
Folder 2 of 7	Löwenstein family, 1910-1981
OS 1	<i>MN Victoria</i> poster, 1938
Folder 3 of 7	Stern, Lola, 1937-1947
Folder 4 of 7	Stern family, 1939-1980

Series 2. Photographs, circa 1900-circa 1980

Box/Folder	Title
Folder 5 of 7	Löwenstein, Alfred and Lola, 1948
Folder 6 of 7	Löwenstein family, circa 1900-circa 1945
Folder 7 of 7	Stern family, circa 1926-circa 1980
Box 2 Item 1	Photograph album, 1939-1951