

**LARISCH FAMILY PAPERS, circa 1900-1973**  
**2018.29.1**

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: Larisch family papers

Dates: circa 1900-1973

Accession number: 2018.29.1

Creator: Larisch (Family : Vienna, Austria)

Extent: 0.2 linear foot (9 folders, 2 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The Larisch family papers include biographical materials, correspondence, and photographs documenting the Larisch family from Vienna, Austria, their time in England and India during the Holocaust, and their immigration to the United States after World War II. Biographical materials document Kurt Larisch, his wife Ramah, his parents Moritz and Dora, and his daughter Linda. They include identification papers, birth and marriage certificates, and immigration records. Correspondence includes a 1920 letter from Kurt to his grandmother; a 1941 letter from Ernst Polaček in Derventa, Bosnia to Moritz and Dora in London; a 1944 letter to Kurt about his graphic design work; a Red Cross form letter from Moritz tracing Ernst Polaček; and a 1947 Jewish Relief Association letter detailing the deportations of Clara Taussig Larisch, Edith Larisch, Arthur and Irma Reiner, and Dora Larisch Polatschek (Polaček). Photographs primarily depict Moritz, Dora, Walter, and Kurt Larisch before the Holocaust, including several by the Moritz Larisch studio in Vienna. Additional photographs depict Kurt, Ramah, and Linda Larisch in India during World War II, relatives and friends, and Moritz Larisch's memorial plaque.

Languages: English, German, Spanish, Croatian

**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), Larisch family papers (2018.29.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Linda Larisch donated the Larisch family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2018.

Related materials: An oral history interview conducted with Kurt Larisch on December 11, 1997 that forms part of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Visual History Archive can be viewed onsite at the Museum.

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: Julie Schweitzer, September 2019

### **Biographical note**

Kurt Larisch (1913-2009) was born in Vienna, Austria to Moritz (1877-1963) and Dora (née Neufeld) Larisch (1884-1970). Moritz Larisch was a photographer and owned a studio. Kurt's brother Walter (1910-1999) was also a photographer and took over their father's shop. Kurt was a graphic artist and was one of the first European artists to work in animated film. He fled Austria in 1938 via Germany and Switzerland to England. His father's shop was ransacked during Kristallnacht, his father was beaten, and his brother was detained. Kurt worked for the German-Jewish Relief Association before moving to Calcutta (Kolkata), India in 1939 to become the art director at an advertising agency and later for the firm recruiting for the British Armed Forces in India. In December 1939, he met Ramah Regina Ferris (1917-2009), who had been born in Calcutta after her family relocated from Baghdad and who held British citizenship. The couple planned to marry in June 1940 but married in May instead because they were threatened with internment and thought her British citizenship could protect him. They were interned as enemy aliens in the old fort and later at a family camp in the mountains near Darjeeling before their release. Their daughter Linda was born in 1943.

Moritz and Dora Larisch left Austria for England in 1939 and joined Kurt in Calcutta around 1946. Ramah and Linda immigrated to the United States on the British quota in 1947, Kurt joined them a month later, and Moritz and Dora followed in 1949. The Larisch family lived in New York for 23 years, moved to Mexico in 1970, and returned to the United States in 1988, settling in Sarasota. Kurt's cousins Alfred (b. 1912) and Egon Larisch (b. 1913) both immigrated to Sydney, Australia. His cousin Rudolf Larisch immigrated to Tel Aviv, Israel. His relatives Clara Taussig Larisch and Edith Larisch were deported to Minsk in 1942; Arthur and Irma Reiner were also deported to Minsk in 1942; and Dora Larisch Polatschek (Polaček) was deported to Theresienstadt in 1942.

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

The Larisch family papers include biographical materials, correspondence, and photographs documenting the Larisch family from Vienna, Austria, their time in England and India during the Holocaust, and their immigration to the United States after World War II. Biographical materials

document Kurt Larisch, his wife Ramah, his parents Moritz and Dora, and his daughter Linda. They include identification papers, birth and marriage certificates, and immigration records. Correspondence includes a 1920 letter from Kurt to his grandmother; a 1941 letter from Ernst Polaček in Derventa, Bosnia to Moritz and Dora in London; a 1944 letter to Kurt about his graphic design work; a Red Cross form letter from Moritz tracing Ernst Polaček; and a 1947 Jewish Relief Association letter detailing the deportations of Clara Taussig Larisch, Edith Larisch, Arthur and Irma Reiner, and Dora Larisch Polatschek (Polaček). Photographs primarily depict Moritz, Dora, Walter, and Kurt Larisch before the Holocaust, including several by the Moritz Larisch studio in Vienna. Additional photographs depict Kurt, Ramah, and Linda Larisch in India during World War II, relatives and friends, and Moritz Larisch's memorial plaque.

### **System of arrangement**

The Larisch family papers are arranged as a single series.

### **Indexing terms**

#### **Personal names**

Larisch, Dora, 1884-1970  
Larisch, Kurt, 1913-2009  
Larisch, Moritz, 1877-1963  
Larisch, Ramah, 1917-2009  
Larisch, Walter, 1910-1999

#### **Topical terms**

Jews--Austria--Vienna.  
Jewish refugees--England--London.  
Jewish refugees--India--Kolkata.

#### **Geographic terms**

Vienna (Austria)  
London (England)  
Kolkata (India)  
United States--Emigration and immigration.

#### **Genre terms**

Correspondence.  
Photographs.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Series 1: Larisch family papers, circa 1900-1973**

<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
1-3 of 9, OS 1	Biographical material, Kurt Larisch, 1930, 1936-1940, 1947-1953, 1966, 1973 (3 folders)
4 of 9, OS 2	Biographical material, Linda Larisch, 1962 (negative stored separately)

5 of 9	Biographical material, Moritz and Dora Larisch, 1909, 1940
6 of 9	Biographical material, Ramah Larisch, 1940-1953
7 of 9	Correspondence, 1920, 1941-1947
8-9 of 9	Photographs, circa 1900-1963 (2 folders)

Descriptions of photographs:

1. Moritz Larisch memorial plaque, circa 1963
2. Lake with sailboats, 1934
3. Egon and Fredel Larisch in Vienna
4. Moritz Larisch (?) in horse-drawn cart
5. Mellie Larisch, wife of Egon or Fredel Larisch
6. Vienna street scene from second floor window (2 copies)
7. Vienna street scene from second floor window (2 copies)
8. Airport
9. Villa through an archway
10. Two children at a fountain
11. Kurt Larisch seated on right with his back to the camera
12. Moritz Larisch portrait
13. Moritz Larisch seated and painting
14. Walter, Ramah, and Kurt Larisch in India
15. Ramah, Linda, and Kurt Larisch in Calcutta
16. Kurt, Dora, Moritz, and Walter Larisch
17. Kurt Larisch studying
18. Kurt Larisch as a baby, photograph taken at Moritz Larisch Studio in Vienna
19. Kurt Larisch (second from left) and Walter Larisch (far right) with two cousins
20. Walter Larisch as a child, photograph taken at Moritz Larisch Studio in Vienna
21. Moritz Larisch holding walking stick
22. Walter and Kurt Larisch as young children, photograph taken at Moritz Larisch Studio in Vienna
23. Kurt Larisch as young child, photograph taken at Moritz Larisch Studio in Vienna
24. Kurt Larisch as schoolboy, photograph taken at Moritz Larisch Studio in Vienna
25. Dora Neufeld Larisch with her brother as children
26. Dora Neufeld Larisch, photograph taken at Moritz Larisch Studio in Vienna
27. Dora Neufeld Larisch
28. Dora Neufeld Larisch, photograph taken at Moritz Larisch Studio in Vienna
29. Dora Neufeld Larisch, photograph taken at Moritz Larisch Studio in Vienna
30. Kurt, Dora, and Walter Larisch