

SWITZER FAMILY PAPERS, 1914-2010

2018.392.1

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

Title: Switzer family papers

Dates: 1914-2010 (bulk 1914-1955)

Accession number: 2018.392.1

Creator: Switzer (Family : Zagreb, Croatia)

Extent: .5 linear feet (7 folders)

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

Abstract: The collection documents the pre-war, wartime, and postwar experiences of the Switzer family, originally of Zagreb, Yugoslavia (Croatia) including their flight from Zagreb to Italy in 1941, their trek from Aprica, Italy to the Swiss border in 1943, and their immigration to the United States in 1949. Included are report cards of Arthur Switzer; identification papers including birth, citizenship, and marriage certificates; immigration and naturalization papers; and travel permits used to leave Zagreb for Italy in 1941. Also included is a photograph of Arthur, Frieda, and their son Steven Switzer in Aprica in 1943, a contemporary list compiled of the names of Jews who left Aprica in 1943 to seek asylum in Switzerland, and a small amount of documents related to Frieda's brother John and his wife Margarete Roman.

Languages: Croatian, German, English, Italian, Russian

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), Switzer family papers (2018.392.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Steven Switzer in 2018.

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, September 2018

Biographical note

Arthur Switzer (born Arthur Schwitzer, 1904-1990) was born on 18 July 1904 in Bijeljina, Bosnia-Herzegovina to Wilhelm and Berta (née Lang) Schwitzer. He had one brother, Emil. He married Frieda Roman (later Frieda Switzer, 1904-2006) in 1930. Frieda was born on 6 December 1904 in Vienna, Austria to Akos and Regina (née Bauer) Roman. She had one brother, John (b, 1902). Arthur and Frieda's son Steven was born in 1934 in Zagreb, Yugoslavia (Zagreb, Croatia) where Arthur co-owned a business with Emil that imported fabrics from England.

Arthur and his family remained in Zagreb until May 1941 when they went to Susak, Italy. They remained there until April 1942 when the Italian government sent them to Aprica, Italy. In September 1943, as the German army was retreating, the Switzer family, along with 120 other Jews, left Aprica in the middle of the night and walked to the Swiss border where they were granted asylum.

In December 1944, Arthur and Frieda believed Steven would be safer with another family and placed him with the Mueller family in St. Gallen. Mr. Mueller was originally from Bosnia and had two sons. Steven remained with the family until June 1945 when Mr. Mueller died and was placed with another family in Flawil until September 1945. After Steven was reunited with his parents, they moved to Milan, Italy. In 1949, they immigrated to the United States and settled in New York.

Biography by Adam Fielding and Fred Wasserman

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the pre-war, wartime, and postwar experiences of the Switzer family, originally of Zagreb, Yugoslavia (Croatia) including their flight from Zagreb to Italy in 1941, their trek from Aprica, Italy to the Swiss border in 1943, and their immigration to the United States in 1949. Included are report cards of Arthur Switzer; identification papers including birth, citizenship, and marriage certificates; immigration and naturalization papers; and travel permits used to leave Zagreb for Italy in 1941. Also included is a photograph of Arthur, Frieda, and their son Steven Switzer in Aprica in 1943, a contemporary list compiled of the names of Jews who left Aprica in 1943 to seek asylum in Switzerland, and a small amount of documents related to Frieda's brother John and his wife Margarete Roman.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as a single series.

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Switzer, Arthur, 1904-1990.

Switzer, Frieda, 1904-2006.

Switzer, Steve, 1934-

Topical Subject:

Jews--Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Refugees, Jewish--Italy.

Refugees, Jewish--Switzerland.

Geography:

Bijeljina (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Zagreb (Croatia)

Vienna (Austria)

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Genre/Form:

Photograph.

CONTAINER LIST

Folder	Title
1 of 7	List of Jews from Aprica who fled to Switzerland in 1943, 2010
2 of 7	Photograph: Switzer, Arthur, Frieda, and Steven, Aprica, 1943
3 of 7	Roman, Margarete and John, 1929-1944
4 of 7	Switzer, Arthur: Biographical papers, 1918-1980
5 of 7	Switzer, Arthur: Report cards, 1914-1921
6 of 7	Switzer, Frieda, 1918-1969
7 of 7	Switzer, Steven, 1949