

**ADLER AND COHN FAMILIES PAPERS, circa 1910-2018**  
**2018.393.1**

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

Title: Adler and Cohn families papers

Dates: circa 1910-2018

Accession number: 2018.393.1

Creator: Adler (Family: Bad Mergentheim, Germany)

Additional creator: Cohn (Family: Münster, Germany)

Extent: 3.93 linear feet (1 box, 2 oversize boxes, 2 book enclosures, 2 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: Documents, correspondence, photographs, and scrapbooks related to the pre-war, wartime, and post-war experiences of Ernst and Frieda Cohn, who left Münster, Germany for Amsterdam in 1938, and were hidden in the Netherlands from 1942-1945. Includes correspondence regarding Ernst and Frieda's efforts to have Jan Spreij honored as a "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem.

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), Adler and Cohn families papers (2018.393.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

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

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: Adam Fielding, September 2018

### **Biographical note**

Ernst Cohn (later Ernest Cornell, 1907-1986) was born on 24 December 1907 in Münster, Germany to Carl (d. 1959) and Johanna Cohn. He had several brothers. Prior to World War II, Ernst worked with his father in the grain business.

Frieda Adler (later Frieda Cohn and then Frida Cornell, 1908-2002) was born on 28 January 1908 in Bad Mergentheim, Germany to Aron (1873-1942) and Louise (b. 1882). She had one sister, Erna (d. 1977). Aron worked in politics prior to the Holocaust.

Ernst and Frieda married in 1935 and lived in Münster. In 1938, Frieda and Ernst went to Amsterdam where Ernst worked in the novelty business. In 1940, Ernst met Jan Spreij (1909-1999), who was in the Dutch underground, and told Ernst that when antisemitism gets worse for the Jews, he and Frieda should go to Ede. In 1942, they contacted Jan and he arranged for them to be hidden in three different homes over the next 3.5 years.

For 28 months, they stayed with the Verduya family in Otterloscheweg, Ede. After the Verduya's took in additional people that appeared untrustworthy, they stayed with Jan's parents, Antje and Adrianus Sprey, until their house was bombed. They then hid with the Schekker family until liberation.

After the war, Frieda and Ernst's son Alan (later Alan Cornell) was born in 1946 in Amsterdam. They immigrated to the United States aboard the *SS Rotterdam* in May 1947 and settled in Forest Hills, New York. In 1963 Ernst co-founded Loew-Cornell, a company that manufactured artists' supplies. Alan would later work with his father.

Frieda's parents Aron and Louise Adler immigrated to the United States in 1938 along with her sister Erna and her husband Julius Hertz. Ernst's relatives also hid in the Netherlands and survived the Holocaust.

Jan Spreij was honored as "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem in 1987.

Biography by Adam Fielding and Fred Wasserman, September 2018

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

Documents, correspondence, photographs, and scrapbooks related to the pre-war, wartime, and post-war experiences of Ernst and Frieda Cohn, who left Münster, Germany for Amsterdam in 1938, and were hidden in the Netherlands from 1942-1945. Includes correspondence regarding Ernst and Frieda's efforts to have Jan Spreij honored as a "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem.

The biographical material consists of German passports and immigration documents of Aron and Louise Adler, identification papers of Ernst and Frieda Cohn, a baby announcement and poem regarding Alan

Cohn's birth, handwritten cookbooks belonging to Frieda and Lina Kaufmann, poems and booklet for Ernst and Frieda's wedding, memorial book for Ida Kaufmann, birth certificate for Simon Kaufmann, brochure and commemorative materials related to Bad Mergentheim including a letter by Alan regarding the Stolpersteine petition, and correspondence regarding Ernst and Frieda's efforts to have Jan Spreij honored as a "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem.

The photograph albums and scrapbooks include a pre-war photograph album of Frieda's, a scrapbook with wartime documents of Ernst and Frieda's from the Netherlands, and a postcard scrapbook with pre-war postcards displayed for their artwork.

### **System of arrangement**

The collection is arranged as two series.

Series 1. Biographical material, 1914-2018

Series 2. Photograph albums and scrapbooks, circa 1910-1986

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

### **Indexing terms**

Person:

Cohn, Ernst.

Cohn, Frieda.

Adler, Aron.

Adler, Louise.

Corporate:

Righteous Gentiles in the Holocaust.

Yad VaShem Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Topical Subject:

Memorial rites & ceremonies.

Hidden family.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Netherlands.

Geography:

Bad Mergentheim (Germany)

Münster (Germany)

Amsterdam (Netherlands)

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Genre/Form:

Photograph.

Photo albums.

Letters.

Postcards.

Scrapbooks.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

**Series 1. Biographical material, 1914-2018**

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Adler, Aron and Louise, 1938-1944
1.2	Bad Mergentheim, circa 1930, 1983-2018
1.3	Cohn, Alan, 1946
1.4	Cohn, Ernst, 1946-1986
1.5	Cohn, Frieda, 1938-1941
1.6, BE 1	Cohn, Frieda: Cookbook, circa 1930
1.7	Cohn, Frieda and Ernst: Marriage, 1935
OS 1	Hertz, Erna, 1977
1.8	Kaufmann, Ida and Simon, 1889-1963
1.9	Kaufmann, Lina: Cookbook, 1914
1.10	Poem, undated
1.11	Spreij, Jan, 1985-1987

**Series 2. Photograph albums and scrapbooks, circa 1910-1986**

Box/Folder	Title
OS 2	Photograph of Aron Alder, circa 1930
2	Photograph album, 1926-1934
1.12	Photograph album, loose photographs, circa 1926-1986
3	Postcard scrapbook, circa 1910-circa 1930
1.13	Postcard scrapbook, loose item, 1937
BE 2	Scrapbook, 1941-1945
1.14	Scrapbook, loose material circa 1941-1945