

BRETH FAMILY PAPERS, 1915-2017
2018.481.1

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

Title: Breth family papers

Dates: 1915-2017

Accession number: 2018.481.1

Creator: Breth (Family : Dvůr Králové, Czechoslovakia)

Extent: 1.0 linear foot (1 box, 1 oversize box, 1 oversize folder)

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

Abstract: The Breth family papers include biographical materials, correspondence, and a photograph album. The biographical materials document Czech Holocaust survivor Fred Breth and his wife and son, Adele and Steven, who fled Czechoslovakia for Sweden and America. Correspondence consists of letters between Fred and Adele and Fred's parents, Ernst and Hermine Breth, and his sister and brother, Gertrude and Hans, who were still in Czechoslovakia. The photograph album contains photographs by Adele documenting her and Fred's prewar travels.

Languages: German, English, Czech, French, Swedish

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), Breth family papers (2018.481.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Erica Noel Breth donated the Breth family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2018. Erica is Steven's daughter and Fred and Adele's granddaughter.

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, September 2019

Biographical note

Fred Breth (1905-1986) was born Bedřich Breth in Königinhof, Austria-Hungary (now Dvůr Králové, Czech Republic) to Arnošt (Ernst, 1861-1942) and Hermine Loewy Breth (1867-1942). Fred's sister Gertrude Breth Soudková (1893-1943) had a daughter, Dorothea Soudková (1929-1944) in Reichenberg, Czechoslovakia. Fred's brothers Franz (Frank, 1897-1986) and Hans (1903-1942) were also born in Dvůr Králové nad Labem. Fred's wife, Adele Langova (Adela, 1908-1988), was born in Třešť, Czech Republic to a Catholic family.

Fred and Adele decided to leave Czechoslovakia following the German annexation of Austria. Fred obtained his American visa on June 17, 1938, and he and Adele fled to Borås, Sweden on July 3. Fred immigrated to New York via the United Kingdom aboard the *SS Ile de France*, arriving on July 26. Adele gave birth to her son Steven in Borås on August 26, and they joined Fred in New York in November 1938 aboard the *SS Drottningholm*. Fred's brother Franz and his wife Lena (1904-1979) left Czechoslovakia for Zagreb on August 25, 1938, then sailed from Amsterdam to Ecuador in November. The rest of their family perished in the Holocaust. Hans Breth was deported to Theresienstadt on November 30, 1941, transferred to Riga on January 9, 1942 and perished. Ernst and Hermine Breth were deported from Prague to Theresienstadt on July 23, 1942 on transport AAt. Hermine died in Theresienstadt on August 18, 1942. Ernst was transferred to Treblinka on October 19, 1942 and was killed. Gertrude and Dorothea were deported to Theresienstadt on December 17, 1942, and Gertrude died there of tuberculosis on January 17, 1943. Dorothea was transferred to Auschwitz on October 9, 1944 and perished.

Scope and content of collection

The Breth family papers include biographical materials, correspondence, and a photograph album. The biographical materials document Czech Holocaust survivor Fred Breth and his wife and son, Adele and Steven, who fled Czechoslovakia for Sweden and America. Correspondence consists of letters between Fred and Adele and Fred's parents, Ernst and Hermine Breth, and his sister and brother, Gertrude and Hans, who were still in Czechoslovakia. The photograph album contains photographs by Adele documenting her and Fred's prewar travels.

Biographical materials include birth certificates, education and employment records, citizenship and identification papers, and immigration records documenting Fred and Adele Breth. This series also includes Steven Breth's Swedish baptismal certificate.

Correspondence consists of letters exchanged between Fred Breth in America and his family, primarily his parents but also his siblings, in Czechoslovakia. The collection includes the original letters from Europe and carbon copies of Fred's replies from America. The letters usually focus on news of relatives and friends, daily life, health, work, the young children, and efforts to emigrate, but some also describe threats of war, the German annexation of the Sudetenland, Jewish refugees, Aryanization, and anti-

Semitism. The correspondence ends with the news of Hans' deportation. This series also includes English translations of the letters along with an introduction, biographical history, chronology, and name index. The donor's family assigned numbers to each letter in approximate chronological order, and the letters retain that numerical arrangement. The assigned numbers can help match original letters to their translations.

The prewar travel photograph album contains black and white photographs Adele primarily of mountain and lake scenes.

System of arrangement

The Breth family papers are arranged as three series:

Series 1: Biographical material, 1915-1986

Series 2: Correspondence, 1938-1941, 2017

Series 2: Photograph album, 1934-1936

Indexing terms

Personal names

Breth, Fred, 1905-1986.

Breth, Adele Langova, 1908-1988.

Breth, Ernst, 1861-1942.

Breth, Hermine Loewy, 1867-1942.

Breth, Frank, 1897-1986.

Breth, Hans, 1903-1942.

Soudková, Gertrude Breth, 1893-1943.

Soudková, Dorothea, 1929-1944.

Topical terms

Jews--Czech Republic--Dvůr Králové.

Jews--Persecutions--Czech Republic--Dvůr Králové.

Jewish refugees--New York (State)--Correspondence.

Jewish refugees--Sweden--Correspondence.

Geographic terms

Dvůr Králové (Czech Republic)

New York (N.Y.)

Genre Terms

Correspondence.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical material, 1915-1986

Box/Folder	Description
1.1, OS 1	Breth, Adele, 1924-1938, 1944
1.2-1.3	Breth, Fred, 1915-1944, 1971-1986 (2 folders)
1.4	Breth, Steven, 1938

Series 2: Correspondence, 1938-1941, 2017

Box/Folder	Description
1.5	Letters 1-11, circa 1938
1.6	Letters 12-23, circa 1938
1.7	Letters 24-35, circa 1938
1.8	Letters 36-47, circa 1938-1939
1.9	Letters 48-58, circa 1939
1.10	Letters 59-68, circa 1939
1.11	Letters 69-81, circa 1939
1.12	Letters 82-93, circa 1939
1.13	Letters 94-105, circa 1939
1.14	Letters 106-115, circa 1939-1940
1.15	Letters 116-126, circa 1940
1.16	Letters 127-138, circa 1940
1.17	Letters 139-152, circa 1940-1941
1.18	Letters 153-162, circa 1941
1.19	Letters 163-172, circa 1941
1.20	Letters 173-186, circa 1941
1.21	Translations, August-November 1938, 2017
1.22	Translations, December 1938-April 1939, 2017
1.23	Translations, April 1939-October 1940, 2017
1.24	Translations, October 1940-November 1941, 2017

Series 3: Photograph album, 1934-1936

Box	Description
2	Photograph album, 1934-1936