

**GOLDSCHMIED FAMILY PAPERS, approximately 1852-1985  
2018.96.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Goldschmied family papers

Dates: approximately 1852-1985

Accession number: 2018. 96.1

Creator: Goldschmied (Family : Prague, Czechoslovakia)

Extent: 0.6 linear foot (1 box, 1 book enclosure)

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

Abstract: The Goldschmied family papers consist of biographical material, correspondence, and poetry documenting the Goldschmied and Ohs families of Prague, the Goldschmied family's immigration to the United States with the help of Martha and Waitstill Sharp, their unsuccessful efforts to bring Rosa Ohs to America, and the lifelong friendship between the Goldschmieds and the Sharps.

Languages: German, Czech, 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), Goldschmied family papers, 2018. 96.1, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Renée Rizzoni, daughter of Albin Goldschmied and Louise Ohs Goldschmied, donated the Goldschmied family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2018.

Related material: Digital images of several photographs Renée Rizzoni loaned to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum can be viewed through the Museum's catalog.

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

Processing history: Processed by Julie Schweitzer, June 2018.

### **Biographical note**

Renée Rizzoni was born Renée Suzanne Goldschmied (later Renée Gilbert, 1928- ) in Prague to Albin Rudolph Goldschmied (later Albin Gilbert, 1897-1990) and Louise (nee Ohs) Goldschmied (later Louise Gilbert, 1902-1998). Albin was the son of Leopold Goldschmied (1863-1942) and Katerina (nee Pick) Goldschmied (1859-1938). Leopold was born in Nagy Abon, Hungary, where his family owned a vineyard, and Katerina was born in Rohozov, Bohemia. They met and married in Prague, where Albin and his older brother, Josef, were born. Louise was the daughter of Bernhard Ohs (1852-1934) and Rosa Kamilla (nee Rosenthal) Ohs (1863-1942). Bernhard was born in Pisek, Bohemia, and served as a diplomat and press chief at the German embassy. Rosa was born in Dessau, Prussia, and was a published poet. She became deaf at the age of 17 as a result of scarlet fever, but was able to read lips and maintain communication with her family. Like her mother Rosa, Louise was a poet, as well as an artist and a student of Isadora Duncan interpretive dance. Albin held a PhD in philosophy and taught pedagogy at the German Music Conservatory. Albin and Louise met at the bank where they had both been employed, married, and had one daughter, Renée, who studied at a French elementary school. As a child, Renée was featured in an advertisement for Jovo yogurt and appeared in a film as Mozart's daughter.

After the Nazis occupied Prague, Albin, who had spoken out against the Nazis since 1933, lost his teaching position. Although he had been an active member of the Unitarian church, he was of Jewish heritage, so he, Louise, and Renée were forced to leave their apartment and lost everything. Through the Unitarian church, they met Waitstill and Martha Sharp, who worked with the Unitarian Service Committee. After the Goldschmied family secured visas, the Sharps aided them in escaping via train to Utrecht, where they stayed briefly with the family of a clergyman. They then traveled from Rotterdam aboard the S.S. *Noordam*, arriving in New York on November 15, 1939. Louise's mother, Rosa, was unable to obtain a visa, and remained in Prague. She was deported to Theresienstadt on July 13, 1942, transferred on October 15, 1942 to Treblinka, and murdered. Albin's older brother, Josef, married a U.S. citizen, Evelyn Steiner. Josef, Evelyn, and their son Harry (1926-2011) were able to immigrate to the United States in 1942.

The Sharps arranged teaching positions for Albin and Louise at the Chapel Hill School at Waltham, Massachusetts. Albin later taught at Middlesex University in Waltham, while Louise took a position as a reference librarian at the medical school. After becoming U.S. citizens in 1945, the Goldschmied family changed their last name to Gilbert. For the next several years, Albin worked as an Educational Advisor to the American forces in Bavaria, Germany, Louise and Renee joined him later, and Louise taught art while continuing her career as a painter. After their return to the U.S., Renee married Eitel Rizzoni (1925-2011), and they had two children, Walter and Vanessa. The Goldschmied/Gilbert and Sharp families maintained a close relationship throughout their lifetimes.

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

The Goldschmied family papers consist of biographical material, correspondence, and poetry documenting the Goldschmied and Ohs families of Prague, the Goldschmied family's immigration to the United States with the help of Martha and Waitstill Sharp in 1939, their unsuccessful efforts to bring Rosa Ohs to America, and the lifelong friendship between the Goldschmieds and the Sharps.

Goldschmied family materials include education, employment, and identification records documenting Albin and Louise Goldschmied, correspondence documenting Louise and Renée, poetry by Louise, immigration records, and Albin and Louise's membership in the Religious Society of Czechoslovak Unitarians. This series also includes correspondence from Albin's brother Josef about their conditions of life in Prague, Rosa Ohs' health, and their efforts to immigrate.

Ohs family materials include biographical material and correspondence documenting Bernhard and Rosa Ohs (Louise's parents), immigration and tracing materials documenting the Goldschmied family's efforts to locate Rosa and bring her to America, and notebooks containing original poems by Rosa. Bernhard Ohs' material pre-dates his death in 1934 and primarily documents his successful diplomatic career. Rosa's correspondence to her daughter's family describes how much she misses them and wants to immigrate to America, her health, and her eye operation.

Sharp family materials consists of correspondence from Martha and Waitstill Sharp to the Goldschmied family offering immigration assistance, welcoming them on their arrival in America, helping them get settled, describing both families' postwar work in Czechoslovakia, and attesting to the families' lifelong friendship.

### **System of arrangement**

The Goldschmied family papers are arranged as three series:

- Series 1: Goldschmied family, 1915-1963
- Series 2: Ohs family, approximately 1852-1946
- Series 3: Sharp family, approximately 1939-1985

### **Indexing terms**

Sharp, Martha Dickie, 1905-1999.

Sharp, Waitstill, 1902-1983.

World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue--Czech Republic.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Czech Republic.

Righteous Gentiles in the Holocaust.

Prague (Czech Republic).

Czech Republic--Emigration and immigration.

United States--Emigration and immigration.

## CONTAINER LIST

### Series 1: Goldschmied family, 1915-1963

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Goldschmied, Albin, biographical material, 1915-1963
1.2	Goldschmied, Josef, Evelyn, and Harry, correspondence, approximately 1940-1941
1.3	Goldschmied, Louise, biographical material 1917-1956
1.4	Goldschmied, Louise, correspondence, 1932-1934, 1945-1949
1.5, BE 1	Goldschmied, Louise, poetry, approximately 1919-1950 (2 folders)
1.6	Goldschmied, Renee, correspondence, 1952-1955
1.7	Ausschuss fur Jugendberatung in Prag flyer, undated
1.8	Immigration, 1939, 1961
1.9	Religious Society of Czechoslovak Unitarians, 1938-1939

### Series 2: Ohs family, approximately 1852-1946

Box/Folder	Title
1.10	Ohs, Bernhard, biographical material, 1918-1934
1.11	Ohs, Bernhard, family correspondence and notes, approximately 1852-1928
1.12	Ohs, Bernhard, printed materials, approximately 1934
1.13	Ohs, Rosa, biographical material, 1898, 1939
1.14	Ohs, Rosa, correspondence, 1926-1931, 1939-1941
1.15	Ohs, Rosa, immigration and tracing, 1939-1946
1.16	Ohs, Rosa, poetry notebook, 1935
1.17	Ohs, Rosa, poetry notebook, 1937
1.18	Ohs, Rosa, poetry notebook, approximately 1935-1937
1.19	Miscellaneous notes and poems, undated

### Series 3: Sharp family, approximately 1939-1985

Box/Folder	Title
1.20	Sharp, Martha, correspondence, approximately 1940-1985
1.21	Sharp, Waitstill, correspondence, approximately 1939-1984