

LOTTE SELIGMANN FAMILY PAPERS, circa 1916-1995
2019.129.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Lotte Seligmann family papers

Dates: circa 1916-1995 (bulk 1924-1944)

Accession number: 2019.129.1

Creator: Seligmann, Lotte, 1912-1994.

Extent: .3 linear feet (9 folders, 1 book enclosure)

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

Abstract: The collection consists of biographical material and photographs primarily documenting the pre-war life of Lotte Seligmann of Marsberg, Germany, including her studies and career as a nurse in Frankfurt am Main, prior to her immigration to the United States in 1938. Also documented in the collection are relatives in the Seligmann and Weitzenkorn families, and Lotte's husband Henry Barak and his family.

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.

Physical access note: Negatives in the collection are kept in cold storage for preservation reasons and would require additional time for acclimatization before they can be served to researchers.

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), Lotte Seligmann family papers (2019.129.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Eve Ida Barak in 2019. Eve is the daughter of Lotte and Henry Barak.

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, May 2019

Biographical note

Lotte Seligmann (1912-1994) was born on 1 January 1912 in Marsberg, Germany to Adolf (b. 1878) and Emma (née Weitzenkorn, b. 1883). She had one brother, Siegbert (1909-1965). Her father worked as a cattle dealer in Marsberg. Lotte studied to become a nurse, and worked in Frankfurt am Main from 1931-1937. On 16 November 1938 she and her parents immigrated to the United States via Hamburg. Lotte married Henry Barak in August 1946.

Henry (born Heinrich, 1913-1986) was the son of Marcus (1882-1935?) and Ida Eva Barak (née Fuchs, b. 1882). He had one brother, Joseph (1906-1995) and one sister, Klara (b. 1910). His parents met in England, but later moved to Vienna, Austria. Joseph emigrated from Austria to the United States in 1927 and Henry followed him in 1933. He trained as a furrier and served in the United States Army during World War II. They had one daughter, Eve.

Both Henry's mother and sister perished during the Holocaust, likely at the Auschwitz concentration camp.

Lotte's brother Siegbert immigrated to the U.S. in the 1930s and opened a factory in New York. He married Kay Reiss and they had one daughter, Carol Lynn.

Scope and content of collection

The collection consists of biographical material and photographs primarily documenting the pre-war life of Lotte Seligmann of Marsberg, Germany, including her studies and career as a nurse in Frankfurt am Main, prior to her immigration to the United States in 1938. Also documented in the collection are relatives in the Seligmann and Weitzenkorn families, and Lotte's husband Henry Barak and his family.

Biographical material includes Lotte's birth certificate, German passport, employment papers, report cards, and her and Henry's naturalization certificates. Photographs consist of pre-war depictions of Lotte's family, her mother's family the Weitzenkorns, her husband Henry and his family, and Lotte in her nurse's uniform in Germany. Included is a photograph of Lotte right after she arrived in the United States in 1938. There is also a photograph album with Lotte's family and friends primarily in the late 1920s.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as two series.

Series 1. Biographical material, 1918-1995

Series 2. Photographs, circa 1916-1940

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Seligmann, Lotte, 1912-1994.

Seligmann, Adolf.

Seligmann, Emma.

Barak, Henry, 1913-1986.

Topical Subject:

Jewish nurses.

Geography:

Marsberg (North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany)

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Genre/Form:

Letters.

Photographs.

Photograph albums.

Passports.

Negatives.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Biographical material, 1918-1995

| Folder | Title |
|---------------|--|
| 1 of 9 | Employment, 1933-1941 |
| 2 of 9 | Family papers and clippings, 1990-1995 |
| 3 of 9 | Identification papers, 1924-1973 |
| 4 of 9 | Naturalization certificates, 1941-1944 |
| 5 of 9 | Report cards, 1918-1930 |

Series 2. Photographs, circa 1916-1940

| Folder | Title |
|--|--|
| 6 of 9, Negatives house separately | Barak family, circa 1918-1940 |
| 7 of 9 | Seligmann, Lotte, 1931-1938 |
| 8 of 9 | Seligmann family, circa 1917-circa 1930s |
| 9 of 9, Negatives housed separately | Weitzenkorn family, circa 1916-circa 1920s |
| BE 1 | Photograph album, 1927-1929 and undated |