

KIM FAMILY PAPERS, 1915-1983
2019.360.1

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

Title: Kim family papers

Dates: 1915-1983 (bulk 1929-1941)

Accession number: 2019.360.1

Creator: Kim (Family : Berlin, Germany)

Extent: .5 linear feet (1 box, 2 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The collection documents the pre-war and wartime lives of the Max and Regina Kim, Polish Jews who lived in Berlin, Germany with their daughter Betty before immigrating to the United States in 1937. Included are biographical materials, immigration papers, correspondence, and photographs.

Languages: Hebrew, Yiddish, Polish, 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), Kim family papers (2019.360.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Betty Kim Rudolph in 2019.

Separated material: 2019.360.1 Star of David badge worn by Regina Kim's brother Joseph Tenenbaum, who survived the Holocaust in hiding in France.

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 2019

Biographical note

Izchek Mendel (Max) Kim (1900-1970) was born on 23 October 1900 in Łódź, Poland to parents Srul and Brajndla Kim. During the interwar period Max relocated from Poland to Berlin. In Berlin Max met and married Regina Tenenbaum.

Ryfka Chaja (Regina) Kim (1895-1969) was born on 14 August 1895 in Warsaw, Poland to Israel Mordka and Rajsła Tenenbaum. Israel and Rajsła raised a large family and Regina grew up among eight brothers and sisters. As a young woman Regina relocated to Berlin from Poland and found work for a time as a seamstress.

The couple married in 1929 and lived among extended relatives, including Regina's sister Mimi Korngold and Mimi's husband Chaim (sometimes referred to as Felix). In 1931 Regina and Max's daughter Betti was born (later Betty Kim Rudolph). Together Regina and Max were the proprietors of a clothing factory. Max worked as the merchandiser of the business which also employed members of the Kim's extended family. While the Kim family observed religious holidays they did not keep Kosher and were more secular in their daily life. In the early 1930s Max joined the Berliner Zionistische Vereinigung (The Berlin Zionist Association) with his brother-in-law Chaim Korngold.

In 1936 Max's younger brother Jacob, who had immigrated to the United States shortly after the First World War, offered to sponsor the Kim family's immigration to the United States. Jacob, aware of rising Antisemitism in Germany, was concerned about the family's safety and was insistent that the Kims, particularly Betty, should leave Germany. After initial reticence the entire Kim family began efforts to emigrate. Jacob, a resident of Illinois, appealed to his State Representative Edwin M. Schaefer for assistance on behalf of his loved ones. Rep. Schaefer was successful in interceding with then Secretary of State Cordell Hull and in May 1937 the Kim's were awarded their immigration visas to the United States. The following August Max, Regina, and Betty sailed for New York City aboard the SS *President Harding*. Upon their arrival in the United States the Kims settled in Missouri where they operated a clothing store. Three years later Regina's sister and brother-in-law, Mimi and Chaim Korngold, were successful in fleeing Germany and joined the Kims in Missouri. In the first years of World War II the Kims and Korngolds remained in contact with their loved ones in Germany and Poland. This contact ceased in the course of the Holocaust as family members perished.

Biography by Kassandra LaPrade Seuthe and Adam Fielding

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the pre-war and wartime lives of the Max and Regina Kim, Polish Jews who lived in Berlin, Germany with their daughter Betty before immigrating to the United States in 1937. Biographical materials consist of clippings, birth certificates, identification papers, and marriage documents. Included are clippings from *the St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Max Kim and Chaim Korngold's Berliner Zionistische Vereinigung identification cards, Max's Fremdenpass issued in Germany, Regina's

Polish passport, and Max and Regina's marriage papers. Immigration papers include an affidavit by Max's brother Jacob Kiem and correspondence by Congressman Edwin M. Schaefer and Secretary of State Cordell Hull regarding the visa applications of the Kim family. Correspondence includes pre-war and wartime letters exchanged by the Kim and Korngold families, including Regina's sister Bronia. Photographs consist of pre-war depictions of family members including Regina's father Israel, Max and Regina's wedding day, and Betty's kindergarten class.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as four series.

- Series 1. Biographical material, 1915-1983
- Series 2. Immigration papers, 1936-1937
- Series 3. Correspondence, 1926-1955
- Series 4. Photographs, circa 1920-circa 1937

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955.
Kim, Max, 1900-1970.
Kim, Regina, 1895-1969.
Rudolph, Betty Kim.
Korngold, Chaim.
Schaefer, Edwin M.

Topical Subject:

Jews--Poland--Łódź.
Jews--Poland--Warsaw.
Jews--Germany--Berlin.

Geography:

Łódź (Poland)
Warsaw (Poland)
Berlin (Germany)
United States--Emigration and immigration.

Genre/Form:

Photographs.
Letters.
Affidavits of support.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Biographical material, 1915-1983

Box/Folder	Title
1.1, OS 1, OS 2	Clippings, 1946, 1983, undated
1.2	Kim, Max, 1915-1934
1.3	Kim, Max and Regina: marriage papers, 1929-1936
1.4	Kim, Regina, 1921
1.5	Korngold, Chaim, 1934

Series 2. Immigration papers, 1936-1937

Box/Folder	Title
1.6	Immigration papers, 1936-1937

Series 3. Correspondence, 1926-1955

Box/Folder	Title
1.7	Family correspondence, 1926-1938
1.8	Kim, Betty, 1938
1.9	Kim, Max, 1937-1941
1.10	Kim, Regina, 1926-1940
1.11	Korngold, Chaim, 1940-1955

Series 4. Photographs, circa 1920-circa 1937

Box/Folder	Title
1.12	Family and friends, circa 1920-circa 1937