

**KORANT AND SCHWALBE FAMILIES PAPER, 1888-2019 (bulk 1888-1988)
2019.367.1**

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

Title: Korant and Schwalbe families papers

Dates: 1888-2019 (bulk 1888-1988)

Catalog number: 2019.367.1

Creator: Korant family

Additional creator: Schwalbe family

Extent: 2 linear feet (3 boxes and 7 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The Korant and Schwalbe families papers include biographical material, correspondence, photographs, immigration documents, and writings relating to Ilse Schwalbe (née Korant), Herbert Schwalbe, and their relatives in Berlin, Teheran, and Palestine as well as their immigration and settlement in the United States.

Languages: German, English, Hebrew, French, Persian

Administrative Information

Access: There are no known restrictions on access to this material.

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Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Korant and Schwalbe families papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The Korant and Schwalbe families papers was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2019 by Karen Gilovich.

Processing history: Morgan Voth, March 2024

Biographical note

Herbert Schwalbe (1899-1963) was born in 1899 in Germany. At age 17, he volunteered and served in the German military in WWI and earned the Cross of Honor for his service. After the war, he became a dentist and established a practice in Berlin. In 1926, he married Ilse Korant (1904-1992) and they had two children: Reiner Max (1928-2007) and Stephanie "Steffi" (1931-2018). After the boycott of Jewish businesses in 1933, Schwalbe emigrated from Germany to establish a life for his family elsewhere. He first immigrated to Persia (currently Iran) in October 1933 and Ilse and the children remained in Berlin. He lived in Tehran and tried to open a dental practice before moving to Palestine in 1935. No longer having his dental equipment, he worked as a farm laborer. In December 1937, Herbert left Haifa for the United States with the help of his younger brother, Ludwig Schwalbe (1901-1980) who immigrated to the United States in 1927, and a distant cousin, Richard Simon. In 1939 Ilse, Reiner, and Steffi immigrated to the United States and joined Herbert in California.

Ilse Flora Schwalbe (née Korant, 1904-1992) was born in Cottbus, Germany on July 14, 1904 to Georg Korant (1874-1937) and Margarete "Grete" Korant (née Apt, 1882-1942). Ilse married Herbert Schwalbe (1899-1963) in 1926 and they had two children: Reiner Max (1928-2007) and Stephanie "Steffi" (1931-2018). After Herbert emigrated from Germany to establish a new life for the family, Ilse, Steffi, and Reiner moved in with her parents. During this time, Ilse worked for a Jewish organization (Youth Aliyah) that arranged for the immigration of Jewish children to Palestine. Georg passed away in 1937 and in 1939 Ilse and her children immigrated to the United States to reunite with Herbert in California. Grete made several attempts to emigrate from Germany to the United States or Cuba with the help of her family. In 1941, Ilse obtained a ticket for Grete to travel by ship to Cuba and then to the United States, but after the US declared on Germany, Grete was unable to leave. In January 1942, Grete was deported to Riga where she was killed.

Scope and content of collection

The Korant and Schwalbe families papers include biographical material, correspondence, photographs, immigration documents, and writings relating to Ilse Schwalbe (née Korant), Herbert Schwalbe, and their relatives in Berlin, Teheran, and Palestine as well as their immigration and settlement in the United States.

Biographical material, correspondence, and writings relating to Georg Korant include a marriage announcement, wedding poem, renters documentation, police registration, and death announcement. Also included is correspondence and original and photocopies of writings.

Margarete (Grete) Korant's biographical material includes a marriage license, program, and poem, a copy of her report card, and writings. Correspondence consists of originals and photocopies largely of letters from Grete to Ilse, Herbert, and Steffi. Immigration papers include correspondence with the United States Consulate, applications, affidavits of support, and letters of recommendation and reference relating to various attempts by Grete, Ilse, and Herbert to arrange for Grete's immigration to Cuba and the United States. Photographs of family members include Grete, Ellen, and Hede. Also included is a biography about Rolf Apt.

Ilse Schwalbe's biographical material includes a copy of her birth certificate, letters describing her family history, and a wedding announcement. Correspondence includes originals, photocopies, and transcripts

of letters from Grete to Ilse, letters to Herbert while he was in Persia, and an inquiry to the Red Cross about Grete stating she was deported to Riga in 1942. Immigration material includes originals, photocopies, and translations of letters of support from Ilse's brother-in-law Ludwig Schwalbe, requests for copies of documentation, letters of reference, and luggage and bank receipts. Writings include a book made for Herbert with photographs and poems of Reiner and Steffi when he was in Palestine, poems, various postwar writings about her experience, notes from presentations, responses to requests for interviews, and reflections after her return to Berlin in 1975. Also included are several photographs of Ilse and forms, correspondence, and receipts relating to restitution for education and property.

Biographical material relating to Herbert Schwalbe includes a copy of his birth certificate, an affidavit from Richard Simon, a health certificate for immigration, a personal narrative, and a biography written by Ilse. Professional records include receipt books, a curriculum vitae, a letter for the sale of his dental equipment, correspondence relating to attempts to practice dentistry outside of Germany, and certificates from the University of Santa Clara. Also included are letters from Herbert to Ilse while aboard the ship to the United States, a letter to Steffi for her birthday while he was in Persia, and original and photocopies of photographs of Herbert.

Schwalbe family papers include immigration and school records for Steffi, including a journal she kept while aboard the Holland ship to the United States, a certificate of naturalization, a copy of her birth certificates, a German report card, and a copy of an essay on leaving Germany. Also included is a portfolio assembled by Elsa Schwalbe (née Pick and Sabel) and German passports for Elsa, Wilhelm Pick, and Ludwig Schwalbe. Elsa and Wilhem married in Germany and immigrated to the United States. Wilhelm became sick and passed away. Elsa later married Ludwig Schwalbe. The series also includes photographs of Steffi, Reiner, Ludwig, Ilse, and Herbert, research into family history, an interview with Steffi, newspaper clippings, and correspondence with the Jewish Museum of Berlin relating to a donation.

System of arrangement

The Korant and Schwalbe families papers are arranged as five series:

Series 1: Georg Korant, 1888-1936

Series 2: Margarete Korant, circa 1890-1972

Series 3: Ilse Schwalbe, 1904-1988

Series 4: Herbert Schwalbe, 1920-2019

Series 5: Schwalbe family, 1920-2008

Indexing terms

Jews--Germany--Berlin.

Jewish refugees--United States.

Dentistry--Practice.

Palestine.

United States--Emigration and immigration--History.

Berlin (Germany)

Tehran (Iran)

Photographs.

Correspondence.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Georg Korant, 1888-1936

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Biographical material, 1888-1936
1.2	Correspondence, 1897-1936
1.3-1.5	Writings, 1890-1904 (3 folders)

Series 2: Margarete Korant, circa 1890-1972

Box/Folder	Title
1.6-1.7 OS 6	Biographical material, 1895-1972 (2 folders)
1.8-1.9	Correspondence, 1917-1955 (2 folders)
1.10-1.12	Immigration, 1936-1945 (3 folders)
1.13	Photographs, circa 1890-circa 1940
1.14	Rolf Apt, 1945-1985

Series 3: Ilse Schwalbe, 1904-1988

Box/Folder	Title
1.15	Biographical material, 1904-1992
1.16	Immigration, 1934-1939
2.1-2.4	Correspondence, 1924-1988 (4 folders and CD)
2.5	Writings, 1933-1985
2.6	Photographs, 1912-1930s
2.7-2.10	Restitution, 1949-1964 (4 folders)

Series 4: Herbert Schwalbe, 1920-2019

Box/Folder	Title
2.11-2.13 OS 7	Biographical material, 1926-1943, 2019
3.1	Correspondence, 1923-1945 (2 folders)
3.2-3.3	Professional career, 1923-1945
3.4	Photographs, 1920s-1930s

Series 5: Schwalbe family, 1920-2008

Box/Folder	Title
3.5-3.6 OS 5	Steffi Schwalbe: Immigration, 1931-1950 (2 folders)
3.7	Steffi Schwalbe: School records, 1937-1949
3.8	Photographs, circa 1927-circa 1935
3.9-3.10	Elsa Schwalbe, circa 1920-circa 1950
3.11-3.12	Jüdisches Museum Berlin, 2008 (2 folders)
3.13	Family history, 1985-2019

OS 1-4	
3.14	Clippings and publications, 1926-1979