

HAUER AND HONIG FAMILIES PAPERS, circa 1890-1976 **2019.439.1**

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

Title: Hauer and Honig families papers

Dates: circa 1890-1976 (bulk 1930-1947)

Accession number: 2019.439.1

Creator: Hauer (Family : Berlin, Germany)

Additional creator: Honig (Family : Berlin, Germany)

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

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

Abstract: The collection regards the Holocaust-era experiences of Gunter Hauer and his parents Dagobert and Gertrud Hauer, and Hella Honig (later Hella Hauer) and her parents Rosa and Herman Honig. Both families were originally from Berlin, Germany and the collection documents their pre-war lives in Berlin, immigration to Shanghai in 1939, and immigration to the United States in 1947. Included are identification documents, immigration paperwork, and photographs.

Languages: German, English, Chinese

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use.

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), Hauer and Honig families papers (2019.439.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2019 by David, Frank, and Gail Hauer, the children of Gunter and Hella Hauer.

Separated material: Two prayer books were also donated by the family (2019.439.2, 2019.439.3)

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, February 2019

Biographical note

Gunter Hauer was born on 7 May 1919 in Berlin, Germany to Dagobert and Gertrud Hauer. Dagobert (b. 1873) was born in Vandsburg, Germany (Więcbork, Poland). He served with German army on the Russian front during World War I and was awarded the Iron Cross. He married Gertrud Lesser from Erfurt, Germany around 1900. Dagobert worked in the materials department in the N. Israel Department Store in Berlin.

After the Nazi seizure of power in 1933, Gunter was prevented from attending school. His father lost his job and Gertrud began working to support the family. After Kristallnacht in November 1938, the family began searching for ways to emigrate from Germany. Quotas and restrictions made the search difficult, but the family learned that they could immigrate to Shanghai without a visa. They spent their family's savings on tickets to Shanghai from a Russian travel agency, but the tickets turned out to be fraudulent. Dagobert's friend lent them money to purchase legitimate tickets for passage to Shanghai aboard the *Terukuni Maru* for Dagobert, Gertrud, Gunter, Dagobert's older brother Heinrich and his wife Metha, Gertrud's cousin Paula Haushalter, her daughter Else Eikelman, and her granddaughter Inge Eikelman. They travelled by train to Trieste, Italy and then boarded the ship to Shanghai. They learned during their journey that Germany had invaded Poland. After they arrived in Shanghai Gunter and his parents found a one-room apartment. With the help of a friend from Berlin, Gunter got a job selling typewriters and contracts for typewriter cleaning. His parents were elderly, so he was primarily responsible for the financial support for his family. They also received some additional support from Jewish relief organizations. Gunter was active in local sports clubs, playing field hockey and soccer.

In December 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the Americans entered the war. The Japanese took control of Shanghai, and by February 1943 required all "stateless" refugees to move to a low income section of the city called the "Designated Zone" or the Shanghai ghetto. They moved into one of the barracks there, where conditions were very difficult. In addition to his work with typewriters, Gunter had been working for a wealthy Russian Jew named Fineland. In order to leave the ghetto and continue this work, he was required to have a monthly pass, which was issued by Kanoh Ghoya, the Japanese ex-vice chief of the Stateless Refugees' Affairs Bureau. Gunter was also required to participate in the Pao Chia, a patrol group created by the occupying Japanese forces.

While living in the Designated Zone, Gunter's father became very ill. He went to a Chinese hospital, but the language barrier hindered their efforts to care for him, and he died not much later. Gunter and his mother prepared to make the trip to the cemetery, which was located outside the ghetto. Ghetto residents were only allowed to go there for funerals, so other ghetto residents who wished to visit their

loved ones' graves joined the Hauer family on their trip. On the way back, the group took a trolley, and Gunter offered a seat to a young woman named Hella Honig. They began dating and planned to marry after the war. Gunter's mother passed away less than a year after his father's death.

After the end of World War II, there was a big presence of U.S. soldiers in Shanghai. Gunter was employed with the U.S. Port Command, working with GMC trucks and parts. Gunter and Hella married on 2 March 1947. They immigrated to the United States in July 1947. They initially settled in Cincinnati, Ohio where Gunter found a job as a shipper for King Records. Four months later, he was transferred to New York where he became a branch manager. Gunter and Hella's first son, Frankie, was born there in 1948. Gunter became involved in the wholesale record business, where he promoted and sold records to radio stations. After working there three years, he took a job with Gotham Records in Philadelphia. From there, he went on to work at the newly formed Universal Record Distributing Corporation, where he worked for the next twelve years. In the mid-1960s he handled promotion for Epic and Dot Records, and he went on to become a prominent executive for Atlantic records in New York. Gunter and Hella had two more children, David and Gail.

Nearly all of Gunter's extended family perished during the Holocaust.

Hella Honig (1925-2012) was born on 5 November 1925 in Berlin to Rosa and Herman Honig. The family was wealthy and fled Berlin to Shanghai to escape Nazi persecution.

Biography by Adam Fielding and Nancy Hartman

Scope and content of collection

The collection regards the Holocaust-era experiences of Gunter Hauer and his parents Dagobert and Gertrud Hauer, and Hella Honig (later Hella Hauer) and her parents Rosa and Herman Honig. Both families were originally from Berlin, Germany and the collection documents their pre-war lives in Berlin, immigration to Shanghai in 1939, and immigration to the United States in 1947. Included are identification documents, immigration paperwork, and photographs.

Documents include papers regarding Dagobert Hauer's service with the German army during World War I, Gunter Hauer's identification cards for sports clubs in Berlin, identification papers from Shanghai issued to Hella Honig and her parents Rosa and Herman Honig, Dagobert's Jüdische Kultusgemeinde cards from Shanghai, and immigration and naturalization papers for Gunter and Hella Hauer after their immigration to the United States in 1947.

Photographs include pre-war depictions of the Hauer and Honig families in Berlin, wartime lives in Shanghai, and Gunter and Hella's post-war lives in the United States. Also included are depictions of Dagobert in his German army uniform during World War I.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as two series.

Series 1. Biographical material, 1916-1947

Series 2. Photographs, circa 1890-1976

Documents are arranged chronologically.

The photograph albums have been disassembled and the photographs rehoused for preservation. Original arrangement of the photographs has been preserved.

Indexing terms

Person:

Hauer, Gunter, 1919-

Hauer, Dagobert, 1873-

Hauer, Gertrud.

Hauer, Hella, 1925-2012.

Honig, Herman.

Honig, Rosa.

Topical Subject:

Jews--Germany--Berlin.

Refugees, Jewish--China--Shanghai.

World War, 1914-1918--Veterans--Germany.

Geography:

Berlin (Germany)

Shanghai (China)

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Genre/Form:

Photographs.

Photograph albums.

Negatives.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Biographical material, 1916-1947

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Hauer family: Germany, 1916-1939
1.2	Hauer and Honig families: Shanghai, 1939-1947
1.3	Hauer, Gunter and Hella: immigration to United States, 1947

Series 2. Photographs, circa 1890-1976

Box/Folder	Title
OS 1	The Continental, Shanghai, circa 1940s (negatives)
1.4	Hauer, Gunter: Shanghai, circa 1940s
1.5	Hauer, Gunter: Yellow Spot Group, Berlin, 1932 and undated
1.6	Hauer, Gunter and Hella: immigration to United States, 1947
1.7	Hauer family: Berlin, circa 1890-1937
1.8	Hauer family: family and friends, Berlin, circa 1936-1942
1.9	Hauer family: immigration to Shanghai, 1939
1.10	Hauer family: photograph album, 1900-1947
1.11-1.12	Hauer and Honig families: photograph album, 1917-1976 (2 folders)
1.13	Honig family: Berlin and Shanghai, circa 1927-1942

<https://collections.ushmm.org>
Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection