

MONIQUE JOSEPH PAPERS, 1820-2007
2019.595.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Monique Joseph papers

Dates: 1820-2007, undated [bulk 1920-1951]

Accession number: 2019.595.1

Creator: Joseph, Monique.

Extent: 2 boxes, 1 book enclosure, 1 oversize folder (2 linear feet)

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

Abstract: The collection documents the Holocaust-era experiences of Monique Joseph (born Helga Kaufmann), originally of Cologne, Germany, her parents Caroline and Sallly Kaufmann, as well as her Husband Theophile Joseph and his family. Included are identification papers, false-identity documents, an autograph album, immigration papers, correspondence, memoirs, and photographs.

Languages: German, French, English

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use.

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), Monique Joseph papers (2019.595.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Monique Joseph in 2019.

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, April 2022

Biographical note

Monique Joseph was born Helga Irene Kaufmann on 3 April 1924 in Cologne, Germany to Sally and Caroline Kaufmann. Her father, Sally Kaufmann (1898-1954), was born on 27 November 1898 to Bertha (1860-1942) and Simon Kaufmann (d. 1932). He had three siblings: Irene (1893-1942), Selma, and Jules (Jules). Sally's parents kept kosher, and he was a Zionist. He owned a factory that manufactured burlap bags, and was a silent partner in an auction house managed by his brother Jules. Her mother, Caroline Kaufmann (1901-1990), was born Caroline Wolff on 8 September 1901 to Jakob Israel Wolff and Jeannette Wolff (1872-1942, née Gordon). She had one sister, Rose Wolff (later Rose Oppenheimer, 1899-1981), and one brother, Max (d. 1918). Her father was a World War I veteran and worked in the cattle business.

Monique's parents married on 27 November 1922. Caroline's parents lived nearby in Cologne. Monique attended a public Jewish school. In April 1933 Sally learned he and his business were to be targeted by local Nazi S.A. men. He fled Cologne for Strasbourg, France. Monique, her mother, and other family members followed. In spring 1934 German refugees were expelled from Strasbourg. The family decided that Monique and her mother would return to Cologne to live with Caroline's parents, and her father would go to Paris. The family was later reunited and then moved to Tours, France. In 1937, Monique's cousin, Ruth Oppenheimer, came to live with her family. Sally's mother Bertha, brother Jules, and his sister Irene also moved to Tours with their families.

After the war started, Sally, Jules, and Selma's husband Karl Esser volunteered for the French Army. By 1940 they were stationed in Bellac, France. On 16 July 1942 numerous Jewish families were deported from Tours. Monique's mother managed to talk the German soldiers out of taking her, Monique, and Ruth. They fled Tours for a farm in Chissay owned by the Chaussard family. From there they traveled to Bellac to be reunited with Sally.

On 17 October 1942, Bertha and her daughter Irene were arrested in Tours and deported to Drancy. On 11 November 1942 they were deported to Auschwitz where they both perished.

On 16 November 1942 Monique, her mother, and her cousin Ruth were arrested and deported to the Nexon internment camp. Because she could speak French and German, Monique was sent to work in the camp office. While working in the office, one of the guards she met she later learned was working for the Resistance. He worked with her father to help facilitate their escape from Nexon on 31 December 1942. They were provided with false identity cards: Monique lived

under the name Monique Colin, her mother was Caroline Colin, and her cousin Ruth was Renee Colin. They received train tickets to Valence where they were reunited with Monique's father.

Monique survived the rest of the war in hiding under her false identity with Jean Delarbre and his family on their farm in Glandoux, Saint-Fortunat-sur-Eyrieux. A neighbor denounced Jean at some point for hiding Monique, but he took her to the house where her parents were hiding. They then moved to another unoccupied house with Ruth. They remained there until liberation in August 1944.

After liberation Monique and her family returned to Tours. She also worked in Paris with the American Office of Liquidation. On 26 September 1947 she immigrated to the United States aboard the S.S. Marine Tiger. She settled in New York where she reconnected with fellow Holocaust survivor Théophile Joseph, whom she had met in Tours after the war. They married in 1948, and their daughter Nadine was born in 1952. Sally and Caroline immigrated to the United States in 1952.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the Holocaust-era experiences of Monique Joseph (born Helga Kaufmann), originally of Cologne, Germany, her parents Caroline and Sally Kaufmann, as well as her Husband Theophile Joseph and his family. Included are identification papers, false-identity documents, an autograph album, immigration papers, correspondence, memoirs, and photographs.

Biographical material related to Monique includes address books, an autograph album, identification papers including a French passport; false-identity documents under the name of Monique Colin; post-war documents regarding her job as a typist for the Office of the Theater Fiscal Director, Surplus Property Accounting Division, U.S. Army; luggage tag and immigration paperwork; interview transcript, and personal narrative entitled "Three Countries One Man." Other material included identification, wartime, and genealogical documents of her parents, Theophile Joseph and his family, the Wolff family, and the Oppenheimer family; and documents related to Sally's wartime service in Bellac, France under the false-identity of Andre Colin. There are also copies of personal narratives by Theophile and his sister Francine Weil (née Joseph).

Correspondence includes wartime letters by the Kaufmann family, letters received by Monique from her father, general family correspondence, and a 1942 postcard received by Sally from his mother Bertha Kaufmann, who was imprisoned in Drancy and later murdered at Auschwitz.

Photographs include numerous pre-war, wartime, and postwar depictions of the Kaufmann, Joseph, and Wolff families; Sally and his brother Jules Kaufmann in uniform in Bellac, 1940; and Monique aboard the S.S. Marine Tiger during her immigration to the United States in 1947.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as three series:

Series 1. Biographical material, 1820-2007, undated

Series 2. Correspondence, circa 1897-1994

Series 3. Photographs, circa 1900-1996

Folders are arranged alphabetically and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Joseph, Monique.

Kaufmann, Sally.

Kaufmann, Caroline.

Kaufmann, Bertha.

Joseph, Theophile.

Oppenheimer, Rose.

Oppenheimer, Ruth.

Kaufmann, Irene.

Wolff, Jakob.

Wolff, Jeanette.

Corporate:

Drancy (Concentration camp)

Nexon (Concentration camp)

Topical Subject:

Jews--Germany--Cologne.

Women--Personal narratives.

Men--Personal narratives.

Jews--France--Alsace.

False personation--France.

Resistance movements--1940-1950.

Holocaust survivors.

Geography:

Cologne (Germany)

Alsace (France)

Tours (France)

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Bellac (France)

Paris (France)

Genre/Form:

Personal narratives.

Autograph albums.

Photograph albums.

Letters.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Biographical material, 1820-2007, undated

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Joseph, Monique: address books, circa 1945-circa 1947
BE 1, 1.2	Joseph, Monique: autograph album and enclosures, 1935-1944

1.3	Joseph, Monique: identification papers, 1924-1950
1.4	Joseph, Monique: immigration, 1947-1949
1.5	Joseph, Monique: interview transcript, 2007
1.6	Joseph, Monique: personal narrative "Three Countries One Man", undated
1.7	Joseph, Monique: wartime and post-war documents, 1943-1961
1.8	Joseph, Theophile: biographical and identification papers, 1945-circa 1995
1.9	Joseph, Theophile: immigration, 1946-1951
1.10	Joseph, Theophile: personal narrative "Mémoires", 2007
1.11	Joseph family, 1820-2002
1.12	Kaufmann, Caroline, circa 1920-1950
1.13, OS 1	Kaufmann, Sally, 1922-1949
1.14	Oppenheimer family, 1940-1981
1.15-1.16	Weil, Francine: personal narrative, undated (2 folders)
1.17	Wolff, Jakob and Jeanette, 1872-1950

Series 2. Correspondence, circa 1897-1994

Box/Folder	Title
2.1	Family correspondence, circa 1897-1945
2.2	Joseph, Monique: Kaufmann, Sally, 1944-1949
2.3	Joseph, Monique, 1940-1954
2.4	Joseph, Theophile, 1926-1994
2.5	Kaufmann, Sally, 1940-1946

Series 3. Photographs, circa 1900-1996

Box/Folder	Title
2.6	Joseph, Monique, circa 1934-1941
2.7	Kaufmann, Caroline, circa 1945-circa 1990
2.8	Kaufmann, Sally, 1940-1951
2.9	Kaufmann family, relatives, and friends, 1920-circa 1990
2.10	Oppenheimer, Rose, circa 1945
2.11	Wolff family, circa 1900-circa 1992
2.12	Photograph album: Joseph family, circa 1900-1992
2.13-2.14	Photograph album: Monique Joseph and family, 1922-1996 (2 folders)