

RABBI LOUIS AND MARGARET ISAAC PAPERS, circa 1900-1948
2020.309.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Rabbi Louis and Margaret Isaac papers

Dates: circa 1900-1948 (bulk 1938-1945)

Accession number: 2020.309.1

Creator: Isaac, Louis.

Additional creator: Isaac, Margaret.

Extent: 2 boxes, 1 oversize folder (.8 linear feet)

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

Abstract: The collection documents the experiences of Rabbi Louis Isaac (previously Lajos Izsak) and his wife Margaret Isaac (previously Margit Kohn), who emigrated from Sátoraljaújhely, Hungary to the United States in 1938.

Languages:

Hebrew

Yiddish

Hungarian

Czech

English

Administrative Information

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

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Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Rabbi Louis and Margaret Isaac papers (2020.309.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Judith Isaac in 2020. Judith Isaac is the daughter of Louis and Margaret Isaac.

Processing history: Adam Fielding, January 2024

Biographical note

Rabbi Louis Isaac

Rabbi Louis Isaac (1895-1967) was born Lajos Izsak in 1895 in Satoraljaujhely, Hungary. He had 5 brothers: Jozsef Izsak, Izidor Izsak, Sandor Izsak (later Alexander Izsak), Miksa Izsak (later Mayer Izsak), and Ignac Izsak (1906-1980, later Rabbi Ignac Isaac). His family owned and operated a bakery in Satoraljaujhely with seven shops in Hungary and Slovakia. Louis inherited the shop as the eldest son in the family, and was also an ordained rabbi. Before the war, his brother Miksa immigrated to Palestine in 1933, and Ignac immigrated to the United States in 1935.

Louis married Margit Kohn in 1926 and they had three children: Anton Izsak (1927-1939), Eugene Isaac (b. 1940), and Judith Isaac (b. 1941). With the help of Louis's brother Ignac, a rabbi in Memphis, Tennessee, the family immigrated to the United States in 1938, and settled in New York. Their son Anton died unexpectedly on November 5, 1939. Louis taught at the Yeshiva and Mesivta Chaim Berlin in Brooklyn, and later worked as a rabbi. During the war, Louis traveled to various synagogues to raise funds for the rescue of Jews in Europe, and worked closely with his brother Ignac on these efforts.

Louis's brothers Jozef and Sandor hid in Hungary during the war and both survived. His brother Izidor was likely murdered during the Holocaust.

Margaret Isaac

Margaret Isaac (1900-1973, previously Margit Izsak) was born Margit Kohn in Nagyszolos, Hungary. She had seven siblings: Moshe Aryeh, Rabbi Zvi Hirsh Kohn, Yetta, Chana, Aaron Shalom, Chaim Shlomo, and Eliezer (later Rabbi Leopold Cohen). Margaret married Lajos Izsak (later Rabbi Louis Isaac) in 1926 and they had three children: Anton Izsak (1927-1939), Eugene Isaac (b. 1940), and Judith Isaac (b. 1941). With the help of Louis's brother Ignac, a rabbi in Memphis, Tennessee, the family immigrated to the United States in 1938, and settled in New York. Their son Anton died unexpectedly on November 5, 1939.

Margaret's siblings Zvi and Eliezer both survived the war. All her other siblings were murdered during the Holocaust.

Scope and content of collection

The collection documents the experiences of Rabbi Louis Isaac (previously Lajos Izsak) and his wife Margaret Isaac (previously Margit Kohn), who emigrated from Satoraljaujhely, Hungary to the United States in 1938. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence between Louis, Margaret, and relatives and friends in the United States and Europe. A significant portion of the correspondence relates to rescue efforts and financial assistance to those in Europe. Other material in the collection includes

immigration papers related to Louis, Margaret, and their son Anton Izsak; financial records; family photographs; and writings of Louis.

Series 1. Biographical material included financial records from Hungary and the United States; immigration paperwork including Hungarian passports, affidavit statements, and naturalization certificates; family photographs with depictions from Hungary and the United States; records related to Louis's personal library; letters of introduction for Louis for American rabbis; and marriage contracts, Ketubah, and wedding invitations.

Series 2. Correspondence primarily consists of letters exchanged between Louis, Margaret, and relatives and friends in the United States and Europe. A significant portion of the correspondence relates to rescue efforts and financial assistance to those in Europe, and there is extensive correspondence with Isaac's brother Ignac Isaac, who was also a rabbi and immigrated to the United States prior to Louis.

Series 3. Writings consist of notebooks and loose manuscripts by Louis primarily on religious and legal topics.

Many of the documents have accompanying notes authored by the donor of the collection, Judith Isaac. They are arranged behind the documents the reference.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as three series.

Series 1. Biographical material, circa 1900-1948

Series 2. Correspondence, 1933-1941

Series 3. Writings, circa 1920-circa 1937

Indexing terms

Person:

Neufeld, Bernat.

Topical Subject:

Jews--Hungary--Sátoraljaújhely.

Rabbis.

Geography:

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Sátoraljaújhely (Hungary).

Genre/Form:

Correspondence.

Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1. Biographical material, circa 1900-1948

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Financial records and receipts, circa 1933-1939
1.2	Hungarian passports, 1938
1.3	Immigration, 1938-1948
1.4, OS 1	Isaac, Louis: personal library documents, circa 1930-circa 1937
1.5	Isaac, Louis: personal papers, 1918-1937
1.6	Letters of introduction to American rabbis, circa 1938
1.7	Marriage and wedding documents, circa 1926-1937
1.8	Photographs, circa 1900-circa 1939

Series 2. Correspondence, 1933-1941

Box/Folder	Title
1.9	Correspondence, 1933-1937
1.10-1.11	Correspondence, 1938 (2 folders)
1.12-1.13	Correspondence, 1939 (2 folders)
1.14	Correspondence, 1940-1941
1.15-2.3	Correspondence, circa 1939-circa 1940 (4 folders)
2.4	Correspondence with Ignac Isaac, circa 1938-circa 1939

Series 3. Writings, circa 1920-circa 1937

Box/Folder	Title
2.5-2.6	Writings, circa 1920-circa 1937 (2 folders)
2.7	Notebook: 8, 492-674, circa 1920-circa 1937
2.8	Notebook, circa 1920-circa 1937