

**EMIL SPIRO PAPERS, 1939-1966**  
**2021.108.1**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
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**Descriptive summary**

Title: Emil Spiro papers

Dates: 1939-1966

Accession number: 2021.108.1

Creator: Spiro, Emil, 1927-2016.

Extent: 1 box, 1 oversize folder (.5 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 Emil Spiro, originally of Butzbach, Germany, who survived the Holocaust in Switzerland after arriving there in 1939 on a Kindertransport. The collection primarily consists of Swiss documents, immigration paperwork, and correspondence.

Languages: German, English

**Administrative Information**

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

Reproduction and use: Material(s) in this collection may be protected by copyright and/or related rights. You do not require further permission from the Museum to use this material. The user is solely responsible for making a determination as to if and how the material may be used.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Emil Spiro papers (2021.108.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Saguna Severson, David Spiro and Lenny Spiro in 2021. They are the children of Emil Spiro.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at [collections.ushmm.org](https://collections.ushmm.org) for further information.

Processing history: Adam Fielding, July 2023

### **Biographical note**

Emil Ernst Spiro (1927-2016) was born on March 18, 1927 in Butzbach, Germany to Leo Spiro and Nanny Spiro. His father, Leo Spiro (1890-1942), was born on October 1, 1890 in Butzbach to Emil Spiro and Rose Spiro (née Rothschild). His mother, Nanny Spiro (1890-1942) was born Nanny or Nany Meyerfeld on March 25, 1890 in Bad Homburg vor der Höhe, Germany to Salomon Meyerfeld and Nany Meyerfeld. Emil had two siblings: Frank Ferdiand Spiro (1930-1942) and Resi Spiro (1924-1942)

In January 1939 Emil was placed on a Kindertransport to Switzerland from Germany. He lived in Basel for the duration of the war, and received letters from his family in Butzbach until September 1942. His parents and siblings were deported from Butzbach by the Gestapo on September 8, 1942 to Treblinka killing center where they were murdered.

In 1945 Emil was interned for a time in a Swiss labor camp for immigrants and refugees. In 1947 he immigrated to the United States aboard the S.S. Marine Flasher. He married fellow Holocaust survivor Jaffa Grajower in 1950, and they had three children: David, Saguna, and Lenny.

### **Scope and content of collection**

The collection documents the experiences of Emil Spiro, originally of Butzbach, Germany, who survived the Holocaust in Switzerland after arriving there in 1939 on a Kindertransport. The collection primarily consists of Swiss documents, immigration paperwork, and correspondence.

Biographical materials include immigration paperwork, restitution files, and documents related to Emil's life as a refugee in Switzerland from 1939-1947. Swiss documents also include papers requiring Emil to report to an immigrant labor camp in 1945, and letters from the Red Cross regarding his efforts to learn the fate of his family.

Correspondence consists of letters received by Emil from his family, friends, and various immigration agencies. Family correspondence includes letters received by Emil from his parents in Butzbach until their deportation in September 1942, as well as letters exchanged from various family members during and after the war. Personal correspondence includes wartime and postwar letters received from friends and fellow refugees. The bulk of the Swiss immigration agencies correspondence are letters from staff of Schweizer Hilfswerk für Emigrantenkinder and Basler Hilfe für Emigrantenkinder.

### **System of arrangement**

The collection is arranged as two series.

Series 1. Biographical material, 1939-1964

Series 2. Correspondence, 1939-1966, undated

### **Indexing terms**

Topical Subject:

Jews--Germany.

Kindertransports (Rescue operations).

Holocaust survivors.

Refugees, Jewish--Switzerland.

Geography:

Butzbach (Germany)

Basel (Switzerland)

United States--Emigration and immigration.

Genre/Form:

Letters.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **Series 1. Biographical material, 1939-1964**

Box/Folder	Title
1.1	Immigration, 1939-1947
1.2	Restitution, 1957-1965
1.3	Swiss documents, 1943-1957
OS 1	Trade school report cards, 1946

### **Series 2. Correspondence, 1939-1966, undated**

Box/Folder	Title
1.4	Family, 1939-1946, undated
1.5	Personal, 1940-1944
1.6	Personal, 1945

1.7	Personal, 1946-1950
1.8	Personal, fragments and undated
1.9	Swiss immigration agencies, 1943-1944
1.10	Swiss immigration agencies, 1945
1.11	Swiss immigration agencies, 1946
1.12	Swiss immigration agencies, 1947-1966, undated