

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives

Finding Aid to Additional Materials of Martha and Waitstill Sharp Collection, ca. 1905-2005.

Title: Martha and Waitstill Sharp Collection, ca. 1905-2005.

Extent: 1 box (7 folders)

Provenance: The Museum received additional materials of Martha and Waitstill Sharp on January 21, 2009 from Deborah Shaffer, director of the office of Journey to Freedom, LLC in New York. NY. Journey to Freedom had been working on a documentary film about Martha and Waitstill Sharp for the past two years. The materials were discovered in the office when production of the film ceased due to lack of funding.

Organization and Arrangement: Arrangement is thematic.

Language: In English, with some French and German.

Preferred Citation: Standard citation for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Curatorial Affairs Division, and Archives Branch.

Scope and Content: The collection contains materials relating to the Sharps' humanitarian work in France and Czechoslovakia, including letters of introduction, telegrams, and datebook entries. There are also materials relating to the 50th Anniversary and Reunion of children who arrived in New York City thanks to Martha's work. The collection also contains photographs and postcards with scenes from their work and personal lives. Also the collection contains materials (travel documents, a journal, and photographs) relating to Rosemarie Feigl, one of the many children that the Sharps were able to bring to America.

CONTAINER LIST

Folder 1: War-time documents

Letter of Introduction for Reverend Waitstill Hastings Sharp and his wife Martha, written by Secretary of State Cordell Hull to American Diplomatic and Consular Officers, January 31, 1939. Original. In English.

First page of a letter to "Robert" (probably Robert Dexter) dated March 31, 1939 regarding the current conditions in Prague and stories about the German advance. The author is not indicated. Transparency copy. In English (It appears to be the same as "Letter addressed to Robert Dexter from Martha Sharp

regarding present conditions in Prague, 1939 Mar. 31. 2 pp. In English." in Folder 60, p 97 in Finding Aid)

Letter of Introduction for Reverend Waitstill Hastings Sharp and his wife Martha, written by Secretary of State Cordell Hull to American Diplomatic and Consular Officers, June 11, 1940. Original. In English.

Telegram from Varian Fry "Called Mitjavile Today Milk Safely Over Frontier." Transparency copy. In English. (It appears to be same as "Telegram from Varian Fry indicating milk has arrived, 1940 Aug. 17. In English." in Folder 61, p 98)

Letter from Walter Goldberg of the Baraque Infirmier Annexe, Camp de Gurs to Mrs. Waitstill Sharp dated October 31, 1940 regarding the need for help for newly arrived Jewish elderly and children. Transparency copy. In English. (It appears to be the same as "Letter addressed to Mrs. Martha Sharp from Walter Goldberg indicating that Camp de Milles has been transferred to Gurs, 1940 Oct. 31. Photocopy. In English." in Folder 42, p 80)

Letter from Mr. Theis to Mrs. Sharp dated December 29 1940 thanking her for all she had done for the girls and saying it was good news to hear they arrived in New York before Christmas. Transparency copy. In English. (It appears to be the same as "Letter addressed to Mrs. Martha Sharp from Mr. Theis in Le Chambon about the financial situation of a school, 1940 Dec. 29. 2 pp. Photocopy. In English." in Folder 42, p 80)

"List of Mrs. Pavel Eisner's Jewelry" no date. Transparency copy. In English.

Unitarian Pamphlet entitled "Help Me Please" regarding Unitarian work in unoccupied France, ca. 1942. In English,

Newspaper clipping, "Reverend Waitstill Sharp Sends Urgent Appeal for Food and Clothing for Destitute of Czechoslovakia" from *The Townsman, Wellesley*, no date. Original. In English.

Folder 2: Datebook

Typed up entries from datebooks from 1939 to 1950 (This is elsewhere in the collection)

Folder 3: 50th Anniversary and Reunion Materials

Program for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee 50th anniversary program honoring Martha Sharp Cogan "at a reunion of those who arrived in New York City in December 1940 through her leadership." December 5, 1990. In English.

Newspaper article, "Child refugees reunite with benefactor 50 years later" from *The Boston Globe*, December 6, 1990

Newspaper article, -"War Refugees Honor their Deliverer" from *The New York Times*, December 10, 1990.

Folder 4: Family photographs, 1912-1937.

Includes:

- Photos of Waitstill Sharp as a child in 1912
- Wedding photos of Martha Sharp
- Photos of Wellesley Hills Unitarian Church, 1934
- Portraits of Waitstill Sharp
- Photos of Waitstill Sharp with infants (one with Hastings and one with unidentified infant)
- Photos of Waitstill Sharp with Hastings and Martha Jr. in 1937
- Portrait of Martha Content Sharp

Folder 5: Photographs, 1940s.

Includes:

- Original photo of Martha and Waitstill Sharp at New York airport before departing to Lisbon, June 1940.
- Many photos of the children, Hastings and Martha Content Sharp, some with their parents,
- Family portrait
- Individual portraits of Waitstill and Martha Sharp
- Photos of Waitstill Sharp in Pilzen, Spring 1946.
- Photos of Waitstill Sharp receiving a gift from school children in Prague, October 1946.
- Photo of Waitstill Sharp in Palestine
- Photo of Yehuda Bacon

Folder 5: Photographs and Postcards

Includes:

- Photos of Martha Sharp
- Photograph of a young woman, possibly Martha Content Sharp
- Postcards from Czechoslovakia and France
- Copies of Yehuda Bacon paintings

Folder 6: Rosemarie Feigl Materials

Journal which seems to be written by Eva's father (the opening letter, written to Martha Sharp, is not signed but the writer says she is writing about the events of his daughter's life). There are a few dated entries (10/21/40, 12/25/41, 1/16/42), but most seem to be undated. In English, German, and French.

French travel papers for Eva Feigl, age 14 (with photo)

"Affidavit in Lieu of Passport" for Eva Esther Rosemarie Feigl, signed by Myles Standish, Vice Consul of the United States of America, November 6 1940.

Photos:

- Great grandfather, Frederich Winter
- Grandfather, Joseph Heimler
- Grandparents Helene and Joseph Heimler
- Rosemarie Feigl (age 6) and her father at her maternal grandparents' house outside Vienna
- Rosemarie Feigl and her father in Marseille, 1939 or 1940
- Rosemarie Feigl at age 12
- Rosemarie Feigl, no age or date given
- Rosemarie Feigl in 1941
- Memorial for the 30,000 Jews sent to their death from Paris, 1960s
- House Rosemarie in which Rosemarie lived in Vienna, 2004.