Inventory of the Anita Abeles Freilich Papers, 1929-2008
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Anita Abeles Freilich papers

Date(s) 1929-2008

Creator: Freilich, Anita Abeles, 1930-

Abstract: Images, correspondence, and other papers of Anita Abeles Freilich and the Abeles family, a Jewish family that fled Czechoslovakia shortly before the Nazi invasion in 1939. Included is a memoir from Sara Novak, a friend of the Abeleses and a Lithuanian Holocaust survivor, and a DVD recording of the Abeles family's 60th anniversary picnic in 1998. Materials document the Abeles family prior to their escape from Czechoslovakia and their attempts to seek restitution.

Extent: 0.1 linear feet
(5 folders)

Repository: Jewish Heritage Collection, Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries
66 George Street
Charleston, SC 29424
Phone: (843) 953-8016
Fax: (843) 953-6319
URL: http://archives.library.cofc.edu

Call Number: Mss 1065-005

Language of Material: Materials in English, Czech, and German

Biographical Note

Anita Abeles was born in 1930 in Svinare, Czechoslovakia, to Walter and Zdenka Abeles. The Abeleses were the only Jewish family in Svinare in the pre-war era. In 1938, with the Germans threatening Czechoslovakia, Walter Abeles decided that he and his family must leave the country. He secured Canadian visas for his family by agreeing to a five-year commitment to farm land in Canada.

The Abeleses left Czechoslovakia in March 1939, within a week of the Nazi invasion. They traveled through Germany, France, and England before arriving in Dundas, Ontario, where Walter Abeles was given a farm of 100 acres. After completing his five-year commitment, the family moved to Toronto, where Anita Abeles met Max Freilich on a blind date. They married in 1954 and eventually moved to Greenville, South Carolina.

Collection Overview

Images, correspondence, and other papers of Anita Abeles Freilich and the Abeles family, a Jewish family that fled Czechoslovakia shortly before the Nazi invasion in 1939. Included is a memoir from Sara Novak, a friend of the Abeleses and a Lithuanian Holocaust survivor, and a DVD recording of the Abeles family's 60th anniversary picnic in 1998. Materials document the Abeles family prior to their escape from Czechoslovakia and their attempts to seek restitution.
Collection Arrangement

Materials are described at the folder level.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

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Related Material

Related materials in College of Charleston Special Collections include the Max Freilich papers (Mss 1065-004).

Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person, family, or organization, by topical subject, by place, and by types of material.

Names
Freilich, Anita Abeles, 1930-
Abeles family

Subjects
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Lithuania--Personal narratives
Holocaust survivors
World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees--Czechoslovakia

Places
Svinare (Czech Republic)

Types of Material
Correspondence
Digital images
DVDs
Memoirs
Photocopies
Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Anita Abeles Freilich papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisitions Information

Materials were donated in 2008 by Anita Freilich.

Processing Information

Processed by Rebecca McClure, January 2011.

Encoded by Rebecca McClure, November 2011.

Reviewed and uploaded by Martha McTear, January 2012.

Funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources supported the processing of this collection and encoding of the finding aid.
### Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| Folder 1 | **General, 1938, 2008, undated**  
Included are copies of Freilich's parents' Czechoslovakian passports and field notes from discussions with Freilich. Also included is a handwritten statement from Freilich about the Holocaust. |
| Folder 2 | **Correspondence photocopies, 1939-1940, 1963, undated**  
Included is correspondence in Czech related to Walter Abeles's attempts to obtain restitution for his lost Czechoslovakian property as well as an inventory of goods he sold prior to leaving Czechoslovakia. Also included is a postcard in German from Freilich's grandmother, Kamila Stadler, who later died in Theresienstadt. |
| Folder 3 | **Life during the War, undated**  
Memoir of Sara Novak, a friend of Freilich, detailing her experience as a Jew in Lithuania after the Nazi occupation in 1941, including her imprisonment in the Kovno ghetto and the Stuthoff concentration camp. |
| Folder 4 | **Images, 1929-1941, 1964, undated**  
Digital images on CD and DVD of pre-war photographs of Freilich and her family in Czechoslovakia. Also included are digital images of correspondence. |
| Folder 5 | **Abeles Family 60th Anniversary Picnic DVD, 1998**  
DVD recording of the Abeles family's 60th anniversary picnic held in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1998. |