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Inventory of the Hugo Schiller Papers, 1942-2001

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Hugo Schiller papers
Date(s)	1942-2001
Creator:	Schiller, Hugo, 1931-
Abstract:	Correspondence, newspaper clippings, memoirs, and other papers of Hugo Schiller. Materials relate to Schiller's rescue from the Gurs concentration camp in France by Alice Resch Synnestvedt, a Quaker volunteer from Norway; his time at Aspet, the Quaker children's home; and his eventual escape from France to the United States. Correspondence includes letters from his parents and aunt while he was at Aspet, discussing their life in Gurs and advice for Schiller after his rescue.
Extent:	0.25 linear feet (8 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 1065-006
Language of Material:	Materials in English, French, and German

Biographical Note

Hugo Schiller was born August 18, 1931, to a Jewish family in Grünsfeld, Germany. In 1938, his father was arrested and sent to Dachau for eight weeks, after which he was released and forced to sell his business. Schiller and his parents were deported to the French concentration camp of Gurs in 1940. After spending about six months in the camp, the Toulouse delegation of the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker group, offered to take children under the age of 15 to a different camp. With his parents' consent, nine-year-old Schiller was one of 48 children taken to a children's home in Aspet, France. His parents were eventually deported to Auschwitz and killed.

In 1942, Schiller was one of eight children at Aspet chosen to be smuggled out of France. Sent to the United States, Schiller lived with his paternal uncle and his family in Baltimore, Maryland, working in his uncle's upholstery business before being drafted into the Korean War. After completing his service in the army infantry, he obtained his degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. While in Baltimore, he met his wife, Eleanor Cohan, and they married in 1956. In 1967, they moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Collection Overview

Correspondence, newspaper clippings, memoirs, and other papers of Hugo Schiller. Materials relate to Schiller's rescue from the Gurs concentration camp by Alice Resch Synnestvedt, a Quaker volunteer from Norway; his time at Aspet, the Quaker children's home; and his eventual escape from France to the United States. Correspondence includes letters from his parents and aunt while he was at Aspet, discussing their life in Gurs and advice for Schiller after his rescue. Also includes an excerpt from a manuscript by Synnestvedt detailing her experience with Gurs and the children she rescued and placed in Aspet.

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 a curriculum package and resource guide for *South Carolina voices: lessons from the Holocaust* (Mss 1070, D804.3 .S34 1992). This documentary includes videotaped interviews with South Carolina Holocaust survivors, including Hugo Schiller.

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

Schiller, Hugo, 1931-
Synnestvedt, Alice Resch, 1908-
Gurs (Concentration camp)

Subjects

American Friends Service Committee
Hidden children (Holocaust)--France
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
Holocaust survivors
Jewish children in the Holocaust--France
World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities
World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue
World War, 1939-1945--Personal narratives, Norwegian

Places

Gurs (France)
Aspet (France)

Types of Material

Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Facsimiles (reproductions)
Memoirs
Photocopies
School yearbooks

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Hugo Schiller papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisitions Information

Materials were donated in 2004 by Hugo Schiller.

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

Folder 1	<p>General, circa 1942</p> <p>Includes photocopies of Schiller's French Sauf-Conduit document (used in place of a passport) with his American visa, photocopies of lists of Aspet children and people on transport #17, and photocopies of photos of Schiller with five other Aspet children and the exterior of the Aspet school. Also includes a photocopy of a memorandum from Donald A. Lowrie, an American representative of the YMCA, to Tracy Strong, General Secretary of the World's Committee of the YMCA, regarding "present measures applied to foreign Jews in non-occupied France."</p>
Folder 2	<p>Personal correspondence, circa 1942</p> <p>Five letters from Schillers' parents and aunt, all written in German, discussing their life in Gurs and advice for Schiller after his rescue.</p>
Folder 3	<p>Personal correspondence translations, circa 1942</p> <p>Translations of personal correspondence in folder 2.</p>
Folder 4	<p>Personal correspondence facsimiles, circa 1942</p> <p>Facsimiles of personal correspondence in folder 2.</p>
Folder 5	<p>General correspondence, 1945, 1989-1998, undated</p> <p>Correspondence in English and German with and between other Aspet children, as well as to Alice Resche Synnesvedt.</p>
Folder 6	<p>"From Tyssedale to the War in Southern France," 1999</p> <p>Excerpt from the manuscript "From Tyssedale to the War in Southern France" by Alice Resch Synnestvedt, detailing her experience with Gurs and the children she rescued and placed in Aspet; also includes photocopies of the notes she used to write the manuscript.</p>
Folder 7	<p>Chabad Academy yearbook, 1998</p> <p>Chabad Academy 1998 yearbook, which includes newspaper articles about the academy's butterfly project which honored the 1.2 million children victims of the Holocaust and was spearheaded by Schiller's wife, Eleanor, a teacher at the academy.</p>
Folder 8	<p>Newspaper clippings, circa 1942, 1984, 1998, 2001</p> <p>Newspaper clippings about Alice Resch Synnestvedt's trip to Myrtle Beach in 1998 as well as articles about Schiller's public speaking on the Holocaust. Also included is a 1984 German newspaper clipping about Gurs and the rescue of Jewish children and a circa 1942 newspaper clipping about the docking of the <i>Nyassa</i> in Baltimore.</p>