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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Inventory of the Vera Nathans Semel Papers, 1830-1996

Addlestone Library, Special Collections
College of Charleston
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Charleston, SC 29424 USA
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Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary

Title:	Vera Nathans Semel papers
Date(s)	1830-1996
Creator:	Semel, Vera Nathans, 1943-
Abstract:	Photographs, birth certificates, marriage certificates, identity cards, passports, and other papers of Vera Nathans Semel, a Dutch Jew who survived World War II in hiding. Most papers, including birth and marriage certificates, relate to Nathans's maternal family, the Paerls. Pre-war photographs show Nathans's maternal grandparents and uncle in Amsterdam; post-war photographs show her, her parents, husband, and children in Beverwijk and Bussum, both in the Netherlands, and in Scarsdale, New York.
Extent:	0.25 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 1065-016
Language of Material:	Materials in Dutch and English

Biographical Note

Vera Nathans was born in Amsterdam, Netherlands, on August 1, 1943. Her parents, Ans and Hemmy Nathans, were forced to place her in hiding with two nurses from a children's hospital in Haarlem, Netherlands, before they were deported to Bergen-Belsen. Nathans was hidden with two other children, including a boy nearly the same age named Nico Visjager. One of the nurses, Corrie Blauuw, claimed that Nathans and Visjager were her illegitimate twins. Nathans's parents survived Bergen-Belsen and Vera rejoined them in Beverwijk, Netherlands.

Nathans married Sandy Semel in 1965 in Bussum, Netherlands. The couple relocated to Scarsdale, New York, and had three children, Susan, David, and Adam.

Collection Overview

Photographs, birth certificates, marriage certificates, identity cards, passports, and other papers of Vera Nathans Semel, a Dutch Jew who survived World War II in hiding. Most papers, including birth and marriage certificates, relate to Nathans's maternal family, the Paerls. Pre-war photographs show Nathans's maternal grandparents and uncle in Amsterdam; post-war photographs show her, her parents, husband, and children in Beverwijk and Bussum, both in the Netherlands, and in Scarsdale, New York.

Collection Arrangement

Materials are described at the folder level.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

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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
Semel, Vera Nathans, 1943-
Paerl family

Subjects
Hidden children (Holocaust)--Netherlands
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)
Holocaust survivors--Netherlands
Jewish children in the Holocaust--Netherlands
World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities

Places
Amsterdam (Netherlands)
Beverwijk (Netherlands)
Bussum (Netherlands)
Scarsdale (N.Y.)

Types of Material
Birth certificates
Black-and-white negatives
Black-and-white slides
Diplomas
Identity cards
Marriage certificates
Passports
Personal correspondence
Photograph albums
Photographs
Photocopies

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Vera Nathans Semel papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisitions Information

Materials were donated in 2000 by Vera Semel.

Alternate Form of Materials

Digital reproduction available online in the **Lowcountry Digital Library.**

Processing Information

Processed by Rebecca McClure, July 2011.

Encoded by Rebecca McClure, December 2011.

Reviewed and uploaded by Martha McTear, January 2012.

Link to digital library added by Martha McTear, July 2013.

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

Inventory

Folder 1   Certificates and other papers, 1830-1911, 1941, 1961

> Includes birth certificates, marriage certificates, religious honors, and national militia registration for members of the Paerl family, Nathans's maternal relatives. Other items include her mother's false Dutch identification papers and Vera Nathans's Dutch passport.

Folder 2   Photographs, circa 1938-1985

> Pre-war photographs show Nathans's maternal grandparents, Mietje Hymans and Barend Lion Paerl, in Amsterdam, Holland. Post-war photographs show Nathans and family in Holland; Nico Visjager, who was hidden with Nathans during the war; and her husband, Sandy Semel, and children in the United States.

Folder 3   Negatives, 1918-1996

> Negatives of Nathans, her parents, grandparents, sister, husband, children, and nurses who hid her during the war. Also includes negatives of her mother's false Dutch identification papers, Vera Nathans's Dutch passport, and pages from the photo album given to Sandy Semel by nurse Corrie Blaauw.

Folder 4   Slides, 1918-1996

> Slides of material in folder 3.

Folder 5   Photocopies, 1830-1996

> Photocopies of materials in folders 1-3.