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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

## **Inventory of the Kornfeld Family Papers, 1905-1961**

Addlestone Library, Special Collections  
College of Charleston  
66 George Street  
Charleston, SC 29424 USA  
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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Kornfeld family papers
<b>Date(s)</b>	1905-1961
<b>Creator:</b>	Kornfeld family
<b>Abstract:</b>	The collection consists of photographs, passports, immigration records, and other papers of the Kornfeld family of Vienna, Austria. The Kornfelds, fleeing Nazism, immigrated to the United States in 1939.
<b>Extent:</b>	0.1 linear feet (2 folders)
<b>Repository:</b>	Jewish Heritage Collection, Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries 66 George Street Charleston, SC 29424 Phone: (843) 953-8016 Fax: (843) 953-6319 URL: <a href="http://archives.library.cofc.edu">http://archives.library.cofc.edu</a>
<b>Call Number:</b>	Mss 1065-026
<b>Language of Material:</b>	Materials in English, German, Czech, and Italian

## Biographical Note

Alexander and Mathilde Spitz Kornfeld lived in Vienna, Austria, with their son, Walter, prior to World War II. Alexander Kornfeld was a World War I veteran and worked as an executive in a textile business. The German occupation of Austria in 1938 and subsequent persecution of Austrian Jews forced the Kornfeld family to make plans to escape the country.

Mathilde Kornfeld's nephew, Paul Kern, had immigrated to the United States in the 1920s and provided the Kornfeld family with U.S. affidavits for immigration. Walter Kornfeld obtained his American visa in January 1939 and traveled to America aboard the RMS *Queen Mary* in February. Alexander and Mathilde Kornfeld, who received their American visas on August 20, 1939, had difficulty obtaining exit permits from the German government, a problem compounded by the outbreak of war. But in October 1939, the Kornfelds obtained exit permits and tickets for travel to New York aboard the Italian ship SS *Rex*. The Kornfeld family reunited and settled in the Bronx before moving to Athens, Georgia, in 1955, where Walter taught veterinary medicine at the University of Georgia.

## Collection Overview

Photographs, passports, immigration records, and other papers of the Kornfeld family of Vienna, Austria. Also included is Alexander Kornfeld's memoir, which details his family history, his Austrian military service in World War I and subsequent business career, and his struggle to flee Austria with his family at the beginning of World War II. Materials consist of digital images and photocopies.

## Collection Arrangement

Materials are described at the folder level.

## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

### Copyright Notice

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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

Kornfeld family

### Subjects

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)  
World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities  
Holocaust survivors--Austria--Vienna

### Places

Vienna (Austria)

### Types of Material

Digital images  
Memoirs  
Photo CDs  
Photocopies

## Administrative Information

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Kornfeld family papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

### Acquisitions Information

Materials were donated in 2005 and 2008 by Thomas Kornfeld.

### Processing Information

Processed by Rebecca McClure, October 2011.

Encoded by Rebecca McClure, March 2012.

Reviewed and uploaded by Martha McTear, March 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

Images, 1905-1961

Photographs of Alexander Kornfeld, his wife, Mathilde, and their son, Walter. Nearly all photographs were taken in pre-war Vienna and include family portraits and group photographs, including Alexander Kornfeld with his military unit. Other images include the Kornfeld family's German passports, U.S. certificates of naturalization, ghetto money, and other papers. Materials consist of digital images on CD and photocopies.

Folder 2

Memoir of Alexander Kornfeld, undated

Alexander Kornfeld's memoir details his family history, his Austrian military service in World War I and subsequent business career, and his struggle to flee Austria with his family at the beginning of World War II.