Inventory of the Kornfeld Family Papers, 1905-1961
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Kornfeld family papers
Date(s) 1905-1961
Creator: Kornfeld family
Abstract: 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.
Extent: 0.1 linear feet
(2 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 1065-026
Language of Material: 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.

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Folder 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Images, 1905-1961</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Folder 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Memoir of Alexander Kornfeld, undated</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
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</table>