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Inventory of the Rudolf Herz Papers, 1944-2011

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Rudolf Herz papers
Date(s)	1944-2011
Creator:	Herz, Rudolf, 1925-2011
Abstract:	The collection consists of manuscripts, correspondence, interviews on videocassette and DVD, photographs, and other papers of Rudolf "Rudy" Herz, a native of Stommeln, Germany, who survived incarceration in Theresienstadt, Auschwitz, and other concentration camps during World War II. After immigrating to the United States in 1946, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.
Extent:	2.33 linear feet (2 document boxes, 1 flat box, 5 videocassettes)
Repository:	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 1065-050
Language of Material:	Materials in English, German, and Czech

Biographical Note

Rudolf "Rudy" Herz (1925-2011) was born in Stommeln, Germany, son of Ernst and Karoline Herz. In 1942, he and his entire family, including his parents, grandmother, four brothers, and a sister, were deported by train to Theresienstadt concentration camp outside of Prague. Herz stayed in Theresienstadt until May 1944, at which point he, his parents, and his siblings were sent to Auschwitz; his grandmother died while in Theresienstadt.

In July 1944, Herz and his older brother, Alfred, were selected for labor in a camp near Dresden, Germany, where they worked until February 1945. As the Russian army approached the camp, they were forced to march toward the interior of Germany. From there, they were sent by train to Mauthausen, then Gusen, deadly work camps in Austria. By the end of April, having seen SS guards at the camp destroy technical drawings for the planes produced there, Herz knew that Allied forces were near. The guards soon abandoned their posts and fled the camp.

On May 5, 1945, two days before Germany surrendered, American troops arrived at Gusen and liberated the prisoners. Herz made his way to nearby Linz, Austria, seeking medical treatment. He traveled to Holland, then trekked to France, joining a group that planned to settle in Israel. However, after he learned that his younger brother Karl-Otto had survived the war and immigrated to the United States, he decided to follow him. Herz served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and eventually settled in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina with his wife, Ursula Syré Herz, whom he married in France in 1964.

Collection Overview

The collection consists of manuscripts, correspondence, interviews on videocassette and DVD, photographs, and other papers of Rudolf "Rudy" Herz, a native of Stommeln, Germany, who survived incarceration in Theresienstadt, Auschwitz, and other concentration camps during World War II. After immigrating to the United States in 1946, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Collection Arrangement

Materials are described at the folder level.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

Copyright Notice

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Related Material

Related materials in College of Charleston Special Collections include three oral history interviews with Herz, Mss 1035-099 (1996), Mss 1035-251 (2001), and Mss 1035-349 (2011).

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

- Herz, Rudolf, 1925-2011
- Auschwitz (Concentration camp)
- Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)

Subjects

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

Places

- Stommeln (Pulheim, Germany)

Types of Material

- Black-and-white photographs
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Color photographs
- Correspondence
- Costumes (character dress)
- DVDs
- Letters (correspondence)
- Manuscripts (document genre)
- Notes
- Photocopies
- Translations (documents)
- Typescripts
- Videocassettes

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Rudolf Herz papers, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisitions Information

Materials were donated in 2012 by Ursula Syré Herz, wife of Rudolf Herz.

Processing Information

Processed by Rebecca McClure, September 2013.

Encoded by Rebecca McClure, October 2013.

Reviewed, edited, and uploaded by Martha McTear, December 2013.

Inventory

Box 1 Folder 1	Photographs, 1952, 2010-2011, undated
	Two photographs of Rudy Herz in Korea during the war. Also included are two military insignia used by Herz's unit.
Box 1 Folder 2	"1945", 2008, undated
	Manuscripts, typescripts, and notes related to "1945," a short memoir by Herz describing events immediately after the liberation of Mauthausen, where Herz was imprisoned.
Box 1 Folder 3	"The Traverse Flute of Frederick Wilhelm II", 1999, undated
	Annotated typescripts and notes related to "The Traverse Flute of Frederick Wilhelm II", a short memoir in which Herz describes hearing a radio program that was accidentally broadcast over the public address system in an unnamed camp.
Box 1 Folder 4	Manuscripts and notes, 1999-2008, undated
	Miscellaneous manuscripts, poems, and other writings by Herz, mostly handwritten.
Box 1 Folder 5	Theresienstadt letters, 1944, undated
	Color photocopies of Herz's letters and postcards, in French and German, to Lilly Schörpner.
Box 1 Folder 6	Correspondence, Hermann Gurfinkel and Dieter and Irene Corbach, 1980, 1990-1996, undated
	Letters, clippings, and other ephemera in German from Hermann Gurfinkel and Dieter and Irene Corbach.
Box 1 Folder 7	Correspondence, Hans Krasa Initiative, 1987-1999
	Letters, clippings, and ephemera in German and Czech from and relating to the Initiative Hans Krasa and the Terezin Initiative, associations created to educate the public about Theresienstadt.
Box 1 Folder 8	Correspondence, Papst-Johannes XXIII-Schule, 2010
	Letters and posters in German from students at Papst-Johannes XXIII-Schule in Stommeln, Germany, Herz's hometown. The students posted flyers in Stommeln to commemorate four Jewish children from the town who were killed during World War II, including three Herz children.
Box 1 Folder 9	Miscellaneous correspondence in English, 1988-2011
Box 1 Folder 10	Miscellaneous correspondence in German and Czech, 1999-2011, undated
Box 1 Folder 11	Hate mail, 1993, 1995, undated
	Antisemitic clippings and pamphlets, some with annotations, mailed to Herz from anonymous senders.

- Box 1 Folder 12 **Clippings in English, 1992-2009**
Photocopies of newspaper and magazine articles, including two letters to the editor written by Herz.
- Box 1 Folder 13 **Clippings in German, 1988, 2004-2011, undated**
Photocopies of newspaper and magazine articles and book excerpts.
- Box 1 Folder 14 **German translations, 2011**
Translations of some written German items in the collection, including clippings and book excerpts.
- Box 1 Folder 15 **Biographical information, 1943, 1945, 2000-2013, undated**
Includes eulogies of Herz written by Theodore Rosengarten and Paul Lawton, and a program from his funeral, held on October 24, 2011. Also included are copies of a program from a 1943 performance of Turandot in Theresienstadt and additional biographical information about Herz provided by his wife, Ursula Syré Herz, and daughter Chantal Herz Fryer.
- Box 2 Folder 1 **Stommeln lecture, 2011**
Lecture in German given by Rudy Herz while visiting the Papst-Johannes XXIII-Schule in Stommeln, Germany. Lecture is divided over two DVDs.
- Box 2 Folder 2 **Stommeln students' project, 2011**
Materials on DVD created by students of the Papst-Johannes XXIII-Schule in Stommeln, Germany, including documents, correspondence, and videos related to their Holocaust remembrance project. Translations of selected video interviews with Stommeln residents regarding the project are included. Two copies on DVD.
- Box 2 Folder 3 ***Hier und Heute*, 1986**
Report from the German television program *Hier und Heute* about the Jews in Stommeln, including an interview with Rudy Herz. Included is an English translation of the report. Two copies on DVD.
- Box 2 Folder 4 ***Pulheimer Beiträge zur Geschichte*, 2009**
Collection of essays in German about Pulheimer history. Rudy Herz and the Herz family are discussed on pages 279-280.
- Box 2 Folder 5 ***Juden in Stommeln, Teil 1*, 1983**
Part one of a two-part history in German of the Jewish community in Stommeln and the nearby city of Cologne.
- Box 2 Folder 6 ***Stommeln*, 2003**
Illustrated book in German about Stommeln.
- Box 2 Folder 7 **Guestbook, 2011**

Guestbook presented to Rudy Herz during his 2011 visit to Papst-Johannes XXIII-Schule in Stommeln.

Box 3

Reproduction of a concentration camp uniform shirt, undated

Videotape 1065-050-v01,
1065-050-v02

South Carolina Council on the Holocaust interview, undated

(JHC Videocassettes Box 5)

Two copies of an oral history interview with Rudy Herz.

Videotape 1065-050-v03,
1065-050-v04

Seared Souls: Voices from the Holocaust, 1997

(JHC Videocassettes Box 5)

Two copies of an SCETV documentary about Holocaust survivors who settled in South Carolina.

Videotape 1065-050-v05

Terezin: Resistance and Revival, 2003

(JHC Videocassettes Box 5)

Documentary about prisoner art at Terezin and how it was used as propaganda by the Nazis.