

NELLY ROSSMANN FAMILY PAPERS, 1897-1990
2005.564.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW
Washington, DC 20024-2126
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Descriptive summary

Title: Nelly Rossmann family papers

Dates: 1897-1990 [bulk 1932-1947]

Accession number: 2005.546.1

Creator: Rossmann, Nelly, 1899-1957.

Extent: 1 linear ft. (1 box, 1 oversize box)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: The collection primarily documents Nelly Rossmann's career as a graphic artist in Frankfurt, Germany. Included are clippings of her artwork that appeared in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* until she was fired in 1935 for being Jewish; other samples of her artwork including a homemade book of clippings of maps and Friends Worldwide Service pamphlets; family history documents; her diary from 1916-1917; notebooks of hers and her brother Wilhelm (Willy) Schwabacher; family photographs; a post-war photograph album of family life in England; and her son Michael Rossmann's German passport from 1935.

Languages: German, English

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Nelly Rossmann family papers (2005.546.1), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: The collection was donated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by Michael G. Rossmann in 2005.

Related materials: Nelly Rossmann family collection contains artifacts 2005.546.2-121 related to the family.

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Adam Fielding, April 2017

Biographical note

Nelly Rossmann (born Cornelia Bertha Schwabacher, 1899-1957) was born on 14 February 1899 in Frankfurt, Germany to Anna Cahn and Heinrich Schwabacher. Heinrich was a wealthy merchant and rare coin dealer. She had one brother, Wilhelm (Willy, 1897-1972). On 30 January 1930, Nelly married Alexandre Sasha Rossmann. Alexandre came from a wealthy non-Jewish family in Wiesbaden. Some of his family were anti-Semitic and members of the Nazi Party. Their son, Michael was born on 30 July 1930. Nelly and Alexandre divorced in 1933, and Nelly and Michael lived with Nelly's parents in Frankfurt. Nelly worked as a graphic artist for the *Frankfurter Zeitung*. She also became a Quaker.

In 1935 Nelly was fired from the *Frankfurter Zeitung* after a government decree ruled Jews could no longer work in the publishing industry. She then opened a crafts studio to teach Jewish children in the area. In December 1938, due to increased anti-Semitism Nelly sent Michael to a Quaker school in the Netherlands. Nelly's parents immigrated to London in early 1939 and lived with Nelly's maternal aunt, but Nelly was hesitant to leave Germany. Michael returned home from the Netherlands in the summer of 1939, and in July they visited her family in London. Shortly before Michael was to return to school, Germany invaded Poland and they remained in London. Nelly worked as a graphic artist for *Die Zeitung*, a London-based German language newspaper. Michael got a scholarship to a Quaker boarding school in Essex, and remained there for the duration of the war.

Nelly and Michael became British citizens in 1945. Michael received his Ph.D in Chemical Crystallography from the University of Glasgow in 1956 and pursued a career in academia. He married Audrey Pearson, and they immigrated to the United States in by the early 1960s, settling in Lafayette, Indiana.

Scope and content of collection

The collection primarily documents Nelly Rossmann's career as a graphic artist in Frankfurt, Germany. Included are clippings of her artwork that appeared in the *Frankfurter Zeitung* until she was fired in 1935 for being Jewish; other samples of her artwork including a homemade book of clippings of maps and Friends Worldwide Service pamphlets; family history documents; her diary from 1916-1917; notebooks of hers and her brother Wilhelm (Willy) Schwabacher; family photographs; a post-war photograph album of family life in England; and her son Michael Rossmann's German passport from 1935.

System of arrangement

The collection is arranged as one series. Folders are arranged alphabetically, and documents are arranged chronologically.

Indexing terms

Person:

Rossmann, M. G. (Michael G.), 1930-
Rossmann, Nelly Schwabacher.
Schwabacher, Willy.

Corporate:

Topical Subject:

Jewish women artists--Germany.
Jews--Germany--History--1933-1945.
Refugees, Jewish--Great Britain.
World War, 1939-1945--Refugees--Great Britain.

Geography:

Germany--Emigration and immigration--History--1933-1945.
Great Britain--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

Genre/Form:

Posters.
Photograph albums.
Scrapbooks.
Passports.
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
Diaries.
Photographs.

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Title
1	1	Family papers, 1897-1972
1	2	Notebook, circa 1922
1	3	Notebook given to Nelly Rossmann and Wilhelm Schwabacher, undated
1	4	Photographs, circa 1930s-circa 1940s
2	1	Photograph album, 1952-circa 1955
1	5	Rossmann, Michael: Passport, German, 1935
		Rossmann, Nelly:
1	6	Art samples, circa 1920s-1942
2	2	Book of clippings of maps, 1941-1945
1	7-9	Clippings, 1932-1945 (3 folders)
1	10	Diary, 1916-1917
1	11	Friends' Worldwide Service pamphlets, 1943-1947
1	12	Letter to Else (last name unknown), 1935; 1990