

ELIZABETH MARGOSCHES FAMILY PAPERS, 1888-2010
2002.436.1

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

Title: Elizabeth Margosches family papers

Dates: 1888-2010

Accession number: 2002.436.1

Creator: Margosches family

Additional creator: Margosches, Elizabeth, 1947-

Extent: 8.3 linear foot (15 boxes, 1 book enclosure, 3 oversize folders)

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

Abstract: The Elizabeth Margosches family papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, books and other printed materials, design artwork, immigration files, restitution files, and subject files documenting the lives of the Margosches and Reik families in Czechoslovakia, France, England, the United States, and Brazil before, during, and after World War II. The papers are particularly strong in documenting Karl and Irene Margosches' efforts to leave Czechoslovakia and their eventual immigration to the United States. The papers also contain a unique diary that Helene Reik composed in Theresienstadt on the backs and in the margins of correspondence and photographs she had brought to the camp or received in the camp.

Languages: English, German, Czech, French, Italian

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), Elizabeth Margosches family papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Elizabeth Margosches donated the Elizabeth Margosches family papers to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2002, 2012, and 2013.

Custodial history: Gerda Reik Lanzer (1918-2005), who was Helene Reik's niece and also imprisoned in Theresienstadt, saved Helene Reik's Theresienstadt materials and gave them to Elizabeth Margosches after the war.

Related materials: Elizabeth Margosches also donated a number of buttons, coins, pencils, sewing materials, and other items Helene Reik kept with her at Theresienstadt as well as the wallets and pouch she kept them in to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Some of the photographs Helene Reik used for her diary have been digitized and can be viewed on the Museum's website.

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

Processing history: Julie Schweitzer, November 2014

Biographical note

Irene Reik (1912-1992) was a designer and architect born in Troppau (Opava, Czech Republic) to Berthold and Helene Reik. She emigrated from Czechoslovakia to England in 1939, worked in fashion and design, and married Karl Gerhard Margosches (1911-1993) in 1942. Karl was born in Brünn (Brno, Czech Republic) to B. M. (Max) and Elizabeth Margosches. He emigrated from Czechoslovakia to France in 1938 and then to England in 1942, and worked in chemical engineering. The couple had their only child, Elizabeth, in 1947, and the family immigrated to the United States in 1948, settling in Princeton.

Berthold Reik died before the war, and Helene Reik was deported to Theresienstadt in January 1942 where she perished in 1943. Irene Reik had two brothers, Kurt and Hans, and a sister, Margarete. Kurt Reik married Charlotte (Mucky) Reif, emigrated to Brazil in 1938, had daughter Margarida in 1939, and died in 1942. Margarete Reik emigrated to England with Irene, married Ludwig Weil, and had son Frederick Kurt. Hans Reik emigrated in 1939, married Ruth Berlowitz, and had children Michael and Miriam.

Max Margosches died before the war, and his wife, Elizabeth, was deported to Theresienstadt in January 1942 along with their daughter Betty (Gerda), and both are presumed to have perished in death camps. Karl Margosches' previous fiancée, Herta Langerova, was deported from Olmutz (Olomouc) to Theresienstadt in 1942 and then to Maly Trostinec where she perished.

Scope and content of collection

The Elizabeth Margosches family papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, books and other printed materials, design artwork, immigration files, restitution files, and subject files documenting the lives of the Margosches and Reik families in Czechoslovakia, France, England, the United States, and Brazil before, during, and after World War II. The papers are particularly strong in documenting Karl and Irene Margosches' efforts to leave Czechoslovakia and eventually immigrate to the United States. The papers also contain a unique diary that Helene Reik composed in Theresienstadt on the backs and in the margins of correspondence and photographs she had brought to the camp or received in the camp.

Biographical materials primarily consist of identification papers, forms, certificates, correspondence, and clippings documenting the lives of Irene and Karl Margosches in Czechoslovakia, France, England, and the United States. This series also includes a handful of folders documenting the lives of Karl's father B. M. (Max) Margosches, his sister Betty Margosches, his first fiancée Herta Langerova, Irene Margosches' sister Margarete Reik, and Karl and Irene's daughter Elizabeth.

Books consist of five German volumes on music, science, theater, and history owned by Karl Margosches.

Correspondence primarily consists of letters and postcards between Irene and Karl Margosches and their family members and friends. The collection also includes correspondence between Helene Reik and her children and Kurt Reik and his family. Topics include plans to emigrate, descriptions of daily life in wartime and postwar Czechoslovakia, England, Brazil, and Canada, and the Margosches family's postwar life in Princeton. Additional correspondence between Helene Reik and her children can be found among Helene Reik's Theresienstadt materials.

Design artwork by Irene Margosches consists of student assignments from the Kunstgewerbeschule in Vienna in the 1930s and professional work created in Czechoslovakia and England in the 1930s and 1940s. The artwork includes pencil, ink, and water color sketches, studies, and designs for clothing, costumes, and furniture. Small fabric samples are attached to some of the designs.

Helene Reik's Theresienstadt materials consist primarily of family correspondence and family photographs Reik brought with her to Theresienstadt or received while there. She used the margins and versos of many of these records to keep diary entries documenting her time at Theresienstadt in the hospital and nursing home, the illnesses she suffered, the operations she underwent, her memories of her family life before the camp, and her hopes and fears for herself and her children.

Immigration files consist of affidavits, applications, correspondence, forms, invoices, and receipts documenting the Margosches' movements from Czechoslovakia to France, England, and the United States.

Photographic materials include a Margosches family album, two travel albums documenting vacations in Germany and Italy, a photo album documenting some of Irene Margosches' interior designs from 1930s Czechoslovakia, and loose photographs of Karl and Betty Margosches, the Max B. Margosches family in Canada, and Helene, Charlotte, and Margarida Reik. Additional Reik family photographs can be found among the Helene Reik's Theresienstadt materials.

Printed materials consist of chemistry articles, some by B. M. (Max) Margosches and Karl Margosches; clippings on immigration and refugee issues, finding work, and Irene Margosches' clothing designs; British government publications on wartime provisions, labor, and education; brochures from English hotels; and programs from cultural events in England.

Restitution files consist of correspondence, applications, bank records, and forms documenting the Margosches and Reik families' efforts to receive restitution for property, furnishings, jewelry, securities, insurance policies, and pensions confiscated, lost, interrupted, or damaged during the war.

Subject files consist of bibliographies and patent research regarding chemical processes, research into the Holocaust fates of Karl Margosches' mother and sister, unsuccessful patent applications by Karl Margosches, a group of recipes, a handful of prescriptions and pharmacy envelopes, addresses, and an estimate for the conservation of damaged portraits.

System of arrangement

The Elizabeth Margosches family papers are arranged as ten series:

- Series 1: Biographical materials, 1918-1975
- Series 2: Books, 1888-approximately 1930s
- Series 3: Correspondence, 1936-1952
- Series 4: Design artwork by Irene Margosches, 1930s-1940s
- Series 5: Helene Reik's Theresienstadt materials, approximately 1930-1943
- Series 6: Immigration, 1938-1981
- Series 7: Photographic materials, 1928-1942
- Series 8: Printed materials, 1900-1979
- Series 9: Restitution, 1939-1980
- Series 10: Subject files, approximately 1920s-2010 (bulk 1930s-1940s)

Indexing terms

Theresienstadt (Concentration camp)

Jews--Czech Republic--Brno.

Jews--Czech Republic--Opava.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Czech Republic--Terezín (Ústecký kraj)--Personal narratives.

Concentration camp inmates--Czech Republic--Terezín (Ústecký kraj)--Diaries.

Holocaust victims' families.

Jewish refugees--France--Lens.

Jewish refugees--Brazil--Rio de Janeiro.

Jewish refugees--England--Slough.

Jewish refugees--England--Oxford.

Jewish refugees--England--London.

Jewish refugees--New Jersey--Princeton.

Chemical engineers--Refugees.

Fashion designers--Refugees.

Interior decorators--Refugees.

Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Reparations.

Czechoslovakia--Emigration and immigration--Government policy--20th century.

United States--Emigration and immigration--History--20th century.

Brno (Czech Republic)

Opava (Czech Republic)

Lens (France)

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Slough (England)

Oxford (England)

London (England)

Princeton (N.J.)

Drawings

Sketches

Watercolors

Photographs

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Biographical materials, 1918-1975

Box/Folder	Title
1.1-1.2	Langerova, Herta, Efforts to find a position in France, 1939 (2 folders)
1.3-1.4	Margosches, B. M. (Max), Obituaries, 1928, 1931 (2 folders)
1.5	Margosches, Betty, Baptism, 1939
1.6-1.7	Margosches, Betty, Coursework in Nancy (2 folders)
1.8-1.11	Margosches, Betty, Efforts to secure a French visa, 1937-1939 (4 folders)
1.12	Margosches, Betty, <i>Poesiebuch</i> , 1928-1937
1.13	Margosches, Betty, Student records, 1933, 1939
1.14	Margosches, Elizabeth, Birth certificate, 1947, 1975
1.15	Margosches, Elizabeth, Medical records, 1947-1948
1.16	Margosches, Irene Reik, Bank records, 1938-1941
1.17	Margosches, Irene Reik, Czechoslovak state and police certificates, 1918, 1930, 1938-1939
1.18	Margosches, Irene Reik, Efforts to find work, 1936, 1947-948
1.19	Margosches, Irene Reik, Employment history, 1934-1939, 1947-1948
1.20	Margosches, Irene Reik, Identification papers, approximately 1947, 1951, 1957, 1975
1.21	Margosches, Irene Reik, London County Council, 1947
1.22	Margosches, Irene Reik, Medical records, 1942-1947
1.23	Margosches, Irene Reik, Notebook, approximately 1939-1948
1.24	Margosches, Irene Reik, Property, 1939, 1951
1.25	Margosches, Irene Reik, Registration, 1940-1941
1.26	Margosches, Irene Reik, Student records, 1918-1934, 1957-1961
1.27	Margosches, Irene Reik, Miscellaneous, approximately 1939-1961
2.1	Margosches, Karl, Aliens War Service Department, 1942

2.2	Margosches, Karl, Bank records, 1945-1946
2.3	Margosches, Karl, Czechoslovak state certificates, 1939-1946
2.4-2.14	Margosches, Karl, Efforts to find work, 1931-1951 (11 folders)
2.15-2.19	Margosches, Karl, Employment history, 1932-1946 (5 folders)
2.20	Margosches, Karl, England, 1940-1942
2.21	Margosches, Karl, France, 1939-1940, 1947
2.22-2.26	Margosches, Karl, Identification papers, 1932, 1938-1948 (5 folders)
3.1	Margosches, Karl, Medical records, 1925, 1941-1942, 1947
3.2	Margosches, Karl, Military records, 1938-1943
3.3	Margosches, Karl, Professional societies, 1940-1948
3.4	Margosches, Karl, Student records, 1929-1937, 1942-1944
3.5-3.6	Margosches, Karl, Taxes in England, 1941-1948 (2 folders)
3.7	Reik, Margarete, Student records, 1928

Series 2: Books, 1888-approximately 1930s

Box/Folder	Title
12	<i>Musikalische Jugendpost</i> , with inscription by Armin Holzer, 1888
3.8	Tropitz, Albert A., <i>Wie baue ich mir einen Kristall-detektorempfänger?</i> , approximately 1920s
3.9	Schwaighofer, Dr. Anton, <i>Tabellen zur Bestimmung einheimischer Samenpflanzen und Gefäßsporenpflanzen</i> , 1922
3.10	<i>Krauss, Dr. Rudolf, Modernes Schauspielbuch: Ein Führer durch den deutschen Theaterspielplan der neueren Zeit</i> , with 1928 inscription by Elizabeth Margosches, 1927
3.11	Steinitz, Dr. Ernst, <i>Künstner's Hilfsbüchlein für das Studium der Geschichte, III. Teil: Neuzeit. Vom westfälischen Frieden bis zur Gegenwart</i> , approximately 1930s

Series 3: Correspondence, 1936-1952

Box/Folder	Title
3.12-3.13	Congratulations on Karl and Irene Margosches' marriage, 1942-1943 (2 folders)
3.14	Holzer, Armin, 1945-1952
3.15	Langerova, Herta, approximately 1939
3.16	Margosches, Irene, Condolences on Kurt's death, 1942
3.17	Margosches, Irene from Berl, Hilde, 1938
4.1-4.7	Margosches, Irene from Feyertag, Eric, 1938-1941 (7 folders)
4.8	Margosches, Irene from K., 1940
4.9	Margosches, Irene from Kortshek, Ernst, 1938-1939
4.10	Margosches, Irene from Lamm, Heini, 1938-1939
4.11	Margosches, Irene from Löwy, Johanna (Giovanna), 1936, 1940
4.12	Margosches, Irene from Mannheimer, Berti, 1938-1939
4.13	Margosches, Irene from Olive and Winnie, approximately 1940
4.14-4.15	Margosches, Irene, miscellaneous, 1937-1942, 1947 (2 folders)
4.16	Margosches, Karl, Messages on V-E Day, 1945

4.17-4.18	Margosches, Karl with Bennett, Lord Viscount R. B., 1941-1945 (2 folders)
4.19	Margosches, Karl with Elton, Leo, 1942-1944
4.20	Margosches, Karl with Jilek, Antonín, 1947
4.21	Margosches, Karl with Low, Anna, 1946-1951
4.22	Margosches, Karl with Low-Beer, Hans, 1940-1941
4.23	Margosches, Karl with Margosches, Irene, 1947
4.24-4.26	Margosches, Karl with Margosches, Max B. and Anna W., 1940-1951 (3 folders)
4.27-4.28	Margosches, Karl with the Ministry of Labour and National Service, 1940-1947 (2 folders)
4.29	Margosches, Karl with Mirsky, Samuel, 1942
5.1-5.2	Margosches, Karl with Morak, Josef, 1945-1947 (2 folders)
5.3	Margosches, Karl with Nejeclý, Josef L., 1942-1943
5.4	Margosches, Karl with Novák, Frantisek, 1945-1946
5.5	Margosches, Karl with Podlipný, Jaroslav, 1945-1946
5.6	Margosches, Karl with Růžek, P., 1941
5.7	Margosches, Karl with Sachs, Elizabeth and her family, 1940-1943
5.8	Margosches, Karl with Sachs, Hugo, 1939-1947
5.9-5.11	Margosches, Karl with the Schnabel family, 1940, 1945-1951 (3 folders)
5.12	Margosches, Karl with the Society of Czechoslovak Officers in Paris, 1939
5.13-5.15	Margosches, Karl with Vancl, Antonin and Daisy, 1945-1949 (3 folders)
5.16	Margosches, Karl with Zuckermann, Ottilie, 1950-1951
5.17	Margosches, Karl, miscellaneous, 1939-1948
5.18	Reik, Hans, 1937-1941, 1947-1950
5.19-5.22	Reik, Helene to her children, 1937-1941 (4 folders)
5.23-5.26	Reik, Kurt to his family, 1938-1942 (4 folders)

Series 4: Design artwork by Irene Margosches, 1930s-1940s

Box/Folder	Title
6.1-6.17, OS 1-OS 2	Design artwork by Irene Margosches, 1930s-1940s (19 folders)

Series 5: Helene Reik's Theresienstadt materials, approximately 1930-1943

Box/Folder	Title
7.1	Blank postcards, 1930s-1940s
7.2	Correspondence, Hahn family, 1941-1942
7.3	Correspondence, Lanzer family, 1942
7.4	Correspondence, Lorenz, Ernst, 1942
7.5	Correspondence, Löwy, Johanna, 1942
7.6	Correspondence, Reik family, 1941-1942
7.7	Correspondence, Reik, Kurt, 1938-1942
7.8	Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1938-1942
7.9	Diary written on the backs of envelopes, approximately 1942-1943

7.10	Diary written on the backs and margins of letters from Reik, Kurt dated 1941, approximately 1942-1943
7.11	Diary written on the backs and margins of miscellaneous letters dated 1942-1943, approximately 1942-1943
7.12	Diary written on notepaper, approximately 1942-1943
7.13-7.20	Diary written on the backs and margins of photographs dated 1915, 1929-1941, approximately 1942-1943 (8 folders)
7.21	Diary written on the backs and margins of postcards from Lorenz, Ernst dated 1942-1943, approximately 1942-1943
7.22	Medical records, 1941
7.23	Photographs, Bled and Sistiana, approximately 1938-1942
7.24	Photographs, Margosches, Charlotte and Margarida, approximately 1938-1942
7.25	Photographs, Negatives and slide removed for conservation, approximately 1938-1942
7.26	Preparations for deportation, 1942
7.27	Theresienstadt records, 1942-1943
7.28	Tickets, notes, and residual materials, approximately 1942-1943

Series 6: Immigration, 1938-1981

Box/Folder	Title
8.1	Affidavits, applications, and forms, 1940-1948
8.2-8.3	American Consulate in London, 1940-1947 (2 folders)
8.4	Bohren's Express & Storage, 1948-1949
8.5	Brazil, 1938-1939
8.6	Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, 1948
8.7	Cunard White Star Limited, 1941, 1947-1948
8.8	Czech Refugee Trust Fund, 1939-1942
8.9-8.10	Czechoslovak Embassy in London, 1940-1946 (2 folders)
8.11	Davies, Turner & Co., Ltd., 1945-1948
8.12	Etablissements Weigel & Cie S.A., 1939
8.13-8.14	Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1948-1953 (2 folders)
8.15	Immigration and Naturalization Service, Address Report Cards, 1951-1981
8.16	Packing lists, 1939
8.17	Shipping and transportation, 1939-1948
8.18	Thomas Cook & Son, 1948
8.19	Weill, Robert, 1947-1948
8.20-8.21	Miscellaneous, 1938-1950 (2 folders)

Series 7: Photographic materials, 1928-1942

Box/Folder	Title
13	Germany travel album, 1929
14	Irene Margosches' interior design album, approximately 1936-1937
9.1	Irene Margosches' interior design album, loose items, approximately 1936-197

15	Italy travel album, 1934
9.2	Italy travel album, loose items, 1934
BE 1	Margosches family album, 1928-1939
9.3	Margosches family album, loose items, approximately 1928-1939 (see also negatives in cold storage)
9.4	Margosches, Karl and Betty, 1938-1939
9.5	Margosches, Max B. and his family, 1940-1942
9.6	Reik, Charlotte and Margarida, approximately 1940
9.7	Reik, Helene, approximately 1930s
9.8	Train station, approximately 1930s

Series 8: Printed materials, 1900-1979

Box/Folder	Title
10.1	Articles about chemical processes, 1925-1927, 1945-1946
10.2	Articles by B. M. (Max) Margosches, 1900, 1906, 1923-1929
10.3	Articles by Karl Margosches, approximately 1935-1936
10.4	Bookmark, 1930s
10.5	British government publications, 1941-1946
10.6	Brochures, 1940s
10.7	Clippings, Canada, approximately 1944-1947
10.8	Clippings, Czechoslovak regulations, 1945-1946
10.9	Clippings, Czechoslovakia, approximately 1939-1949
10.10	Clippings, Designs by Irene Margosches, approximately 1935-1939
10.11	Clippings, Lord Bennett, approximately 1941-1947
10.12	Clippings, Refugees and immigration, 1945-1951
10.13	Clippings, Universities and education, 1944-1947
10.14	Clippings, Miscellaneous, 1942-1948
10.15	Programs, approximately 1941-1947, 1979

Series 9: Restitution, 1939-1980

Box/Folder	Title
10.16	Applications, 1939, 1945-1946
10.17	B&B Rest Home, 1971-1974
10.18	Bank statements, 1969-1971, 1977-1980
10.19	Bayrische Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft, 1968-1971
10.20	Bezirksamt Kreuzberg von Berlin, 1968-1970
10.21	Borchardt, Horace K., 1957-1959, 1967-1975
10.22	Ceska Banka Union, 1945-1946
10.23	Gorlitz, Jindrich, 1946-1947
10.24	Landratsamt Passau, 1969
10.25	Lorenz, Ernst and Ružena, 1945-1946
10.26	Meilicke, Heinz and Hohlfeld, Klaus, 1968-1970

10.27	Metzl, William, 1957-1961
10.28	Moll, William, 1967-1969
10.29-10.30	Oberfinanzdirektion Düsseldorf, 1967-1975 (2 folders)
11.1-11.2	Reichl, O. and Peres, A. P., 1969-1972 (2 folders)
11.3-11.4	Reik, Hans, 1946-1947, 1956-1961, 1968 (2 folders)
11.5	Zuckermann, Otilie, 1967-1969
11.6-11.8	Miscellaneous, 1946, 1959-1975 (3 folders)

Series 10: Subject files, approximately 1920s-2010 (bulk 1930s-1940s)

Box/Folder	Title
11.9	Addresses, miscellaneous, approximately 1930s-1950s
11.10-11.15, OS 3	Chemistry, distillation, 1946 (7 folders)
11.16-11.17	Chemistry, ethylene production, approximately 1946 (2 folders)
11.18	Chemistry, graph paper, 1938
11.19	Chemistry, patent applications, 1949
11.20-11.21	Chemistry, patent research, approximately 1943 (2 folders)
11.22	Prescriptions and pharmacy envelopes, approximately 1920s-1930s
11.23	Recipes, approximately 1930s-1940s
11.24	Research into the Holocaust fates of Elisabeth Schlesinger Margosches and Betty Gerta Margosches, 1945-1947
11.25	Miscellaneous, approximately 1930s-1950s