



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Gottlieb and Bodansky Family Papers

NMAH.AC.1245

Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Gottlieb and Bodansky Family Papers
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1245
Date:	1901-1981 undated
Creator:	Bodansky, Lony Gottlieb (Creator) Gottlieb, Camilla Klaber, 1884-1964 Bodansky, Harry (Creator)
Extent:	1.5 Cubic feet (4 boxes)
Language:	Collection is in English. Some materials are written in Hebrew, German, and Italian.
Summary:	The Gottlieb and Bodansky family papers are a collection of correspondence, immigration material, photographs, and ephemera related to the family of Hermann and Camilla Gottlieb and their daughter Lony Gottlieb Bodansky. Hermann and Camilla were interred at Theresienstadt concentration camp by the Nazi government during World War II.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated to the Division of Home and Community Life, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian by Robert Bodansky in August 2011.

Provenance

Collection transferred from the Division of Home and Community Life (Division of Cultural and Community Life) to the Archives Center in September 2011.

Related Materials

Objects related to this acquisition, Camilla's purse, clothing, jewelry, examples of her embroidery, and other objects are housed in the Division of Home and Community Life (now Division of Cultural and Community Life). See accession #: 2011.0164.01-2011.0164.48.

Available Formats

Select items from the collection digitized. See repository for details.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., archives specialist, September and October 2011; supervised by Vanessa Broussard-Simmons, archivist.

Preferred Citation

The Gottlieb and Bodansky Family Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research use. Researchers must handle unprotected photographs with cotton gloves.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Camilla Klauber Gottlieb (1884-1964), nickname "Mia", was born on December 10, 1884 in Vienna, Austria to Ludwig and Caroline Hirsch Klauber. She married Hermann Gottlieb (1875-1943) on August 15, 1918 in Vienna. They had one child, Lony (1919-1970). During the rise of the Nazi government in Germany, efforts were repeatedly made by their daughter, Lony, the Klauber relations in the United States, and Harry Bodansky and his family to secure Camilla and Harry's immigration to the United States. These efforts failed. During World War II, Camilla and her husband were interned in Theresienstadt concentration camp by the Nazi government. Hermann died while in Theresienstadt of natural causes. Camilla was at last allowed to immigrate to the United States in 1946. After her immigration to the United States Camilla lived in New York City with Lony and her son-in-law Harry Bodansky (1919-2009). For a time Camilla worked at home as a hand embroiderer sewing insignia on sweaters and scarves for G.A. Embroidery Company of New York. She moved with her family when they relocated to Kensington, Maryland in 1952. Camilla died in Maryland in 1964 and was interred in the Adas Israel Cemetery in Kensington.

At some point, Camilla acquired a purse. She used this purse as a defacto file cabinet at least until 1952. Within this purse she kept all of the documents detailed in Series 1, Subseries 1.

Harry Bodansky was born on March 19, 1919 in Berlin, Germany and with the rise of Adolf Hitler he and his family moved to Vienna, Austria. He and Lony Gottlieb both attended the same school in Vienna, Austria. Lony immigrated to the United States in 1938. Harry, his parents and brother Ralph had also immigrated to the United States in 1938. Lony and Harry married in 1943 and lived in New York, New York. Harry attended the City College of New York and obtained a degree in economics. He received his master's in economics from Columbia University. He reportedly sold purse handles before becoming a writer on business and economics for a German language publication. The Bodanskys moved to Kensington, Maryland in 1952 when Harry accepted a job with the Commerce Department. They had two sons, Harvey and Robert. Lony died in 1970 and Harry died on May 21, 2009 and was interred in the Adas Israel Cemetery in Kensington.

References

"Harry Bodansky, economist, activist, 90", obituary, *Washington Jewish Week*, May 27, 2009.

"Mr. Harry Bodansky", obituary, Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home, Inc., website, accessed January 31, 2012.

Scope and Contents

The Gottlieb and Bodansky family papers are a collection of letters, diaries, immigration material, photographs, and ephemera related to the family of Herman and Camilla Gottlieb and their daughter Lony Gottlieb Bodansky and her husband Harry Bodansky. Herman and Camilla were interned at Theresienstadt by the Nazis during World War II. Herman died in 1943 while at Terezin and Camilla survived and immigrated

to the United States in 1946. Lony Gottlieb and Harry Bodansky immigrated to the United States in 1938. The greatest portion of the materials in all series and subseries are written in German.

The collection is divided into two series. Each series is arranged by subject and chronologically at the folder level beginning with correspondence arranged by date then followed by other materials arranged chronologically and within each folder chronologically:

Series 1, Camilla Klauber Gottlieb Papers, 1901-1981, undated, is arranged into two subseries: Subseries 1, Purse Contents, 1901-1981, undated and Subseries 2, Papers, 1937-1964, undated.

Subseries 1, Purse Contents, 1901-1981, undated, is arranged with loose purse papers first, then United States War Department Envelope (WDE) documents (in ten folders), then the envelope marked "Mia" envelope (in one folder), all the contents of Camilla's purse. Each grouping begins with correspondence. The correspondence is between relatives and friends in the United States, Germany, Austria, and Palestine (later Israel). In addition to correspondence, this subseries also contains diaries, documents related to Hermann Gottlieb; financial, medical, education, immigration, and employment materials as well as photographs. The one item dated "1981" is a document that was produced earlier but carries dates up to 1981.

Subseries 2, Papers, 1937-1964, undated, contains papers relating to the Gottlieb family but that were not contained within the purse. The subseries begins with correspondence arranged chronologically and then with documents arranged chronologically. In addition to correspondence this series contains a diary for Camilla; obituary files for both Camilla and Hermann, immigration documents, travel papers, financial, loose photographs consisting of snapshots as well as formal portraits and passport photographs, and one photograph album with small snapshots of Camilla, family, and scenery.

Series 2, Bodansky Family, 1933-1964, undated, is arranged chronologically with correspondence heading the series. This series contains material about and generated by Lony Gottlieb Bodansky and her husband Harry Bodansky. The series contains correspondence, diaries, schooling, medical, immigration and travel documents for Lony; immigration materials related to their sustained efforts to secure Camilla Gottlieb status in the United States; financial material; news clippings (obituaries, fashion and a few German language items); ephemera; documents related to Harry Bodansky's efforts on behalf of Gerard T. Oschinsky's desire to immigrate to the United States; one photograph album with unidentified snapshot photographs of Lony and Harry as well as other friends and/or family members taken circa 1930s-1940s. There are also photographs taken at the 1939 New York World's Fair.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1, Camilla Klauber Gottlieb Papers, 1901-1981, undated

Subseries 1, Purse contents, 1901-1981, undated

Subseries 2, Papers, 1937-1964, undated

Series 2, Bodansky Family Papers, 1933-1964, undated

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

World War, 1939-1945

Places:

Theresienstadt (concentration camp)

Names:

Gottlieb, Hermann, 1875-1943

Container Listing

Series 1: Camilla Klauber Gottlieb Papers, 1901-1981, undated

Subseries 1.1: Purse contents, 1901-1981, undated

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence received (purse), 1943
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence and notes (purse), 1945
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence received (purse), 1946-1947
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence received (purse), 1948
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence received (purse), 1949
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence received (purse), 1950
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence received (purse), 1951
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence (purse), undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Notes (purse), 1942
Box 1, Folder 10	Notes and receipts (purse), 1943-1981, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Gottlieb, Hermann (purse), 1901-1943
Box 1, Folder 12	Birth certificate, Klauber, Camilla (purse), 1903
Box 1, Folder 13	Medical (purse), 1915-1952, undated
Box 2	Marriage document, Gottlieb and Klauber, 1918
Box 1, Folder 14	Leather wallet and contents (purse), 1918-1946, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Calendar (purse), 1935
Box 1, Folder 16	Financial (purse), 1938-1951
Box 1, Folder 17	Datebook (purse), 1939
Box 1, Folder 18	Education (purse), 1939-1941
Box 1, Folder 19	Government certificates (purse), 1939-1946

Box 1, Folder 20	Immigration documents (purse), 1941-1946
Box 1, Folder 21	Theresienstadt (purse), 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 22	Theresienstadt ration coupons (purse), undated
Box 1, Folder 23	Employment (purse), 1946-1949
Box 1, Folder 24	Ephemera (purse), 1946 and undated
Box 1, Folder 25	Hebrew-English calendar and reference book (purse), 1951-1952
Box 1, Folder 26	Memorandum book (purse), undated
Box 1, Folder 27	Transport documents, Gottlieb, Hermann and Gottlieb, Camilla (purse), undated
Box 1, Folder 28	Photographs (purse), undated
Box 1, Folder 29	War Department envelope (WDE), undated
Box 1, Folder 30	Correspondence received (WDE), 1945-1951, undated
Box 1, Folder 31	Radiograms (WDE), 1946
Box 1, Folder 32	Bodansky correspondence written (WDE), 1946
Box 1, Folder 33	Gottlieb, Hermann (WDE), 1902-1943, undated
Box 1, Folder 34	Gottlieb, Jakob (WDE), 1918
Box 1, Folder 35	Banking and finance (WDE), 1938-1950, undated
Box 1, Folder 36	Immigration documents (WDE), 1939-1946
Box 1, Folder 37	Varied documents (WDE), 1942-1946, undated
Box 1, Folder 38	Photograph (WDE), undated
Box 1, Folder 39	Medical papers Gottlieb, Camilla (Mia envelope), 1947-1948

Subseries 2.2: Papers, 1937-1964, undated

Box 1, Folder 40	Correspondence received, 1946-1947
Box 1, Folder 41	Correspondence received, 1950-1952

Box 1, Folder 42	Correspondence received, 1957-1958
Box 1, Folder 43	Correspondence received, 1959
Box 1, Folder 44	Correspondence received, 1960
Box 1, Folder 45	Correspondence received, 1961
Box 1, Folder 46	Correspondence received, 1962
Box 1, Folder 47	Correspondence received, 1963
Box 1, Folder 48	Correspondence received, 1964
Box 1, Folder 49	Correspondence received, undated
Box 1, Folder 50	Diary, Gottlieb, Lony, 1937
Box 1, Folder 51	Immigration documents, 1938-1946
Box 1, Folder 52	Gottlieb, Hermann obituaries, 1945
Box 1, Folder 53	Medical papers, 1945
Box 1, Folder 54	Inventory household and personal effects documents, 1946-1947, undated
Box 1, Folder 55	Blank United States citizenship application, 1958
Box 1, Folder 56	Financial, 1960-1963
Box 1, Folder 57	Gottlieb, Camilla, obituaries and funeral register, 1964
Box 1, Folder 58	Photographs, undated
Box 3	Photograph album, 1929, undated

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Series 2: Bodansky Family Papers, 1928-1964, undated

Box 1, Folder 59	Correspondence received, Bodansky, Lony Gottlieb, 1933-1943
Box 1, Folder 60	Correspondence received, Bodansky, Harry, 1943-1966, undated
Box 1, Folder 61	Correspondence received, Bodansky, Lony Gottlieb, 1944-1945
Box 1, Folder 62	Correspondence received from Gottlieb, Camilla, 1943-1945
Box 1, Folder 63	Correspondence written, Bodansky, Lony Gottlieb, 1945, undated
Box 1, Folder 64	Correspondence received from Gottlieb, Camilla, 1946
Box 1, Folder 65	Correspondence received, Bodansky, Lony, undated
Box 1, Folder 66	Condolence correspondence and cards received, 1964
Box 1, Folder 67	News clippings, 1928-1956
Box 1, Folder 68	School book and papers, Gottlieb, Lony, 1937-1939, undated
Box 1, Folder 69	Medical, Gottlieb, Lony, 1938
Box 1, Folder 70	Travel-related documents, Gottlieb, Lony, 1938
Box 1, Folder 72	Immigration, Gottlieb, Camilla, 1940-1962, undated
Box 1, Folder 71	Ephemera, 1938-1945, undated
Box 1, Folder 73	Immigration, Gottlieb, Camilla, 1941-1946, undated
Box 1, Folder 74	Diary, Gottlieb, Lony, 1942
Box 1, Folder 75	Financial, 1943-1963, undated
Box 1, Folder 76	Personal Affairs of Military Personnel and Aid for Their Dependents, 1943
Box 1, Folder 77	Immigration, Gottlieb, Camilla, 1944-1946, undated
Box 1, Folder 78	Sponsorship papers for Oschinsky, Gerard T., 1946, undated
Box 4	Photo album, Bodansky, Harry and Lony, 1939, undated

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