Ilse Last-Mathis papers 1988.1072

Finding aid prepared by Judith Janec
Tauber Holocaust Library
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Title: Ilse Last-Mathis papers
Identifier/Call Number: 1988.1072
Contributing Institution: Tauber Holocaust Library
Language of Material: Multiple languages
Storage Unit: Archives Box 10
Physical Description: 1.0 Folder(s)
Date (inclusive): 1945-1947
Language of Materials note: Materials are in Dutch and English.

Abstract: The Ilse Last-Mathis collection documents the experience of a family of Dutch Jews under Nazi occupation and after the war ended. The collection includes material related to post-war reparation requests, as well as artifacts and a children’s booklet contrasting the behavior of Dutch citizens who co-operated with the Nazi occupation with those Dutch who resisted.

Preferred Citation note
Ilse Last-Mathis papers - 1988-1072, Tauber Holocaust Library - JFCS Holocaust Center, San Francisco, California

Scope and Contents note
The collection is comprised of documents relating to the emigration of Ilse Last-Mathis and her daughter Marianne Last from Amsterdam to the United States. Two documents are certificates from the Beheersinstituut, the Dutch government body which acted as custodian of the property of enemies as well as of missing persons, nearly all of them Jews. Other documents include a certificate from the Chamber of Commerce and Factories for the North Netherlands and from the Population Registry of Amsterdam, as well as a document confirming the death of Jacob Last in Sobibor death camp. Also included are letters of support and recommendation for Ilse Last-Mathis. Materials are in Dutch and English.

Included in the collection is a Dutch-language booklet – Gek en Wijs tydens Seyss -- apparently written for children, which contrasts the behavior of Dutch citizens while under Nazi occupation. Published in 1945, the booklet compares those who collaborated or complied with German orders with those who resisted.

The collection also includes a yellow “Jood” star badge, issued to Jews under Nazi occupation.

This collection provides insight into the experiences of Jews living in the Netherlands during the Nazi occupation and reflects the efforts of survivors to document their wartime experiences with official government bodies in order to gain restitution or to emigrate.

Biographical/Historical note
Ilse Mathis was born in Breslau, Germany on September 21, 1910. She was married to Jakob Last who was born in Mannheim, Germany in 1901. Their daughter Marianne was born on September 2, 1934 in Amsterdam. The family was living in Amsterdam when the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands began. During that period, Jakob Last was arrested by Nazi occupation forces; he died in Sobibor on May 21, 1943. Ilse Last-Mathis and her daughter Marianne were sheltered by Dutch friends and survived the Holocaust. Mrs. Last first cousin and the cousin’s husband lived in Reno, Nevada, where Mrs. Last and Marianne Last emigrated. No information on the experiences of the Lasts once in the United States is available.

Conditions Governing Use note
There are no restrictions to use for this collection.

Conditions Governing Access note
There are no restrictions to access for this collection.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Last family
Mathis family
Amsterdam (Netherlands)
Anti-Nazi movement -- Amsterdam
Certificates
Correspondence
Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945) -- Amsterdam
Jews -- Amsterdam
Stars of David -- Netherlands
World War, 1939-1945 -- Amsterdam
Telegram to Ilse Last Mathis from Netherlands Ambassador 1945 September 1
Language of Material: English

Certificate from Nederlandsche Beheersinstituut, Amsterdam 1945 October 27
Language of Material: Dutch; Flemish

Handelsregister te Amsterdam van de Kamer van Koophandel en Fabrieken voor Noordholland (Certificate from Chamber of Commerce and Factories for the North Netherlands) 1945 November 5
Language of Material: Dutch; Flemish

Letter from Louis Dickens (husband to Ilse Last’s first cousin) affirming support for Mrs. Last and her daughter, 1946 August 29
Language of Material: English

Letter of recommendation on behalf of Ilse Last-Mathis from Dr. J. Coops, Scheikundig laboratorium der Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam 1947 January 7
Language of Material: English

Certificate from Nederlandsche Beheersinstituut, Amsterdam [response to her petition] 1947 February 17
Language of Material: Dutch; Flemish

Certificate from Bevolkinsregister, Amsterdam attesting to the death of Jakob Last in Sobibor on 21 May 1943 1947 June 5
Language of Material: Dutch; Flemish

Certificate from Bevolkinsregister, Amsterdam attesting to the emigration of Mrs. Ilse Last Mathis and Marianne Last to Reno, Nevada 1947 July 12
Language of Material: Dutch; Flemish

Gek en Wijs tydens Seyss [booklet] 1945
Language of Material: Dutch; Flemish

Yellow fabric “Jood” star undated
Language of Material: Dutch; Flemish