Lasus family papers 2005.0007

Finding aid prepared by Judith Janec
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Title: Lasus family papers
Identifier/Call Number: 2005.0007
Contributing Institution: Tauber Holocaust Library
Language of Material: Multiple languages
Storage Unit: Archives Box 12
Physical Description: 3.0 Folder(s)
Date (inclusive): 1938-1965
Abstract: The Lasus family papers document the couple’s experiences during the Holocaust, including Mr. Lasus’s imprisonment in Dachau in 1938, the couple’s residence in Shanghai from 1939-1948, and their eventual emigration to the United States. The Lasus Family papers provide insight into the experiences of those German and Austrian Jews who were forced to flee from Germany and Austria during Hitler’s Third Reich and who spent the war years in Shanghai, China.
Creator: Lasus family

Related Archival Materials note
Consult archivist for information about other Tauber Holocaust Library collections relating to the experiences of European Jews in Shanghai during the Holocaust era.

Arrangement note
Collection is arranged in chronological order; items that are undated follow those that are dated.

Scope and Contents note
The collection is comprised of documents and artifacts pertaining to the Lasus’s residency in Shanghai during World War II, and their subsequent emigration to the United States. Documents are in English, German, French and Chinese. Also included is a memoir, written in German, by Mr. Lasus, Episode Shanghai. This collection documents the experience of those German and Austrian Jews who fled to Shanghai. Papers include certificates, identification cards, travel passes and other documents issued to Shanghai residents. Photographs, letter and documents reflect the experiences of Mr. and Mrs. Lasus during the post-war emigration process. Of particular interest is a letter written by Mr. Lasus to his sister and brother-in-law recounting his trans-Atlantic voyage from Ellis Island to Naples, Italy aboard a United States army transport, the General Steward.

Biographical/Historical note
Denied admittance to most countries, thousands of German and Austrian Jews who fled Hitler's Third Reich found their way to Shanghai, where visas and passports were not required until the Japanese occupation. After 1941, the occupying Nazi-aligned Japanese forced the Jewish refugees in Shanghai into the Hong Kew ghetto.
Mr. Erich Lasus and Mrs. Mathilde Lasus were Austrian Jews who fled Nazi-occupied Austria for Shanghai, China in May 1939, where they lived until 1948.
Documents indicate that Mr. Lasus was imprisoned at Dachau concentration camp from November 10, 1938 (immediately after the Kristallnacht pogrom) until February 27, 1939. In May 1939, the Lasuses left for Shanghai. Mr. and Mrs. Lasus opened a dress shop in Shanghai in 1943.
Mr. and Mrs. Lasus left Shanghai and traveled by boat to Ellis Island in February and March 1949, where they were interned before being transported to Naples, Italy. They remained in Italy until 1951, when they were able to emigrate to the United States.

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.

Preferred Citation note
[Item] [date], Lasus family papers. 2005-0007, Tauber Holocaust Library - JFCS Holocaust Center, San Francisco, California

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Lasus family
Austria -- Emigration and immigration
Family papers
Immigration records
Jewish refugees -- China -- Shanghai
Folder 1  Immigrant to Shanghai and Shanghai period documents 1938-1946
Language of Material: Multiple languages

Folder 2  Immigration to United States documents, 1948-1965
Language of Material: Multiple languages

Folder 3  Episode Shanghai undated
Language of Material: English