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## **Register of the Fairbrook (Lotte Cohn) Memoirs, 1898-1938**

Processed by Daryl Morrison; rev. by Don Walker; machine-readable finding aid created by Don Walker

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### Collection number: Mss177

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Date Completed:

1996; October 1998

Encoded by:

Don Walker

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#### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Fairbrook (Lotte Cohn) Memoirs,

**Date (inclusive):** 1898-1938

**Collection number:** Mss177

**Creator:** Lotte Cohn Fairbrook

**Extent:** 0.5 linear ft.

**Repository:** University of the Pacific. Library. Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections  
Stockton, CA 95211

**Shelf location:** For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

**Language:** English.

#### Access

Collection is open for research.

#### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Fairbrook (Lotte Cohn) Memoirs, Mss177, Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library

#### personal name

Fairbrook, Lotte Cohn (1898-1996)

Cohn, Bernard

Cohn, Johanna Magnus

Fairbrook, Alvin

Fairbrook, Erika

Fairbrook, Paul

Fairbrook, George

Schoenbach family

Cohn family

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Magnus family

**subject**

Jewish bankers -Germany

Jewish women -Germany

Jewish youth -Germany

Jews -Biography

Jews -Genealogy

Jews -Persecutions -Germany

Jews -Palestine

Jews -France

**Biography**

Lotte Cohn Fairbrook (1898-1996) was the daughter of a well-to-do banker in Hamburg, Germany. She attended Gertrud Baumer's Women's School of Social Work in that city. In 1920 Lotte Cohn married Alvin Schoenbach, a banker of Hildesheim, Hanover. The Schoenbachs had four children (1922-29), Erika, George, Paul and Helmut. In 1924 they moved to Berlin. There Alvin Schoenbach collected miniature paintings. With the rise of anti-Semitism in Germany, the Schoenbachs resolved to emigrate to Palestine. The sale of one of Schoenbach's miniatures financed their trip and they arrived in Tel Aviv in 1933. The parents found that Palestine's climate and social conditions were not to their liking, however, and they soon planned to emigrate to America. During this period, Alvin began collecting postage stamps and the sale of a portion of his collection helped finance their perilous trip to America via Yugoslavia (1938). After their arrival in the United States, the Schoenbachs translated their German name as "Fairbrook." Alvin Fairbrook continued in the stamp collecting business in New York City. He died in 1962. Mrs. Fairbrook remained in New York until 1982, when she moved to Stockton (Calif.) to be near her sons, George, a computer programmer with Atkinson Computer, and, Paul, Director of Auxiliary Services at the University of the Pacific and, later, Commissioner of the Port of Stockton (Calif.).

**Scope and Content**

The Lotte Fairbrook Memoirs describe Mrs. Fairbrook's life from its beginnings in Hamburg, Germany (1898) through her emigration to Palestine (1933) and then to the United States(1938).

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**BOX 1: LOTTE FAIRBROOK MEMOIRS ["Dear Family!"]**

**1.1: Staff notes**

**1.2: VOLUME 1---CHILDHOOD & BACKGROUND**

**a- Ch 1: Early recollections at home**

**b-Ch 2: First journeys**

**c-Ch 3: Early school years**

**d-Ch 4: Friendships at school age**

**e-Ch 5: Religious holidays**

**f-Ch 6: Grandmother Magnus**

**g-Ch 7: Grandfather Magnus**

**h-Ch 8: Mother's characteristics**

**I-Ch 9: Mother and I**

**j-Ch 10: Grandmother Cohn**

**k-Ch 11: Grandfather Cohn**

**l-App. B1: Family tree**

**m-App. B2: Table of ancestry of B. Magnus**

**n-App. B3: Children of Bernard & Johanna Magnus**

**o-App. B4: Grandmother Magnus' ancestors & their dependents [incomplete]**

**p-App. B5: Cohn & Daniels and Cohn & Dorn**

**1.3: VOLUME 2---CHILDHOOD & BACKGROUND**

**a-Ch 12: Father: His political & cultural interests**

**b-Ch 13: Father: From boyhood to marriage**

**c-Ch 14: Father as a father**

**d-Ch 15: The last years with my brother**

**e-Ch 16: My brother's death**

**f-Ch 17: Friendships**

- 1.4: VOLUME 3---ADOLESCENCE & YOUNG WOMANHOOD**
  - a-Ch 1: Holland
  - b-Ch 2: The background & beginning of the First World War
  - c-Ch 3: Journey toward independence
  - d-Ch 4: Music - War work - Social work
  - e-Ch 5: At college in Hamburg
- 1.5: VOLUME 4---ADOLESCENCE & YOUNG WOMANHOOD**
  - a-Ch 6: An interim - The Fall of 1919
  - b-Ch 7: Life takes a new turn
  - c-Ch 8: The handkerchief & A kiss went astray
  - d-Ch 9: A temporary infatuation?
  - e-Ch 10: Music making and dancing
  - f-Ch 11: Walking in the rain
  - g-Ch 12: The engagement
  - h-Ch 13: The wedding
  - i-Ch 14: The honeymoon
- 1.6: VOLUME 5---MARRIED LIFE IN GERMANY (1920-1924)**
  - a-Letter introducing volume
  - b-Ch 1: Belonging to a group
  - c-Ch 2: Hildesheim, lovely little town
  - d-Ch 3: Our first child
  - e-Ch 4: Young Alvin & the Weissensteins, a flashback
  - f-Ch 5: A trip pursuing practical genealogy
  - g-Ch 6: Traveling, the spice of Alvin's life
  - h-Ch 7: Our first mistake: The wrong location
  - i-Ch 8: Exurbia Borgsdorf & more mistakes
  - j-Ch 9: Second childbirth
  - k-Ch 10: Father's death
  - l-Letter ending volume
- 1.7: VOLUME 6---MARRIED LIFE IN GERMANY (1925-1932)**
  - a-Letter introducing volume
  - b-Ch 11: Our social life in Berlin
  - c-Ch 12: Raising a happy family as though there were no clouds on the horizon
  - d-Ch 13: Short trips & long journeys
  - e-Ch 14: The clouds on the horizon grew darker
  - f-Ch 15: 1931-32, The years of rising tension
- 1.8: VOLUME 7---MARRIED LIFE IN GERMANY (1933)**
  - a-Ch 16: 1933 has a deceptive beginning
  - b-Ch 17: Exploring beautiful Tyrol
  - c-Ch 18: Dreadful news reaches our Shangri la
  - d-Ch 19: We leave Tyrol
  - e-Ch 20: A rough awakening
  - f-Ch 21: Facing decisions
  - g-Ch 22: The Palestine option
  - h-Ch 23: Belonging nowhere on this planet
- 1.9: VOLUME 8---FROM ONE PROMISED LAND TO ANOTHER (1933)**
  - a-Ch 1: Alvin gets us settled in Alsace, France
  - b-Ch 2: Preparation for a tougher life
  - c-Ch 3: Alvin explores Palestine
  - d-Ch 4: No cure for impatience
  - e-Ch 5: Interlude in Berlin
  - f-Ch 6: Our journey from Muenster to Tel Aviv as told by Erika, age 16
  - g-Ch 7: My memory scraps of our journey
  - h-App A: Description & map of Muenster, France
  - i-App B: Map showing our way from Muenster to Haifa
  - m-App C: Map of northern Palestine
- 1.10: VOLUME 9--FROM ONE PROMISED LAND TO ANOTHER (1934-1937)**

- a-Ch 8: Friends & relations**
  - b-Ch 9: Our life in Tel Aviv**
  - c-Ch 10: Omi's arrival**
  - d-Ch 11: Ramal Gan**
  - e-Ch 12: Becoming somewhat attuned to our new country**
  - f-Ch 13: A serious disappointment & its consequences**
  - g-Ch 14: Two unforgettable days**
  - h-Ch 15: A fateful year begins**
  - i-Ch 16: The desert wind & other tribulations**
  - j-Ch 17: Alvin returns with tentative plans**
  - k-Ch 18: A great surprise**
  - l-App. A: Map of Tel Aviv & Ramat Gan**
  - m-App. B: Uri's painting of Rachel's tomb**
- 1.11: VOLUME 10-FROM ONE PROMISED LAND TO ANOTHER (1938)**
- a-Ch 19: Into an uncertain future**
  - b-Ch 20: Finding the place to relax**
  - c-Ch 21: Intermezzo in Yugoslavia**
  - d-Ch 22: A rocky road to Amsterdam**
  - e-Ch 23: The friendly Dutch**
  - f-Ch 24: The miracle of a set of postage stamps**