Finding aid for the Cleve family papers 6164

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USC Libraries Special Collections
2018 August
Doheny Memorial Library 206
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URL: http://libraries.usc.edu/locations/special-collections
Language of Material: German
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Title: Cleve family papers
creator: Cleve, Felix M.
creator: Cleve, Fanny
creator: Cleve, George, 1936-2015
creator: Wassing, Gina
creator: Cleve, Melitta
Identifier/Call Number: 6164
Physical Description: 18.56 Linear Feet (19 containers)
Date (inclusive): 1910s-1980s
Abstract: A collection of family papers concerning a Jewish family who fled Austria and sought exile in the United States during the rise of Nazi power. Felix Merori Cleve, his wife Melitta Cleve, their son George Wolfgang Cleve, and Felix's sister Fanny Suhrkamp-Cleve, were Austrian-Jewish emigres who fled to the United States after the Nazi Anschluss of Austria. This collection contains professional and personal correspondence and papers prior to their departure, correspondence and papers related to their flight, interactions with emigre organizations after their arrival, and documentation of their lives in the United States.
Biographical note
Felix Merori Cleve, his wife Melitta Cleve, their son George Wolfgang Cleve, and Felix's sister Fanny Suhrkamp-Cleve, were Austrian-Jewish emigres who fled to the United States after the Nazi Anschluss of Austria. Felix M. Cleve (1890-1985) was born in Vienna to Rabbi Adolf Loewy and his wife Theresa and was an expert on Anaxagoras and other pre-Socratic Greek philosophers. He made a living as a noted critic for Vienna's Neue Freie Presse. He and his sister Fanny changed their surname from Loewy to Cleve in 1919. Cleve, his wife Melitta (1902-1985), and their son George (1936-2015) immigrated to the United States via Budapest, Italy and London in 1939, and arrived in New York in 1940. Cleve was supported by his cousin Erwin Freund for his first few years in the US and finished his manuscript on Anaxagoras at that time. He continued to write on philosophy and taught at Long Island University and the New School for Social Research.
Fanny Cleve (1893-1971), Felix's sister, was a noted soprano from Vienna who performed across Europe during the 1920s and 1930s with such noted conductors as Richard Strauss, Bruno Walter and Otto Klemperer. Her European career ended with the rise of the Nazis. She arrived in New York via Southampton, England in September 1938. Unable to establish herself as an opera singer in the United States, she became a vocal coach in New York and Youngstown, Ohio.
George Cleve (1936-2015) became a noted conductor and served the musical director of the San Jose Symphony from 1972-1992. He was a co-founder of and directed the Mid-Summer Mozart Festival in San Francisco from 1974 until his death, and was a guest conductors for the Symphony Silicon Valley. He conducted at the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York City and with the New York City Ballet on a regular basis.
Ernest Wassing was an Austrian-born cellist who performed with symphonies and orchestras around the world. Notably, he performed with the Berlin Philharmonic for the German premier of Stravinsky's "Rites of Spring". Regina (Gina) Monheit Wassing was a composer and teacher, and a relative of Melitta's. Sometime after Ernest's death in 1972, she moved to Los Gatos, California, and lived in the same building as Felix and Melitta Cleve.
[Partly adapted from bookseller's description.]
Content Description
The papers of the Cleve family, a Jewish family who fled Austria and sought exile in the United States during the rise of Nazi power. The collection contains professional and personal correspondence and papers prior to the Cleve family's departure, correspondence and papers related to their flight, interactions with emigre organizations after their arrival, and documentation of their lives in the United States. Highlights of the collection include a letter to Felix Cleve from the Emergency Association of German Scientists Abroad three months prior to the Cleve's flight from Austria directing him to the International Committee for the Placement of Intellectual Refugees in Geneva; correspondence, 1940-1942, following the Cleve family's arrival in New York with their cousin and benefactor Edwin Freund, various refugee and assistance organization (including the American Friend's Service Committee, the Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars and Selfhelp of Emigres from Central Europe, and various university presses that Cleve approached in these early years regarding the publication of his text on the philosophy of Anaxagoras; Fanny Cleve's sheet music collection, along with performance programs, reviews, and sheet music, letters from the 1920s to her from Otto Klemperer and others regarding her career at the time, as well as an exchange in 1938 with Klemperer upon her arrival in New York about
opportunities to perform; photographs of George Cleve, as well as music and memorabilia from his youth and his correspondence with his parents during his years training at the Eastman School of Music and during his career as a conductor; and Felix Cleve's manuscripts on philosophy, documentation about his student status at the University of Vienna, his applications for federal employment in 1943, 1947 and 1953 (revealing much autobiographical and employment information), and documentation during the 1950s and 1960s of his teaching years at the New School for Social Research and Long Island University. Also included are correspondence, recordings, sheet music, and ephemera created and collected by Ernest and Regina (Gina) Wassing. [Adapted from bookseller's description.]

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Preferred Citation
[Box/folder no. or item name], Cleve family papers, Collection no. 6164, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Purchased from The Bookshop, August 29, 2018.

Processing Information
The collection is unprocessed.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Composers -- United States -- 20th century -- Archival resources
Conductors (Music) -- California -- 20th century -- Archival resources
Music -- Study and teaching -- Archival resources
Musicians -- United States -- 20th century -- Archival resources
Philosophers -- United States -- Archival resources
Teachers -- United States -- Archival resources
Universities and colleges -- Faculty -- Archival resources
New York (N.Y.) -- Emigration and immigration -- 20th century -- Archival resources
United States -- Emigration and immigration -- History -- Archival resources
Correspondence
Manuscripts
Typescripts
Notebooks
Ephemera
Sheet music
Cleve, Felix M. -- Archives
Cleve, Fanny -- Archives
Cleve, George, 1936-2015 -- Archives
Wassing, Gina -- Archives
Klemperer, O. (Otto) -- Archives
New School for Social Research (New York, N.Y. : 1919-1997) -- Faculty

Felix Cleve
Scope and Contents
The materials in this series consist primarily of correspondence and manuscripts. Cleve kept carbon copies of the bulk of his correspondence. Also included are Cleve's notebooks, offprints of articles, legal documents (including US passports), and a few letters addressed to Melitta Cleve.
Box 3, Box 4
Box 1, Box 2,
Box 5, Box 4,
Box 6, Box 7
Box 1, Box 2
Box 19

Manuscripts and typescripts
Correspondence

Notebooks
Philosophy books and journals

Fanny Cleve

Scope and Contents
The bulk of materials in this series are sheet music. Some of the pieces have Fanny's name inscribed on them, but the bulk do not. Also included are reviews of Fanny's performances, some correspondence, notably with Otto Klemperer, and ephemera from her teaching career.

Box 8, Box 9,
Box 10, Box 11,
Box 12, Box 13,
Box 14, Box 18

Sheet music

Scope and Contents
Boxes 8, 9 and 10 contain the sheet music that can be positively identified as belonging to Fanny Cleve. The sheet music in boxes 11, 12, 13, 14 and 18 most likely belonged to Fanny, but could also have belonged to George Cleve or Gina Wassing.

Box 8, Box 14
Box 8
Box 19
Box 14

Clippings and ephemera
Correspondence

Music-related magazines
Music programs and ephemera

George Cleve

Box 14, Box 15,
Box 19
Box 18

Photographs, correspondence, ephemera

Conductor's scores

Ernest and Gina Wassing

Box 15
Box 14, Box 15,
Box 17
Box 15, Box 16

Musical compositions
Ephemera

Performances

Scope and Contents
Box 15 contains recordings of performances by Ernest; box 16 contains recordings of compositions by Gina and performances by Gina's students.

Box 17
Box 17
Box 18
Box 19
Box 14

Gina Wassing correspondence
Gina Wassing compositions
Sheet music
Gina Wassing's German and French books for language instruction
Gina Wassing's students' papers

Box 14

Gustav Lowy

Box 14, Box 18

Family photographs

Box 16

Spilman family

Box 16
Letters to Dane Kato
Box 16
Unidentified