

**The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

Margarete Schurgast Papers
1918-1945
Mss Col 6307

**Laura Ruttum
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Summary

Main entry:	Schurgast, Margarete
Title:	Margarete Schurgast Papers, 1918-1945
Size:	0.4 linear feet (1 box)
Source:	Donated by Rosika Schwimmer as part of the Schwimmer-Lloyd Collection.
Abstract:	Margarete Schurgast was a Jewish feminist and pacifist, boardinghouse owner and German émigré who fled Nazi rule in 1941. She was a friend and correspondent of Carrie Chapman Catt, Karin Michaëlis, and Rosika Schwimmer.
Access:	Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
Preferred citation:	Margarete Schurgast Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
Special formats	Diaries, Photographs.

Provenance note

The materials were originally donated to Rosika Schwimmer, in 1947, and later included as part of Series Q of the Schwimmer-Lloyd Collection. In 2006 they were reprocessed, and while administratively remain part of the collection, they are physically arranged as a separate collection.

Biographical note

Margarete Schurgast was born August 3, 1871, in Berlin. She was a Jewish feminist and pacifist, and ran two separate boardinghouses in Berlin: the Boardinghouse Ludwig, and the Hotel-pension Kurfürstenheim. Schurgast fled Nazi rule in 1941, moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, where she lived until her death of stomach cancer. She was co-founder of the Aid Society for Educated Women (Hilfsverein für gebildete Frauen), and an active member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the League for Human Rights. Schurgast befriended and corresponded with Carrie Chapman Catt, the Danish writer Karin Michaëlis, and Rosika Schimmer.

Scope and content note

The collection consists of correspondence; writings, including a travel diary; legal and identification documents; printed matter and newspaper clippings; photographs of both Schurgast and her friend Ellen Key; and one file of materials related to Alexander Deutsch, an émigré and friend.

In German and English.

Container list

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1-3	<p>General correspondence, 1928, 1939-1945, n.d.</p> <p>Schurgast's correspondence documents her attempts to obtain the release of a Jewish woman, Eugenie Friedlander, held in the Theresienstadt camp. There are a significant number of letters from Mrs. Catt, as well as several from German refugees in the U.S. and Brazil. A small number of outgoing letters are included with the correspondence received. The majority of correspondence is in German.</p>
4		<p>Travel diary, 1924, 1941</p> <p>The travel diary contains alphabetical entries on a number of cities in Europe, with descriptions of her activities and sights seen. In German.</p>
5		<p>Writings and lecture notes, undated</p> <p>This small file contains lecture notes in German on philosophical themes.</p>
6		<p>Legal and identification documents, 1940-1944</p> <p>Included in Schurgast's documents are depositions given by her son as her sponsor in the U.S., her U.S. visa and related documents, and an affidavit regarding lost property and valuables as a result of the war.</p>
7		<p>Printed matter and newspaper clippings, 1937, 1941, 1947, n.d.</p> <p>Items in this file include printed matter on WILPF, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Karin Michaëlis. Also included are newspaper clippings, the majority of which are stories featuring Schurgast.</p>
8		<p>Alexander Deutsch materials, 1938-1941, n.d.</p> <p>Materials in Deutsch's papers consist of correspondence conducted between Deutsch and his nephew, German documents, and a poem he wrote. It is unclear why this material was included with Schurgast's, although Deutsch was a fellow German emigre and friend. Some of the correspondence is in reference to his and his nephew's emigration to the U.S. and Italy.</p>
9		<p>Photographs, ca. 1918, 1926, 1944, n.d.</p> <p>Photographs consist of one image of Schurgast, two of Ellen Key, and two of unidentified women. One photo is annotated with a poem written in German on the reverse.</p>