

Zygmund William Birnbaum papers, 1920-2000

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Birnbaum, Z. W. (Zygmund William), 1903-2000
Title	Zygmund William Birnbaum papers
Dates	1920-2000 (inclusive) 1920 2000
Quantity	6.9 cubic feet (8 boxes, 1 folder)
Collection Number	5266 (Accession No. 5266-001)
Summary	Contains materials documenting Dr. Birnbaum's career as a mathematician at the University of Washington, as well as correspondence documenting his efforts to assist emigration from Nazi Poland and his involvement with the loyalty oath suit filed against the university in 1964.
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	The collection is open to the public.
Languages	English, Polish, German, French
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was partially provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Zygmund William "Bill" Birnbaum (1903-2000), was for thirty-five years professor of mathematics and statistics at the University of Washington (1939-1974).

Zygmund William Birnbaum was born in Lwów, Austria-Hungary, on October 18, 1903, to Ignacy and Lina Birnbaum. He attended grade and high schools (gymnasium) in Lwów and Vienna, and then, in deference to his family's wishes that he pursue a "practical" degree, he obtained a master of law degree from the University of Lwów in 1925. He practiced law for a year, but during that time he resumed his studies in mathematics. In 1926 Birnbaum received a teaching certificate in mathematics. He taught at a gymnasium in Lwów from 1925 to 1929 while continuing his graduate studies in mathematics under Hugo Steinhaus and Stefan Banach, among others. He received his Ph.D. in 1929, with Steinhaus as his major professor.

After receiving his Ph.D., Birnbaum went directly to Göttingen, Germany, to continue his studies. Göttingen was central to world mathematics at that time, with such luminaries as David Hilbert, Edmund Landau, Richard Courant, Emmy Noether, and Felix Bernstein, among others, in residence. The city attracted many famous visitors, including Kolmogorov, Alexandrov, and von Mises, during 1929-31, when Birnbaum was there. It was during this time that political events began to portend an uncertain

[Zygmund William Birnbaum papers, 1920-2000](#)

<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv09585>

future for Germany generally and academic opportunities for Dr. Birnbaum in particular. Thus it was that he, following advice from Edmund Landau, completed a program leading to an actuarial certificate from Göttingen University's Institute of Insurance Mathematics, then headed by the mathematician-cum-biometrician, Felix Bernstein. In 1931 this permitted him to obtain a position as a life insurance actuary for the Phoenix Life Insurance Company in Vienna and a year later to return to Lwów as chief actuary at the company's Polish subsidiary.

After the Phoenix company went bankrupt in 1936, due in great part to the worsening economic and political conditions in Germany, Dr. Birnbaum decided to try to emigrate to the U.S.A. Although the quotas were full for years to come, he was able to secure employment as a foreign correspondent for a major Polish newspaper. This enabled him to go to New York in June 1937 on a visitor's visa obtained for him by his relative, newspaper editor Ludwik Rubel. During his time in New York, Birnbaum came to know many Central European intellectuals, among them the famed Austrian novelist Hermann Broch, and renewed his friendships with fellow Polish émigré-mathematicians, Mark Kac, Stanislaw Ulam, and others.

Shortly after his arrival in New York, he also met his former Göttingen professor, Felix Bernstein, and accepted from him a research assistantship in biometrics at New York University. His statistical interests and knowledge, which had been kindled during his actuarial studies, grew rapidly under the influence of the leading statisticians at New York and Columbia Universities. In early 1939, Harold Hotelling of Columbia University, a Seattle native with a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Washington, brought to Birnbaum's attention a position there in the Department of Mathematics. He applied, and supported by letters of recommendation from Courant, Landau, and Albert Einstein, his application was accepted. Thus began his long and distinguished career of over 60 years in the Seattle area, extending well beyond his university retirement in 1974.

Shortly after his arrival in Seattle, Birnbaum met his wife, Hilde Merzbach, while both of them were involved in assisting Jewish refugees arriving from Europe. Birnbaum succeeded in helping many people come to the United States, among them several talented scientists. Despite all of his exhaustive efforts, however, Birnbaum could not rescue his mother, father, and sister before they were taken prisoner by the Germans and transported to Bergen-Belsen. They eventually perished in Auschwitz.

During his long association with the University of Washington, Professor Birnbaum's academic contributions included teaching and service as well as research in the theory and applications of mathematics and statistics. Upon his arrival in Seattle he designed the theoretical courses which formed the basis of one of the first comprehensive undergraduate programs in mathematical statistics in the United States. By 1948 he had founded the Laboratory of Statistical Research which, through its long association with the Office of Naval Research, served to strengthen and expand the graduate and faculty components of these programs.

Professor Birnbaum's research interests were broad, reflecting the breadth of his early training. He published original material in several areas of mathematics, statistics, and computation and made pioneering studies in reliability and life testing, with important applications in metal fatigue and health statistics. He made significant contributions to complex and functional analysis (including Birnbaum-Orlicz spaces), probabilistic inequalities (e.g. multi-dimensional Chebychev and maximal inequalities), non-parametric and distribution-free statistics (exact, asymptotic, and tabulated distributions), survey non-responses, reliability of complex systems, cumulative damage models, competing risks, survival distributions, and mortality rates.

Birnbaum's service to his university and professional colleagues, as well as to society at large, went beyond his teaching and research. In 1946 he used his legal and actuarial backgrounds to prepare the legislation that became the statutory basis for the university's retirement system. In 1955 he organized the referendum that resulted in the inclusion of faculty in the social security system. He was responsible

for carrying out the 1953 Kingston resolution that all Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) "meetings shall be held on a completely non-segregated basis." He presented the resolution for permanence of this policy at the 1956 Annual IMS meeting held in Seattle. As a plaintiff during 1962-63 in the loyalty oath suit (*Baggett v. Bullitt*), he was the only witness whose testimony was cited in the U.S. Supreme Court's decision.

In recognition of his many contributions, Z.W. Birnbaum was made a fellow of both the IMS (1949) and the American Statistical Association, and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. Beginning in 1966 he was editor of the Academic Press monograph series in probability and statistics and was elected president of the IMS in 1964. He was also editor of the *Annals of Mathematical Statistics* during 1967-70. He received both Fullbright and Guggenheim awards with visiting positions held in Stanford, Rome, Jerusalem, and Paris. In 1984 Birnbaum received the prestigious S.S. Wilks Medal of the ASA for "his theoretical research, wide applications, leadership, inspiration and teaching." He died in December 2000.

Content Description

The Zygmund William Birnbaum papers consist of one accession, 5266-1, of roughly seven cubic feet, consisting of many different document types.

The Birnbaum papers contain a great deal of information related to the political climate in Europe before, during, and after the Holocaust and World War II. They also cover scientific progress in mathematics and statistics, and American cultural and academic developments during the Cold War.

The bulk of the collection is made up of correspondence between Dr. Birnbaum and friends, family, scientists, and colleagues. A substantial number of these documents relate to the Second World War and the years immediately before and after that conflict. Many letters document Birnbaum's unsuccessful efforts to get his sister Franzciska into the United States; others show Birnbaum's efforts to provide aid to European scholars and scientists. The documents are mostly in Polish and German, with some in English and a few in French. Thirty-three letters have been translated from Polish into English. The English translations are filed with the original letters. For other documents not translated in full, summary translations were prepared. Significant information from the translator's summaries, or sometimes the summaries themselves, have been transcribed onto or included with the documents.

Birnbaum's speeches and writings are divided into three sub-series. His personal writings include diaries, written in Polish and German, from the 1920s and 1930s, as well as his own English translations of some of these diaries. A selection of personal and autobiographical anecdotes is also included. There are also some notes in English regarding details of correspondence with Ala Manelska and Jozia Altbach just before the war. The academic writings include essays written for a course Birnbaum took to improve his English skills and other manuscripts. Finally, there are approximately seventy reprints of published articles written by Birnbaum.

The case files contain papers related to Birnbaum's involvement in legal proceedings. Of special interest are the case files series relating to opposition to the University of Washington loyalty oath, in which Birnbaum was the only plaintiff whose testimony was cited in the favorable Supreme Court decision. Other case files pertain to two cases concerning roadside billboards and automobile accidents, for which he served as a statistical expert.

The Hilde Merzbach Birnbaum subgroup contains papers of Birnbaum's wife. Other small subgroups document Birnbaum's involvement with professional organizations and UW committees. The most significant of these are the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and the papers for the IMS Advisory

Committee on Physical Facilities for Meetings, which relate to the Kingston resolution that all IMS meetings be held on a non segregated basis.

Other Descriptive Information

Extensive [descriptive notes to the Zygmund William Birnbaum papers](#) were prepared by his daughter, Ann Birnbaum, in March 2013. The notes provide detailed information about the contents of the files and documents inventoried below in this finding aid.

Use of the Collection

Alternative Forms Available

The [UW Archives Spotlight on: Zygmund William Birnbaum](#) website contains translations and further information regarding the letters that have been translated from Polish. Correspondents include Jakob Berger, Maurycy Bloch, Ludwik Rubel, Ala Manelska, Zbigniew Lomnicki, Henry M. Schaerf, Birnbaum's family, and others.

Restrictions on Use

Birnbaum's rights have been transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This material was received by the University Archives as a gift from Prof. Birnbaum's daughter, Ann Birnbaum, on July 19, 2001.

Processing Note

Processed in 2003-2004.

Photographs and slides in the collection were relocated to the Zygmund William Birnbaum Photograph Collection, PH Coll. 679, in the repository in 2005.

Separated Materials

Material Described Separately:

[Zygmund William Birnbaum Photograph Collection \(PH Coll 679\)](#)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Personal Papers

Zygmund William Birnbaum papers, 1920-2000
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv09585>

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1-2	Biographical Features	1939-1987
Folder:Oversize		
9	Biographical Features	1939-1987
General Correspondence		
Box/Folder		
1/3-5	Altbach, Jozia	1937-1940
1/6	American Consuls	1937-1946
1/7	American Consuls, Re: Birnbaum, Franzciska (Nusia)	1938-1941
1/8	American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee	1943-1947
1/9	American Mathematical Society	1937-1939
1/10	Austein, Rose	1937-1940
1/11	Berger, Adolf	1938-1939
1/12	Berger, Bronio	1938-1939
1/14-43	Berger, Jacob and Berger, Rita	1936-1963, undated
1/44	Berger, Rosa	1937-1938
1/45	Berger, Oswalt	1937-1940
1/46	Berger, Sol	1938
1/46	Berger, Vivian	1963; 1976
1/47-48	Bergmann, Gustav	1938-1939
1/49	Bernstein, Felix	1937-1940

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/50	Bernstein, Marianne	1940-1949; 1979
1/51-56, 2/1-7	Birnbaum Family (Lwów) Includes correspondence with his father, Ignacy, his mother, Lina, and his sister, Franzciska (Nusia) Birnbaum.	1937-1942
2/8	Birnbaum, Hilde	1950-1957
2/9	Birnbaum, Ann and Dick	1959; 1965
2/10-16	Bloch, Maurycy	1939-1947
2/17	B'nai B'rith	1936-1940
2/18-22	Bories, Rosa	1937-1940
2/23	Both, Alfred and Benno	1938-1939
2/24	Broch, Hermann	1939
2/25	Carpenter, A. F.	1939-1947
2/26	Corn Exchange Bank Trust Company	1937-1941
2/27	Courant, Richard	1937
2/28	Drucker, Peter and Doris	1938-1941
2/29	Fraenkel, Abraham Adolf	1946-1951
2/30	Fürth, Robert	1938
2/31	Glueck, Fredrick	1939
2/32	Gottfried, Louis and Markus	1938-1940
2/33	Hamilton, Robin	1996
2/34	Hewitt, Edwin	1951-1994
2/35	Hotelling, Harold	1943-1947

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/36	Hunter, Patti	1996
2/37	Hurst, John W.	1945-1946
2/38	Immerdauer, Bruno	1937-1940
2/39	Independent Citizens Committee of Arts, Services and Professions	1946
2/40	International House	1937-1938
2/41	Isserman, Alexander	1939-1941
2/42	Kac, Mark	1939-1947
2/43	Kaufmann, Esther	1938
2/44	Kern, Leona	1937
2/45	Lange, Oskar	1940
2/46-48	Lederer, Walther and Ruth K.	1937-1939, undated
2/49	Lewin, Gerhard	1938-1940
2/50-57	Lomnicki, Z. A. (Zbigniew Alexander)	1951-1980
2/58	Lukacs, Eugene	1938-1940
2/59-71, 3/1-2	Manelska, Ala Early correspondence from Ala Manelska (Ehrlich) was often jointly written with Jozia Altbach and Wisio Sternbach.	1937-1967
3/3	Mayer, Walther	1937-1939
3/4	National Council of Jewish Women, New York Section	1938
3/5	National Refugee Service	1941
3/6	Neugebauer, O.	1937-1941

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/7	Neyman, Jerzy	1939-1949
3/8	Ostrow, Esther	1938
3/9	Reich, Marian	1939-1947
3/10	Reschovsky, Helene	1938-1940
3/11-12	Rubel, Ludwik	1937-1951
3/13	Rublowa, Maryla	1963-1970
3/14-23	Schaerf, Henry M.	1937-1979
3/24	Scheib, Klara	1937-1939
3/25	Selzer, Jadwiga	1938-1940
3/26	Southern Teachers Agency	1938
3/27-28	Steinhaus, Hugo	1937-1946
3/29	Sternbach, Ludwig (Wisio)	1937-1939
3/30	Strich, Arthur	1937-1941
3/31	Tague, Jean	1969-1970
3/32	Taub, Abraham Haskell	1945
3/33	Teachers, American Federation of, Local #401	1945
3/34	Tillesowa, Irena	1940-1941
3/35	Warshawski, Stefan	1937-1939
3/36	Weindling, Izak	1946-1949
3/37	Weyl, Hermann	1946
3/38	Wilks, Samuel Stanley	1959-1962

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/39-40	Woyczynski, W. A. (Wojbor Andrzej)	1996-1998
3/41-73, 4/1-5	Miscellaneous A-Z	ca. 1930s-1990s
4/6-10	Unidentified (Polish language)	1937-1941, undated
4/11	Unidentified (English language)	1938-1946, undated
4/12	Unidentified (German language)	1937-1943, undated

General Correspondence Regarding:

Box/Folder

4/13	Birnbaum children	1958-1959
4/14-15	Dried eggs	1939
4/16-26	Job search	1938-1939
4/27	Christopher Kasperek's book about Wladyslaw Kozaczuk	1982
4/28	Lwów home, legal claims, Jakob Berger, and Izak Weindling	1946-1954
4/29	National Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel	1942-1943
4/30	Passports for family	1940-1941
4/31-36	Steinhaus invention	1938
4/37-39	U.S. Naval Ordinance Test Station, lecture and possible employment	1950-1951
4/40-41	U.S. Navy contracts	1948-1966
4/42	Visas for family	1938

Box/Folder

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4/43	Interdepartmental Correspondence, UW	1941-1949, undated
Diaries		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
4/44-46	Diaries (Polish language)	1920-1935
4/47-48	Diaries (translated by Birnbaum into English)	1920-1938
Speeches and Writings		
Personal		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
4/49-52, 5/1-2	Autobiographical short stories	ca. 1990s
5/3	"Mathemeticians I Have Known" notes	1990
5/4	Synopses of correspondence with Ala Manelska and Jozia Altbach, 1938-1939 (in English)	undated
5/5	"Dr. 'A' "	ca. 1930s
Academic		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
5/6	Homework for English course	1939
5/7	Math paper (French language)	1960
5/8	Statistical analysis of value operations	1979
5/9	"The Statistical Profession," and "Elementary Concepts of Statistics" (talks)	1953-1954
Reprints		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
5/10	Quelques remarques sur l'intégrale de Cauchy	1928
5/11	Beiträge zur Theorie der schlichten Funktionen (Studia)	1928
5/12	Über shlichte Funktionen (Soc. Sav. de Lwów)	1928
5/13	Über Approximation im Mittel (Studia)	1930
5/14	Über Approximation im Mittel (Gott. Nachr.)	1930
5/15	Abschätzung der Eigenwerte...	1930
5/16	Über die Verallgemeinerung des Begriffes der zueinander konjugierten Potenzen	1931
5/17	Bemerkung zum stärken Gesetz der groben Zahlen	1933
5/18	Is or Is Not Cancer Dependent on Age?	1939
5/19	On the Properties of a Collective	1940
5/20	An Inequality for Mill's Ratio	1942
5/21	An Inequality Due to H. Hornich	1944
5/22	Generalization of Tshebyshev's Inequality to Two Dimensions	1947
5/23	On Random Variables with Comparable Peakedness	1948
5/24	On the Determination of the Dependence of a Disease, Esp. Cancer, on Age	1948
5/25	A Graphical Determination of Sample Size for Wilk's Tolerance Limits	1949
5/26	On Sums of Symetrically Truncated Normal Random Variable	1949
5/27	On the Distribution of Kolmogorov's Statistic for Finite Sample Size	1949

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/28	Bias Due to Non-availability in Sampling Surveys	1950
5/29	On the Effect of Selection Performed on Some Coordinates of a Multi-dimensional Population	1950
5/30	Effect of Linear Truncation on a Multi-normal Population	1950
5/31	On the Total Error Due to Non-interview and Random Sampling	1950
5/32	On Optimum Selections from Multi-normal Populations	1950
5/33	On the Effect of the Cutting Score When Selection Is Performed against a Dichotomized Criterion	1950
5/34	One-sided Confidence Contours for Probability Distribution Functions	1951
5/35	Numerical Tabulation of the Distribution of Kolmogorov's Statistic for Sample Size	1952
5/36	Distribution-free Tests of Fit for Continuous Distribution Functions	1953
5/37	On the Power of a One-sided test for Continuous Probability Functions	1953
5/38	On the Effect of Truncation in Some or All Coordinates of a Multi-normal Population	1953
5/39	On Distribution-free Statistics	1954
5/40	On the Use of the Mann-Whitney Statistic	1954-1955
5/41	Bounds for the Variance of the Mann-Whitney Statistic	1957
5/42	On Some Distributions Related to the Statistic $D+n$	1958
5/43	A Statistical Model for Life-length of Materials	1958
5/44	A Distribution-free Upper Confidence Bound for $\Pr\{y < x\}$, Based on Independant Samples of x and y	1958
5/45	An Inequality Due to S. Gatti	1958

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/46	Life-length of Materials as a Stochastic Process	1958
5/47	Life-length and Failure of Materials Interpreted as Stochastic Process	1960
5/48	Small-sample Distribution for Multi-sample Statistics of the Smirnov Type	1960
5/49	Multi-component Systems and Structures and Their Reliability	1961
5/50	Some Multivariate Chebyshev Inequalities with Extensions to Continuous Parameter Processes	1961
5/51	On the Probabilistic Theory of Complex Structures	1961
5/52	Models of Coherent Binary Systems	1964
5/53	Two Simple Distribution-free Tests of Goodness and Fit	1964
5/54	Design of Sample Surveys to Estimate the Prevalance of Rare Diseases	1965
5/55	Some Inequalities for Reliability Functions	1965
5/56	A Stochastic Characterization of Wear-out for Components and Systems	1966
5/57	Some Concepts and Problems of a Mathematical Theory of Reliability	1966
5/58	A Survey of Recent Results on Reliability of Structures	1966
5/59	A Probabilistic Interpretation of Miner's Rule	1968
5/60	On the Importance of Different Components in a Multi-component System	1969
5/61	Exact Distributions for Some Renyi-type Statistics	1969
5/62	Tables of Critical Values of Some Renyi-type Statistics for Finite Sample Sizes	1969
5/63	A New Family of Life Distributions	1969

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/64	Estimation for a Family of Life Distributions with Applications to Fatigue	1969
5/65	On a Statistic Similar to Student's t	1970
5/66	Asymptotically Distribution-free Statistics Similar to Student's t	1970
5/67	Limiting Distributions of Statistics Similar to Student's t	1973
5/68	Computers and Unconventional Test Statistics	1974
5/69	Numerical Tabulations for a Statistic Similar to Student's t	1974
5/70	Testing for Intervals of Increased Mortality	1975
5/71	Origin and Fundamental Concepts of Competing Risks	1978
5/72	On the Mathematics of Competing Risks	1979
5/73	Variability and Biases of Infant Mortality Rates	1981
5/74	The Making of Statisticians	1982
5/75	Inference, Design-based vs. Model-based	1983
5/76	Discussion of Article by Lawless	1983
5/77	Review of <i>Enigmas of Chance, an Autobiography</i> , by Mark Kac	1987
Speeches and Writings of Others		
Box/Folder		
5/78	"A Conversation with Z. William Birnbaum," Albert W. Marshall	1990
5/79	<i>Ein Privatbankhaus in Seinem Wirtschaftsraum</i>	1957
5/80	"Hugo Steinhaus - A Reminiscence and a Tribute," by Mark Kac	1974
5/81	Marxist Biology Curriculum	1940

Container(s)	Description	Dates
5/82	Review, by R. Easterling, of "On the Mathematics of Competing Risks," by Z.W. Birnbaum	1980
5/83-84	"Szukajac Birnbauma" ("Seeking Birnbaum"), by Wojbor Woyczynski	1998
5/85	Miscellaneous	1963-1992
Notebooks		
Box/Folder		
5/86	Notes, Anecdotes, and Information about Diaries	1938; 1988-1999, undated
5/87-89	Math Notes	1923-1937
Case Files		
Box/Folder		
5/90-92	Billboard Case, Washington State	1966-1968
6/1-8	Billboard Case, Worcester County, Maryland	1976
6/9-14	Loyalty Oath Case	1962-1967
Box/Folder		
6/15	Address Books	1930s-1960s
6/16-17	Appointment Calendars	1980-1981; 1988-2000
6/18-20	Financial Documents	1937-1940
Legal Documents		
Box/Folder		
6/21	Last Will and Testament	1939

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
6/22-23	Identification Documents	1930s-1990s
6/24	Academic Records	1928
Folder:Oversize		
9	Diplomas	
Subject Series		
Box/Folder		
6/25	80th birthday	1983
6/26	95th birthday	1998
6/27	Faculty position appointment	1940-1973
6/28	"Panem + Circencens"	1999
6/29	PKO (Pekao) Trading Corporation	1957-1962
7/1-2	Retirement	1974
7/3	Travel documents	1937
7/4	Typewriter test	undated
7/5-6	Universal Life Church ministry, wedding services	1974-1989
7/7-8	Washington Committee on Academic Freedom (opposition to the Canwell Committee)	1947-1948
Agenda		
Box/Folder		
7/9	University of Washington Faculty Senate	1967
Report		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
7/10	University of Washington Committee on Departmental Democracy	undated
Awards		
Box/Folder		
7/11	Wilks Award medal	1985
Box/Folder		
7/12	Announcements	1950
7/13	Certificates	1921-1942; 1976
Newsletters		
Box/Folder		
7/14	<i>Amstat News</i>	1984
Photographs		
Box/Folder		
8/1	Photocopies of transferred photos	1950-1991, undated
Box/Folder		
8/2	Programs	1947
8/3	Clippings	1948-1994
8/4	Miscellany	1939-1950

Hilde Merzbach Birnbaum Papers, 1933-1950

Hilde Merzbach Birnbaum (b. Feb. 2, 1909, d. Aug. 12, 2003) grew up and studied law in Frankfurt, Germany. She was in London in the summer of 1931 on an internship in a solicitor's office, when the Nazi party won control of the German Reichstag. Despite misgivings, she returned to Germany after the

internship at the insistence of her family. While serving as an intern in a German court she recognized that, as a woman and a Jew, she would never be able to practice law in Germany. She emigrated to London with her sister on March 31, 1933, on the eve of the Anti-Jewish Boycott. Her parents eventually realized the need to leave Germany and joined Hilde's sister in Seattle. As pre-war tensions were rising in London in 1939, Hilde was offered a position as director of her employer's Brazilian subsidiary but decided to join her family in Seattle instead. In 1940 Hilde married Z.W. Birnbaum. She obtained a master's degree in economics from the University of Washington and became a teaching assistant with prospects for a full time position. After she was notified that the university's nepotism rules prohibited her and her husband from holding positions at the university at the same time, however, Mrs. Birnbaum taught at Seattle area community colleges and became the chairwoman of the economics department at Bellevue Community College.

The bulk of the Hilde Merzbach Birnbaum subgroup consists of her correspondence (in German) prior to meeting Z.W. Birnbaum. There are also a few short essays, and material related to a legal conference.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
General Correspondence		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
8/5-6	Bauer, Lothar	1937-1939
8/7	Feuchtwanger, Alfred	1936-1937
8/8	von Leithner, Baron Otto	1937-1938
8/9	Lindemann, Max	1934-1938
8/10	Merzbach, Richard	1940-1943
8/11-12	Steger, A.	1937-1938
8/13	University of Washington	1949
8/14-16	Miscellaneous	1933-1938
8/17	Unidentified	1935; 1938
Writings		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
8/18	"Is There a Secret to Hitler's Success?"	1938-1939

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8/18	"Entering a New World"	1938-1939
8/18	"Victoria, B.C."	1938-1939
Box/Folder		
8/19	Financial Records	1937
Subject Series		
Box/Folder		
8/20	Law Papers and International Law Conference	1938
Box/Folder		
8/21	Miscellaneous	1937-1938; 1948-1950

UW Senate, Committee to Study Annuities and Retirement

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
8/22	General Correspondence	1940; 1947

Institute of Mathematical and Statistical Research

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
8/23	Outgoing Correspondence	1938

Institute of Mathematical Statistics

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8/24	Miscellany	1943-1968
	Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Advisory Committee on Physical Facilities for Meetings	
Box/Folder		
8/25-27	General Correspondence Correspondents include Leo Katz, George Nicholson, and David L. Wallace.	1955-1970

American Association of University Professors, UW Chapter

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
8/28	General Correspondence	1946
8/28	Bulletins	1944-1946
8/28	Reports	1946

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Jewish college teachers--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Jews--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Loyalty oaths--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Mathematical statistics--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Mathematicians--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Mathematics teachers--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 Mathematics--Study and teaching (Higher)--Washington (State)--Seattle
 Refugees, Jewish--United States
 Statisticians--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
 World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Europe
 World War, 1939-1945--Jews--Rescue

Personal Names :

Altbach, Jozia
 Bauer, Lothar
 Berger, Jacob, 1908-
 Berger, Rita, 1912-
 Bernstein, Felix, 1878-1956
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