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Kalmar Family Diaries (2021.01)

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Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

11 Hawthorne Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES 2021.01

Kalmar Family Diary Collection

Processed by Robyn Conroy, Lamisa Muksitu and Tara O'Donnell
January 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Series		Page	Box
	Collection Information	3	
	Historical/Biographical Notes	4	
	Scope and Content	4	
	Series Description	5	
1	Diaries	6-10	1-5
2	Correspondences	11-18	5
2	1 Carlo Pietzner to George and Vera	11	5
	2 Poetry from Heinz Politzer	12	5
	3 George and Vera to Heinz Politzer	13	5
	4 Heinz Politzer to George and Vera	14	5
	5 Emmy Wunsch Wien to Vera	15-16	5
	6 Unknown to Vera	17	5
	7 Unknown	18	5
3	Vera's sketches and scrapbook	19 and BV	6
4	Photographs	20-23	6
	1 George, Paul, and his parents Karl and Margarethe Kalmar	20	6
	2 George Kalmar	21	
	3 Paul Kalmar	22	
	4 George, Vera, and Madeline Kalmar	23	
5	External Harddrive with images of diaries		6

Collection Information

Abstract : This collection is comprised of 39 diaries belonging to members of the Kalmar family of Vienna, Austria. The first 26 (1913 – 1932) were written by Margarethe Kalmar (Pollak) (December 5, 1881 (Vienna, Austria) – After May 16, 1944 (KZ Auschwitz)). The remaining 16 (1941 – 1993) were written by George Otto Kalmar (November 16, 1913 (Vienna, Austria) – November 12, 1994 (Copake, NY)). Collection also contains correspondences to George and Vera Kalmar as well as sketchbooks and images of the families.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Kalmar Family Diaries – Courtesy of The Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Donated from the estate of George Kalmar's daughter Madeline 'Mady' (Kalmar) Harvey in 2021.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

Historical/Biographical Notes

Karl Kalmar (September 17, 1871 (Vienna, Austria) – December 26, 1942 (Theresienstadt)) and Margarethe Kalmar (Pollak) (December 5, 1881 (Vienna, Austria) – After May 16, 1944 (KZ Auschwitz)). They had two sons Paul Kalmar (May 31, 1908 (Vienna, Austria) – August 3, 1977 (Scotland, UK)) and George Otto Kalmar (November 16, 1913 (Vienna, Austria) – November 12, 1994 (Copake, NY)).

George Kalmar studied painting at the Kunstgewerbschule (now University of Applied Arts) in Vienna. He married Vera Rosa Kalmar (Raschkes) (August 24, 1914 (Vienna, Austria) – August 24, 1988 (Acton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts)), a fellow artist, on July 10, 1938. They were married hastily just after Hitler attacked Austria. Their intention was to immigrate to the United States, but this required a financial affidavit from an American citizen pledging to provide financial support if it was required (so that these immigrants would not be a burden to the US government). Acquiring such an affidavit generally took time so their intermediate plan was to escape to Holland while awaiting the affidavit. The morning after their wedding, they left for The Netherlands. They spent one year in Holland awaiting the affidavit. George worked at a lace factory during that time. They finally left for the United States on the last boat that left Holland. As it pulled out of the dock, Hitler attacked Holland, and no more ships were allowed out.

They came to America via Ellis Island on May 16, 1940 and settled in New York City. Vera designed greeting cards for many years for a major firm, and George was art director of a pharmaceutical advertising company, while continuing to paint and exhibit. Upon the invitation of Carlo Pietzner, a fellow former student at the University, the Kalmars joined the new Camphill Village at Copake, N.Y. in 1962, where he worked in various capacities but especially as "painter-in-residence." During the 1970s and beyond he held one-man exhibitions in Massachusetts, and Salzburg, Austria, and participated in group shows in New York City.

George Otto Kalmar died at the age of 80 on November 12, 1994 in Copake, Columbia County, New York. George and Vera Kalmar had one daughter, Madeline 'Mady' (Kalmar) Harvey (March 15, 1950 (New York City) - March 31, 2020 (Lincoln, MA)).

The diaries are objects of beauty as well as intriguing historical documents that fit within the modernist artistic milieu of interwar Vienna. Written in German in an elegant hand and illustrated with photographs of the artist, his family, and friends as well as his drawings, they form a unique collection. The diaries have the potential to serve as a valuable resource for students, either at the graduate or undergraduate level, eager to research primary source materials.

Scope and Content

This collection is comprised of 39 diaries belonging to members of the Kalmar family of Vienna, Austria. The first 26 (1913 – 1932) were written by Margarethe Kalmar (Pollak) (Decr 5, 1881 (Vienna, Austria) – After May 16, 1944 (KZ Auschwitz)). The remaining 16 (1941 – 1993) were written by George Otto Kalmar (Nov 16, 1913 (Vienna, Austria) – Nov 12, 1994 (Copake, NY)).

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Diaries

Series 2: Correspondences

Subseries 1: Correspondences between Carlos Pietzner (Camphill) and George and Vera Kalmar

Subseries 2: Poetry from Heinz Politzer

Subseries 3: George and Vera to Heinz Politzer

Subseries 4: Heinz Politzer to George and Vera

Subseries 5: Emmy Wunsch Wien to Vera

Subseries 6: Unknown to Vera

Subseries 7: Unknown

Series 3: Vera's sketches and scrapbook

Series 4: Photographs

Subseries 1: George, Paul, and his parents Karl and Margarethe Kalmar

Subseries 2: George Kalmar

Subseries 3: Paul Kalmar

Subseries 4: George, Vera, and Madeline Kalmar

Series 5: External Hard drive with scans of diary pages

Series 1, Diaries

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1		2021.01.1.1	5 x 7 inch, dark green leather diary (November 16, 1913– November 16, 1914) 129 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
1		2021.01.1.2	6.5 x 8 inch, light brown diary (December 15, 1914 – September 30, 1916) 195 pages – written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
1		2021.01.1.3	6.5 x 8 inch, light brown diary (October 3, 1916 – January 11, 1918) 144 pages – written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available
1		2021.01.1.4	6.5 x 8 inch, light brown diary (February 1, 1918 – September 9, 1919) 164 pages – written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
1		2021.01.1.5	6.5 x 8 inch, light green diary (September 12, 1919 – December 29, 1920) 164 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
1		2021.01.1.6	6.5 x 8 inch, dark green diary (June 6, 1921 – December 19, 1921) 192 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available
1		2021.01.1.7	6.5 x 8 inch, blue with red edges diary (September 20, 1921 – September 4, 1922) 176 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
1		2021.01.1.8	6 x 7 inch, blue diary (September 5, 1922 – February 13, 1923) 200 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
2		2021.01.1.9	6 x 7 inch, blue diary (February 15, 1923 – July 20, 1923) 132 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.

Series 1, Diaries

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2		2021.01.1.10	6.5 x 8 inch, brown diary (July 21, 1923 – April 21, 1924) 186 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
2		2021.01.1.11	6.5 x 8 inch, brown diary (April 24, 1924 – September 23, 1924) 184 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
2		2021.01.1.12	6.5 x 8 inch, brown diary (September 24, 1924 – April 17, 1925) 185 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
2		2021.01.1.13	6.5 x 8 inch, dark green diary (April 20, 1925 – August 15, 1925) 146 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
2		2021.01.1.14	6.5 x 8 inch, dark green diary (August 16, 1925 – April 14, 1926) 144 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
2		2021.01.1.15	6.5 x 8 inch, dark brown diary (April 15, 1926 – August 10, 1926) 124 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
3		2021.01.1.16	6.5 x 8 inch, blue diary (August 11, 1926 – January 15, 1927) 132 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
3		2021.01.1.17	6 x 7 inch, green with blue diary (January 15, 1927 – August 24, 1927) 194 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
3		2021.01.1.18	6.5 x 8 inch, dark green diary (August 24, 1927 – March 7, 1928) 142 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
3		2021.01.1.19	6.5 x 8 inch, dark green diary (March 8, 1928 – September 30, 1928) 146 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.

Series 1, Diaries

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
3		2021.01.1.20	6.5 x 8 inch, dark green diary (October 1, 1928 – June 6, 1929) 144 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
3		2021.01.1.21	6.5 x 8 inch, dark green diary (June 7, 1929 – September 30, 1929) 144 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
3		2021.01.1.22	6.5 x 8 inch, dark green diary (October 1, 1929 – May 30, 1930) 147 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
3		2021.01.1.23	6.5 x 8 inch, dark green diary (May 30, 1930 – January 6, 1931) 144 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
3		2021.01.1.24	6.5 x 8 inch, dark green diary (January 7, 1931 – September 3, 1931) 162 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
3		2021.01.1.25	6.5 x 8 inch dark green diary (September 4, 1931 – May 14, 1932) 200 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
3		2021.01.1.26	6.5 x 8 inch, dark green diary (May 15, 1932 – November 10, 1932) 176 pages - written in German by Margarethe Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
4		2021.01.1.27	7 x 8 inch, brown notebook (January 06, 1941 – November 02, 1941) 144 pages – written in German and English by George Otto Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.
4		2021.01.1.28	7 x 8 inch, brown notebook (December 14, 1941 – August 4, 1942) 83 pages – written in German and English by George Otto Kalmar. Digital Scan Available.

Series 1, Diaries

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4		2021.01.1.29	7 x 10 inch, black notebook (1942 –1945) – written and typed in English by George Otto Kalmar.
4		2021.01.1.30	Folder of diary entries from (1945 – 1971) – written and typed in English by George Otto Kalmar.
4		2021.01.1.31	5.5 x 4 inch, red diary (February 09, 1966 – December 20, 1966) 314 pages – written in English by George Otto Kalmar.
4		2021.01.1.32	3.5 x 6 inch, brown diary (January 1, 1977 – December 31, 1977) – 365 pages – written in English by George Otto Kalmar.
4		2021.01.1.33	5 x 7.5 inch, dark brown diary (January 2, 1985 – December 31, 1985) 364 pages – written in English by George Otto Kalmar.
4		2021.01.1.34	5 x 7.5 inch, dark red diary (January 1, 1986 – December 31, 1986) 365 pages – written in English by George Otto Kalmar.
4		2021.01.1.35	5 x 7.5 inch, dark red diary (January 1, 1987 – December 31, 1987) 365 pages – written in English by George Otto Kalmar.
5		2021.01.1.36	5 x 7.5 inch, dark red diary (January 1, 1989 – December 31, 1989) 365 pages – written in English by George Otto Kalmar.
5		2021.01.1.37	5 x 7.5 inch, dark red diary (January 1, 1990 – December 31, 1990) 365 pages – written in English by George Otto Kalmar.
5		2021.01.1.38	5 x 7.5 inch, dark red diary (January 1, 1991 – December 31, 1991) 365 pages – written in English by George Otto Kalmar.

Series 1, Diaries

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5		2021.01.1.39	5 x 7.5 inch, dark red diary (January 1, 1993 – June 11, 1993) 365 pages – written in English by George Otto Kalmar.

Series 2, Correspondences
Subseries 1, Carlo Pietzner to George and Vera

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	1	2021.01.2 .1.1	Letter dated 1/20/1960 (2 pages)
5	1	2021.01.2.1.2	Letter dated 2/19/1960 (2 pages)
5	1	2021.01.2.1.3	Letter dated 12/31/1960 (2 pages)
5	1	2021.01.2.1.4	Letter dated 3/25/1961 (1 page)
5	1	2021.01.2.1.5	Letter dated 4/6/1961 (1 page)
5	1	2021.01.2.1.6	Letter dated 4/17/1961 (1 page)
5	1	2021.01.2.1.7	Letter dated 6/9/1961 (2 pages)
5	1	2021.01.2.1.8	Letter dated 2/10/1961 (2 pages)
5	1	2021.01.2.1.9	Letter dated 12/30/1961 (1 page)

Series 2, Correspondences
Subseries 2, Poetry from Heinz Politzer

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	2	2021.01.2 .2.1	Nani (German)
5	2	2021.01.2 .2.2	Chidiok Tichbournes Elegie am Vorabend seiner Hinrichtung (German)
5	2	2021.01.2 .2.3	Ausgestreckte Arme (German)
5	2	2021.01.2 .2.4	Der Herr des Brunnens (German)
5	2	2021.01.2 .2.5	Erwachen (German)
5	2	2021.01.2 .2.6	Der Regenvogel (German)
5	2	2021.01.2 .2.7	Schlaflied (German)
5	2	2021.01.2 .2.8	Deutung (German)
5	2	2021.01.2 .2.9	Das arme Zeichen (German)
5	2	2021.01.2 .2.10	Alter Gaukler unserer lieben Frau (German)
5	2	2021.01.2 .2.11	Der Schlafer (German)

Series 2, Correspondences
Subseries 3, George and Vera to Heinz Politzer

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	3	2021.01.2 .3.1	Letter dated 10/21/1948 (1 page)
5	3	2021.01.2 .3.2	Letter dated 11/17/1948 (1 page)
5	3	2021.01.2 .3.3	Letter dated 4/7 (maybe 1949) (1 page)
5	3	2021.01.2 .3.4	Letter dated 5/21/1949 (1 page)

Series 2, Correspondences
Subseries 4, Heinz Politzer to George and Vera

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	4	2021.01.2.4.1	Letter dated 9/12/1948 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.2	Letter dated 10/5/1948 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.3	Letter dated (MAYBE 10/22/1948) (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.4	Letter dated 11/13/1948 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.5	Letter dated 11/26/1948 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.6	Letter dated 3/18/1949 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.7	Letter dated 4/8/1949 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.8	Letter dated 5/14/1949 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.9	Letter dated 5/17/1949 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.10	Letter dated 5/27/1949 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.11	Letter dated 9/26/1949 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.12	Letter dated 11/10/1949 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.13	Letter dated (maybe 12/19/1949) (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.14	Letter dated 4/12/1950 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.15	Letter dated 6/22/1950 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.16	Letter dated 8/3/1950 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.17	Letter dated 8/13/1950 (1 page)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.18	Letter dated 5/25/1952 (2 pages)
5	4	2021.01.2.4.19	Letter dated 5/12/1957 (1 page)

Series 2, Correspondences
Subseries 5, Emmy Wunsch Wien to Vera

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	5	2021.01.2.5.1	Letter dated unknown (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.2	Letter dated 1/5/1946 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.3	Letter dated 7/9/1946 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.4	Letter dated 8/18/1946 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.5	Letter dated 10/23/1946 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.6	Letter dated 12/11/1946 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.7	Letter dated 2/14/1947 (2 pages)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.8	Letter dated 4/9/1947 (2 pages)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.9	Letter dated 6/11/1947 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.10	Letter dated 6/29/1947 (2 pages)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.11	Letter dated 8/6/1947 (2 pages)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.12	Letter dated 10/16/1947 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.13	Letter dated 12/13/1947 (2 pages)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.14	Letter dated 1/11/1948 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.15	Letter dated 1/25/1948 (2 pages)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.16	Letter dated 5/19/1948 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.17	Letter dated 6/6/1948 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.18	Letter dated 7/23/1948 (2 pages)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.19	Letter dated 11/20/1948 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.20	Letter dated 1/11/1949 (1 page)

5	5	2021.01.2.5.21	Letter dated 1/31/1949 (2 pages)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.22	Letter dated 4/5/1949 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.23	Letter dated 8/21/1949 (2 pages)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.24	Letter dated 10/18/1949 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.25	Letter dated 12/4/1949 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.26	Letter dated 1/25/1950 (2 pages)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.27	Letter dated 3/16/1950 (2 pages)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.28	Letter dated 4/23/1950 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.29	Letter dated 7/30/1950 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.30	Letter dated 12/5/1950 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.31	Letter dated 1/12/1951 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.32	Letter dated 3/4/1951 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.33	Letter dated 4/2/1951 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.34	Letter dated 12/16/1952 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.35	Letter dated 10/26/1951 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.36	Letter dated 12/12/1951 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.37	Letter dated 1/25/1952 (1 page)
5	5	2021.01.2.5.38	Letter dated 12/16/1952 (1 page-missing page)

Series 2, Correspondences
Subseries 6, Unknown to Vera

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	6	2021.01.2.6.1	Letter dated 11/15/1938 (3 pages)

Series 2, Correspondences
Subseries 7, Unknown

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	7	2021.01.2.7.1	Letter dated 1937 (exact date unknown) (5 pages)

Series 3, Vera's sketches and scrapbook

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
6		2021.01.3.1	Vera's sketches of the seasons titled 'Bauern regeln' which translates to 'farmer's rules.' In the center a family of five. In the corners, the four seasons are depicted by a woman. There's also fruits and vegetables in the sketch. She also has different sketches of the 12 months.
		2021.01.3.2	Seems like a scrapbook that Vera made. It starts in 1914 and has her drawings from her childhood. She continued to fill the book with pictures and her own drawings.

Series 4, Photographs
Subseries 1, Karl and Margarethe Kalmar family pictures

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
6	1	2021.01.4.1.1- 2021.01.4.1.34	Photographs of George, Paul, and George's parents who are Margarethe's grandparents.

Series 4, Photographs
Subseries 2, George Kalmar's pictures

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
6	2	2021.01.4.2.1- 2021.01.4.2.40	Photographs of George through his life, from childhood to adulthood to old age. Some people that are present in the photographs are not specified.

Series 4, Photographs
Subseries 3, Paul Kalmar's picture

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
6	3	2021.01.4.3.1	Photographs of Paul Kalmar

Series 4, Photographs
Subseries 4, George, Vera, and Madeline

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
6	4	2021.01.4.4.1-25	Photographs of George, Vera, and Madeline. Many of the picture are of Madeline as an infant. Some also appear to be of George and Vera's early life in the US.