

## VHEC ARCHIVES FINDING AID

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### FONDS/COLLECTION TITLE

Bick family fonds

### IDENTIFIER

RA012

### EXTENT & MEDIUM

1 cm of textual records  
145 photographs : black and white, colour  
27 books  
1 table cloth

### DATE

1868–2002

### CREATOR

Bick family

### ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

The Bicks were a Jewish-German family who lived in Sorau, now Żary, Poland, until their escape to Chile in 1939. The documents in this fonds pertain mostly to Siegfried (birth name Jude Siegfried Bick, b. July 16, 1882, in Sorau, Germany), his wife, Johanna Bick (birth name Johanna Munter, b. November 24, 1889, in Labischin, Germany), and their son, Werner Bick (b. December 14, 1919, in Sorau, Germany).

Siegfried Bick was born to Simon Bick (b. 1846; d. 1907) and Rosa Rosenthal (b. 1841; d. 1923). He had six brothers and sisters: Max, Georg, Jenny, Regina, Bertha and Felix. After the death of his father in 1907, Siegfried and his brother, Max, purchased their parents' clothing store from their mother. Siegfried married Johanna Munter in April 1912. They had a daughter the following year and, in 1919, they had a son, Werner.

The Bick family home was vandalized during Kristallnacht, on November 9, 1938. Siegfried and Werner were imprisoned. Siegfried was transferred to Sachsenhausen concentration camp and Werner was released after four days in the local jail. He immediately contacted his uncle, Georg, who lived with his family in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Georg promised to send a friend to help him cross the border. Werner sought refuge in Vaals and studied woolen fabric design at a textile school for two months.

Siegfried was released from Sachsenhausen on December 13, 1938. On February 5, 1939, Siegfried and Johanna arrived in Rotterdam and stayed at the refugee camp there. They were reunited with Werner soon after and the three of them moved to the Lloyd Hotel in Amsterdam, which was being used as a refugee centre. Siegfried, Johanna, and Werner were set to leave Europe the day before the start of Second World War, September 1, 1939. They traveled to Antwerp, Belgium, and almost did not make it aboard the Chilean ship, the *Copiapó*, for which they had already purchased tickets. The ship, which was the last to make it out of Hamburg, Germany, before the war began, arrived in Valparaíso, Chile, with around 300 passengers on board, on September 29, 1939. The Bicks, who were among ninety Jewish refugees aboard the *Copiapó*, settled near Santiago.

In Chile, the Bicks found success farming and operating a cheese-making business. In 1949, Werner married Ingrid and the two of them lived in Lo Espejo, a suburb of Santiago. They had four daughters: Olivia, Silvia, Jacqueline and Rosely. After Siegfried died in January 1966, Werner decided to move the family to North America and began searching for a new city to live in. Werner and his daughters, Olivia and Jacqueline, arrived in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on January 13, 1969. The rest of the family soon followed. The Bicks owned a dairy farm in Aldergrove, British Columbia.

Johanna died February 26, 1979, in Abbotsford, British Columbia. Werner died April 26, 2010.

### **SCOPE & CONTENT**

Fonds consists of photograph albums, loose photographs, books, memoir, table cloth and official documents relating to the lives of members of the Bick family. Fonds has been arranged into the following series: Werner Bick memoir series (2002), Prayer books series (1868–1933), Bick family photographs series ([1891?]-[200-]), Siegfried and Johanna Bick emigration documents series (1938–1939) and Household object series ([before 1979]).

### **ARCHIVAL HISTORY**

Series 3, Collected books series, was removed July 2018 and books in this series removed from the collection. Inventory of books collected by the Bick family is available.

### **IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION OR TRANSFER**

First accrual donated by Ingrid Bick in 2011. Second accrual donated by Ingrid Bick in 2017. Records were maintained by Werner Bick until his death in 2010.

### **ACCRUALS**

Further accruals are possible.

### **LANGUAGE**

English, German, Hebrew, Spanish

### **SYSTEM OF ARRANGEMENT**

Collection has been arranged into five series which reflect the major activities of the Bick family, as well as thematic divisions as it came to the VHEC. Select photographs only have been described at the item level. Other items have been digitized and scans used as media representations for series, sub-series and file-level descriptions. Consult the archivist for more information.

### **RIGHTS**

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### **RULES OR CONVENTIONS**

ISAD(G) informed by RAD

### **DATE OF DESCRIPTION**

Prepared by Sarika Kelm in November 2016. Revised 2017 to include description of accrual. Revised 2018.

## Collection Contents

### Werner Bick memoir series (RA012-01)

Series consists of memoir written by Werner Bick, as well as partial draft versions.

#### Final cut (RA012-01-00-01)

File contains final version of memoir written by Werner Bick.

#### [WB memoir drafts] (RA012-01-00-02)

File contains partial drafts of memoir written by Werner Bick.

### Prayer books series (RA012-02)

Series consists of Jewish prayer books belonging to various members of the Bick family. Series consists of the following sub-series: Bick family prayer books and Bick, Munter mourning books.

#### Bick family prayer books sub-series (RA012-02-01)

Sub-series consists of German and Hebrew prayer books belonging to Simon, Rosa and Siegfried Bick. Many books contain inscriptions, including family names and dates.

#### Bick, Munter family mourning books sub-series (RA012-02-02)

Sub-series consists of mourning books belonging to Siegfried and Johanna Bick to help remember the dates of death of their parents: Simon Bick, Rosa Bick, Jacob Munter and Bertha Munter. The books give the secular dates of the anniversaries of death (*jahrzeits*) in the Jewish calendar for fifty years, as well as memorial prayers in German and Hebrew. Some books contain obituaries clipped from newspapers, photographs, real photo postcard and newspaper clippings.

##### [Simon and Rosa Bick mourning book] (RA012-02-02-01)

File consists of mourning book, titled "Trauer Album," belonging to Siegfried Bick for his parents, Simon and Rosa Bick, with photographs of Bick family headstones, family photographs, real photo postcard and newspaper clippings inserted between pages.

##### [Simon Bick mourning book] (RA012-02-02-02)

File consists of mourning book, titled "Trauer Album," belonging to Siegfried Bick for his father, Simon Bick, with clipped newspaper obituary inserted in pages.

##### [Rosa Bick mourning book] (RA012-02-02-03)

File consists of mourning book, titled "Jahrzeits und Trauer-Andachtsbuch," belonging to Siegfried Bick for his mother, Rosa Bick.

##### [Jacob Munter mourning book] (RA012-02-02-04)

File consists of mourning book, titled "Trauer-Gedenkbuch" belonging to Johanna Bick for her father, Jacob Munter, with clipped newspaper obituary and leaflet from publisher inserted in pages.

##### [Bertha Munter mourning book] (RA012-02-02-05)

File consists of mourning book, titled "Jahrzeits und Trauer-Andachtsbuch," belonging to Johanna Bick for her mother, Bertha Munter.

### Bick family photographs series (RA012-04)

Series consists of family photograph album containing photos of members of the Bick, Munter and Kroner families (also

relations of Bick family), as well as photos of Sorau, Germany; loose photo album pages containing photos of members of the Bick and Kroner families, as well as extended family members or friends who perished in the Holocaust; loose photos and real photo postcards of members of the Bick and Kroner families, Hanni Himmelweit, and Ingrid Bick's grandparents; and two photos of the Jewish Women of Sorau.

Bick family photograph album (RA012-04-00-01)

File contains family photo album depicting Bick family businesses and various members of the Bick family, presumably Werner and his sister as young children. Blank spaces and damage caused by removal of glued photos suggest many photos were removed from album.

Loose photograph album pages (RA012-04-00-02)

File contains three loose photograph album pages from what appears to be two different photo albums. Photographs depict Kroner relatives in First World War military uniforms, as well as unidentified individuals. Blank spaces and damage caused by removal of glued photos suggest many photos were removed from album.

Loose magnetic self adhesive photograph album pages (RA012-04-00-03)

File contains loose magnetic self adhesive photograph album pages with photos depicting the Bick, Kroner, Munter, Rosenthal and Frischner families. Also included are photos of family friends who perished in the Holocaust. Photos consist mostly of portraits, as well as exterior shots of Bick family businesses in Sorau, Germany and unidentified British Columbia, Canada, location.

Loose photographs (RA012-04-00-04)

File contains loose photographs and real photo postcards in enclosures depicting Bick and Kroner relatives, Ingrid Bick's grandparents, Hannelore Wohl neé Lipper (b. 1922), and Hanni Himmelweit. Many photos appear to have been removed from photograph albums.

Jewish Women of Sorau (RA012-04-00-05)

File contains two photographs in enclosures depicting the Jewish Women of Sorau, based in Sorau, Germany, including what appears to be a tenth anniversary picture (1921–1931). Photos originally together in envelope.

Siegfried and Johanna Bick emigration documents series (RA012-05)

Series consists of copy of concentration camp release form for Siegfried Bick and partial copies of visa applications for Chile for Siegfried and Johanna Bick.

Household object series (RA012-06)

Series consists of one linen table cloth owned by Johanna Bick.