

May 2020

Folder 8 – Flashner, Nathan – 1937

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Comments:

Contains a handwritten letter that is difficult to read.

See also [Fischer – Goldwein](#). The file for *Flashner* is located in "Additional Files" at the bottom of the page.

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~~San Diego~~
Miss Rasovsky
National Office

URGENT

CONFIDENTIAL

Feb. 18, 1937.
Flashner Family

This is the case we discussed informally last week. Mr. Nathan Flashner, who was born in Kamianka, now Poland, entered Mexico City in August, 1930, illegally. He was twenty-four years old at the time. He had no passport as he had escaped during the Russian Revolution. His wife, who was then Helen Horowitz, joined him in Mexico City early in 1931, she arriving legally in Mexico on a Polish passport. They were married in Mexico City in April, 1932.

Their three children, Leo, Ida and Joanne, were born in Mexico City in 1934, 1937 and 1938 respectively. Their births were not registered in Mexico City as it was feared that the registration would disclose Mr. Flashner's illegal entry in that country. Mr. Flashner had a photograph studio in Mexico City on Calle Campeche, exact address not remembered.

Mr. and Mrs. Flashner and their three children entered the United States illegally in February, 1936, being smuggled across the border at El Paso. They settled in Brooklyn and for a time Mr. Flashner found private employment in a photograph studio. For the past eight months he has been unemployed and is being assisted by the United Jewish Aid Societies since May, 1936, with rent and living expenses.

Mr. Flashner insists that there is no future for him in Mexico as he was starving there prior to his departure from that country. Furthermore, he does not see how he can return to that country without money as he never gained legal entry there. He is very eager to remain in the United States despite his precarious status as his children have adjusted themselves beautifully in this country and are honor scholars in their classes. Furthermore, he feels that with a loan of a few hundred dollars he can open his own photograph studio and be financially independent of the United Jewish Aid Societies.

The United Jewish Aid not only has refused to consider this business plan for Mr. Flashner, but is insistent that he and his family return to Mexico. The agency is willing to meet the cost of transportation, incidental expenses, etc., even though it might amount to about \$1,000. They claim that putting Mr. Flashner in business is a poor investment since he may be "picked up" by the immigration authorities at any minute.

The Flashners have no relatives in the United States. Mr. Flashner has two sisters in France and Mrs. Flashner has a brother in Poland. Mr. Flashner creates a favorable impression of an industrious and resourceful man.

What would be your suggestion as to the plan of returning the family to Mexico? Will Mrs. Flashner and the three children gain ready admission to that country? Will the fact that the registration of the children's births did not take place affect their return to Mexico? How much money would Mr. Flashner need as an immigrant to Mexico accompanying his wife and three children, providing the latter would be readmitted to Mexico?

SD:DC

Sara Dukore
Miss Rasevsky
National Office

URGENT CONFIDENTIAL

Feb. 18, 1937.
Flashner Family

This is the case we discussed informally last week. Mr. Nathan Flashner, who was born in Kamianka, now Poland, entered Mexico City in August, 1920, illegally. He was twenty-four years old at the time. He had no passport as he had escaped during the Russian Revolution. His wife, who was then Helen Horowitz, joined him in Mexico City early in 1921, she arriving legally in Mexico on a Polish passport. They were married in Mexico City in April, 1922.

Their three children, Leo, Ida and Joanne, were born in Mexico City in 1924, 1927 and 1935 respectively. Their births were not registered in Mexico City as it was feared that the registration would disclose Mr. Flashner's illegal entry in that country. Mr. Flashner had a photograph studio in Mexico City on Calle Comercio, exact address not remembered.

Mr. and Mrs. Flashner and their three children entered the United States illegally in February, 1936, being smuggled across the border at El Paso. They settled in Brooklyn and for a time Mr. Flashner found private employment in a photograph studio. For the past eight months he has been unemployed and is being assisted by the United Jewish Aid Societies since May, 1936, with rent and living expenses.

Mr. Flashner insists that there is no future for him in Mexico as he was starving there prior to his departure from that country. Furthermore, he does not see how he can return to that country without money as he never gained legal entry there. He is very eager to remain in the United States despite his precarious status as his children have adjusted themselves beautifully in this country and are honor scholars in their classes. Furthermore, he feels that with a loan of a few hundred dollars he can open his own photograph studio and be financially independent of the United Jewish Aid Societies.

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SD:DC

TELEPHONES: DRY DOCK 4-2174
IF NO ANSWER - PHONE
PORTLAND 7-9800, EXTENSION 348

DR. M. DAVIDSON
804 GRAND STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Feb. 21, 1937.

Dear Aimee:

After I wrote the enclosed in pencil, I
received the enclosed letter from the ^{Brooklyn} ~~New York~~ Section. NCJW
I'd like to have your candid opinion on this case. Don't you
think it is impossible for this family to return to
Mexico? I would appreciate hearing from you at once, as I
am afraid these efficient social workers may decide to
send the man down immediately.

Again, my love. Keep well.

Cecilia

Sat 7/10/07

Dear Aimee:

I received your lovely card - It's sweet of you to think of me. Do you know my mind is so full of a number of things - I don't identify the allusion to the letter which you say was not forwarded with your mail. Let me know if I have been remiss in any way. I know I'm generally remiss these days with all my friends - because I'm so pressed and pursued by emergency situations - but I love my friends and my only prayer is that they will love me despite my neglectful ways.

Everyone admires the ring the boys sent me and I very proudly boast that I have two handsome admirers in Texas who send me charming gifts.

We are listening to the Metropolitan broadcast of 'Koussin' - I hope you are too - for by this time you are no doubt at home again. Did you find your men OK?

2)
I spoke to Blanchette about the money
for El Paso + she says it will continue
as in former years.

We are getting our plans ready for the
naturalization program + also for Brazil.
Morris (my better half) has agreed to
come with me as his vacation so I
am thrilled! The check from the
Rosenwalds for \$3000. arrived two weeks
ago with a lovely letter.

We've had lots of exciting cases lately -
and plenty of work.

Wish you were having dinner with
us tonight. It's a good menu - and it
would be fun to be with you.
Lots of love to yourself and family.

Celia



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN

INCORPORATED

221 WEST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK

TELEPHONE · CIRCLE 6-3175

CABLE ADDRESS · COUNJEW · N. Y.

March 31, 1937

Mrs. Aimee Mayer
Hilton Hotel
El Paso, Texas

RE: FLASHNER FAMILY

Dear Mrs. Mayer:

The enclosed memorandum was sent to us by the Brooklyn Section of the Council of Jewish Women. Will you please study it and give us your opinion as to what you think might be done in this situation?

Sincerely yours,

Cecilia Razovsky
Associate Director

E. Perlman:rh

encl.

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