

June 2020

## Folder 9 – Seelig, Annemarie – 1939

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Comments:

Most of the correspondence is handwritten in English.

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

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### Recommended Citation

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Dresden, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1939

Dear Mrs. M. Laughlin,

No doubt, you will be surprised to hear from me again after such a long time, but you must not think for one moment that we have forgotten you. In these dark days of ours, we have often spoken and pictured the wonderful time we would have had, if it had been possible for us to except your kind help.

We were very excited yesterday, when we got a letter from Dr. Elsa Brandström-Wick - no doubt, you have heard about her and the good deeds she does in America - she has written to say that Jochen and I are down in the list to come to America on the preferred quota for children. This is the only thing she had advised us. We do not know exactly whether we shall come into a camp or be distributed amongst private people. If it should be the latter, I should so dearly love to come to you, if you would help me. You must not think me cheeky, when I say so, but I really took such a fancy to you, when you were those few hours with us last summer. If you would really have me, will you write to Dr. Elsa Brandström-Wick, 113 Walker Street, Cambridge, Mass. and ask her, if it is possible for me to come to you, or if she has other plans for us children. Of course, I do not know what conditions with regard to the cost. Whether the Committee



grays for us or from private funds. Oh, you do not know how lovely it would be, if I can come to you, as although our acquaintance was so short I feel as if I know you, and I should feel much happier, than if I had to go to strangers. Also I know that my mother, who will have to stay will be happier too. The greatest joy for her will be, when it is possible for you to find another family in El Paso, which is willing to give you a home that we can be together and see us, and must not be separated by a very great distance. It cannot be so difficult, because we two get an affidavit the next days. I do hope you will not think me impertinent in writing and asking you to do this, but I will always try to repay you for your kindness.

With kindest regards to your sister and daughters, in which my mother and brother join me

I am

yours very sincerely  
Annemarie Selig.



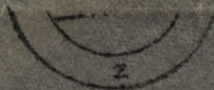
U. S. A.

5 gr

Mrs.

Elvira M Laughlin

1611 Galloway Ave.



mit Dampfer Manhattan  
ab Southampton

MIT LUFTPOST  
PAR AVION  
BY AIR MAIL

El Paso (Texas)

in U. S. A.

Annemarie Selig, Dresden-424, Bayreutherstr. 30  
Germany.

113 WALKER STREET  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

den 6.3.39.

Dear Mrs.M Laughlin.

Before I try to interest you in the following plan I think I ought to introduce myself to you.I am the wife of a professor at Harvard University and Swedish by birth.I am keenly interested in the fate of the refugees from Central Europe.I heard lately of your kindness towards Dr.Selig-Herz and her children.As I have been trying to find some friend who would give Mrs.Selig-Herz and her children an affidavit and now also have very much hope to get one here in Cambridge,I thought that perhaps to make it stronger before the consul,you might be willing to give a supplementary affidavit to Mrs.Selig-Herz.I should be very grateful to you if you would let me know your decision as soon as possible

Believe me yours sincerely

*Ulla Brändström-Ulich*

Mrs.Robert Ulich



March 15, 1939.

Mrs. Robert Ulich,  
113 Walker Street,  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Ulich:

Your letter to Mrs. McLaughlin was handed to me  
for reply.

In discussing the question of the Zelig-Herz  
children, Mrs. McLaughlin is unable to furnish  
affidavits, but disinterested persons in El Paso  
will be glad to assist if we can give them a  
history of this case.

Will you furnish me with whatever information  
you have at hand so that we may help bring  
these children into the United States. May we  
also ask through what Organization these children  
are being assisted?

Thanking you for an immediate reply, I am

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,  
Field Executive.

FZ:LG



El Paso,  
Texas.  
March 19-1939

Mrs. F. Glabovsky.  
1016 Olive St.  
El Paso, Texas.

Dear Mrs. Glabovsky.

With all the sickness in my home, and having to keep up my work at school, it has been impossible to write you. I do want you to know something about how we met the Deeligs and why we are so interested in them. I've waited until now because it looks as though I'll be free of interruptions for a while today.

Last summer my sister and I spent over six weeks in Germany, visiting the leading cities. From Berlin we went to Dresden. On this trip ~~there~~ were three young German girls in the compartment with us. Before traveling very long we were all chatting and laughing and having



a good time generally. The journey seemed rather short. At Dresden we all separated pleasantly, with no thought of ever meeting again. Two or three nights later we went to a symphony orchestral concert, held in the Zwinger gardens. It gave us quite a thrill to greet some one - (not knowing a human being any where) - when we saw the little Anna Marie Seelig whom we'd enjoyed so much on the train. She was quite as delighted to see us; and hurried to introduce my sister and me to her mother and her little brother.

Needless to say we enjoyed the experience. After the concert we went to a confectionary store and had some refreshments. We talked and we talked - apparently having a grand time and not noticing the time fly. Mrs. Seelig was most helpful pointing out the interesting things for us to see



in and around Dreaden. We had such a good time together that Mrs. Seelig invited us to come to her home on Sunday evening, if we should return from one of the trips she had suggested. She urged that no matter what time we reached home, to be sure and come and spend part of the evening with them. I no longer remember how late it was when we got there but I do remember it was very very late when we left. We had a delightful time. Their home was beautifully furnished. Everything showed refinement and culture. While the father has been dead eight or nine years there was no sign neglect or poverty. He was a good physician and Mrs. Seelig having worked with him has been able to maintain the practice all these years rather successfully (until the screws were being clamped



on the Jews in Germany.) The little woman was desperate. At the time she was sending Anna Marie to a private school in Germany. Berlin. Joachim hadn't yet come to the "persecuting age", because he seemed to be doing his music and school work right in Dresden, as near as I can remember. However, as the time past she conveyed her fears - and soon we were all deeply interested and involved in ways and means of helping the family.

My sister and I were deeply touched - we couldn't offer financial assistance at any time - then nor in the future. But we promised to do anything within our power to get the children out of Germany and to the United States if possible.

Dr. Seelig was extremely anxious to get the children out, but she beg-



ged for an affidavit; we didn't know how to get what was required - And because we saw the family and judged how genuine they were, and how utterly helpless - even in their circumstances ~~we~~ <sup>we</sup> thought it quite possible to help them without much difficulty.

We went on another trip from Dresden, but Dr. Seelig invited us to eat with them Tuesday <sup>at noon</sup> ~~at noon~~ <sup>to go to Nuremberg</sup> (we left there at 2:30 P.M.) ~~at noon~~. It was funny if the situation hadn't been so ~~tragic~~ <sup>tragic</sup>. Everyone talked softly, we all wanted to plan, to be understood, to come to some definite conclusion. And we succeeded. Why they should trust in our promise is beyond me - we were utter strangers! Why we should voluntarily wish to help them is beyond me - they were utter strangers!

But the fact remains



that they seem to be lovely people  
no matter how you take them.

Dr. Seelig must be about 43 or 45  
years of age. She specializes in  
women's ailments. She is a fine  
woman. I should like nothing  
better than to get her into this country.  
Although the poor woman would be  
eternally happy and asks for no  
more than a guarantee of a decent  
home for her two children. Anna  
Marie is a sweet refined youngster  
of about 16 or 17. Joachim is a healthy  
fine buster, I imagine about 13.  $\nabla$   
They are both swell kids.

$\nabla$  I wish I could do something  
to help place them in a good home.  
In a home where they could fit -  
because I'm certain of their worth  
and their gratitude hereafter.

Sincerely  
Elvira M. Laughlin.

(over)



I regret that this is so horribly  
written - but I've delayed too long  
already. I hope you will excuse it.

D. M. L.



March 30, 1939.

Rabbi Joseph M. Roth,  
1125 Terrace Street,  
El Paso, Texas.

Dear Rabbi Roth:

Pursuant to our conversation of last week, I am inclosing a letter from Mrs. Robert Ulich, which is self-explanatory.

You will also find inclosed affidavit blanks and will appreciate your efforts in behalf of the unfortunate family.

Thanking you, and with kindest personal regards,  
I am

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,

FZ:IG  
(ENCS)