ALTER FAMILY = Shanghai Jewish Community.

https://www.cjhn.ca/en/permalink/cjhn303

Collection:	ALTER FAMILY = Shanghai Jewish Community.
Description Level:	Fonds
Physical Description:	Env. 0.03 metres of textual records. - Env. 438 photographs.

Scope and Content:

This collection has rare images of the Jewish population of Shanghai during and after World War II, as well as immigration documents of visual and historical interest, and also documents from various Montreal Protestant Schools & Jewish neighborhoods. It consists primarily of photographs of a Russian Jewish family and their friends, mostly other refugee Jews in China, between 1938-1952. There are also photos taken in France before the war and in Montreal and USA after the family's immigration to Canada. Most of the Shanghai photos are in albums. The identity documents include a passport, and school documents for the father in Lille, France, and the daughter Isabelle in Shanghai & Montreal.

Date:	1920-1975c.
Fonds No.:	P0203

History Biographical:

Isabelle Alter was born in Shanghai in 1940, the only daughter of Isaac and Maria (nee Gloos) Alter. The Alters left Russia for Shanghai c.1938 after Isaac had studied chemistry and tanning in France. He taught science in China. Isabelle came to Montreal in 1952, later studied physiological psychology. She moved to New York to complete her studies and eventually became a Freudian analyst. She died in 1995. Her mother was a dress designer in China. The family came to Canada after the revolution had made life in Shanghai too risky. Maria Alter became Maria Levitan after her second marriage. Isaac Alter died in (circa) 1954 and Maria in (circa) 1994.

Custodial History:	The collection was donated on July 13, 2005 by Ruth Portner, a close friend of Isabelle Alter

Notes:

Physical condition :Some documents are in fragile condition. One photo album was disassembled due to water damage.Alpha-numeric designations :P05/10.Language :Mostly English, with some Russian, Yiddish, and Chinese.Related groups of records :Mrs. Portner donated poems and other writings by Isabelle Alter at McGill University to McGill's Rare Book Department. She donated architectual drawings by Bruno Levitan, Isabelle's stepfather's family, to the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal.

Archival / Genealogical:	Archival Descriptions
Repository:	Canadian Jewish Archives