



## SHANGHAI: A REFUGE DURING THE HOLOCAUST

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

*Shanghai: A Refuge During the Holocaust*, produced by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, documents the experience of more than 18,000 Jews who escaped from Nazi-occupied Europe to Shanghai, China between 1939 and 1940. Forced to flee their homeland, these Jews became “stateless refugees” and were denied entry into most countries. Several countries, including Canada, restricted the flow of immigration during the war, especially for Jewish refugees. As an open port, Shanghai was one of the very few places that stateless Jews could disembark without passports or visas. As a result, Shanghai became an important, life-saving refuge for thousands of Jews during the Holocaust.

The exhibit, comprised of photographs and documents, presents the complex Jewish community in Shanghai that resulted from this emigration. Approximately 50 families now residing in Vancouver were part of this little-known community. The VHEC has documented the experiences of one family, the Gottfrieds, whose detailed story of flight from Nazi-occupied Vienna to Shanghai, and then their later immigration to Canada, is presented within the exhibit.



## BOOKING INFORMATION

### EXHIBITION CONTENTS

The exhibit consists of large graphic panels that tell the history of the Gottfried family’s exodus from Nazi Europe to wartime Shanghai. The large panels are sequential and need to be installed so the visitor moves along the story in chronological order (for example, around the walls of a large room). The left side of each panel gives the historical context and the right side is made up of the words and images of one family’s oral history. The historic text is in both English and Chinese, while the oral history is in English.

**Additional Components:** Educational resources are available for reprint, including digital files for a Teacher’s Guide, docent scripts and publicity materials. An exhibit poster is also available to be reprinted for promotional purposes.

## SPACE REQUIREMENTS

The exhibit consists of 16 unframed colour panels mounted on foam core:

- 1 title panel that is 28”x 36”
- 15 graphic panels that are 26”x 40”
- 60 small replica documents and photographs that act as support material to the main panels

The entire exhibit runs approximately 86 linear feet. The width of the exhibit can be compressed by stacking the support material, or by displaying a tailor-made selection of the 60 smaller replica documents and photographs to fit a chosen space or theme. This support material can be mounted in clusters, vertically or horizontally between or around the larger panels.

## RENTAL COSTS

**Rental Fee:** The rental fee for this exhibit is \$2,000. A deposit of \$500 is required at the time of scheduling. Each venue is responsible for all shipping costs.

**Insurance Value:** \$5,000.00 CAD.

**Shipping:** Two-way shipping costs to be assumed by the borrower. Shipping to be arranged by the borrower.

## LOAN PERIOD

The exhibit may be booked for a 6 to 8 week period. Longer rental periods are available by arrangement.

**Security Level:** Low

## SHIPPING SPECIFICATIONS

Summary: 1 plastic case, 1 cardboard box

1 Case: 42” x 35” x 6” / 70 lbs

1 Box: 24” x 20” x 12” / 20 lbs

**Note:** we recommend that you check the means and cost of shipping before booking an exhibit.



## CONTACT US

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“On the boat was my immediate family and also my grandfather, Salomon Gottfried, and his wife Sala. All of our close relatives went together to Shanghai.”



On the boat with us was my mother's sister with her husband, the Farsters, my Dad's sister, Frieda Feigen, and her husband, Leo Feigen and their children, Fritzi, Fritz, Max and Gerda, as well as my uncle and other aunts, Sabine, Wera and Leo, Eustach, Stefan from Vienna, and their two children, Tazzy, Wissi, and Kurt. There were even some casual acquaintances that came for the bus. Just. We all made the passage together.

There were more relatives left behind in Vienna, but they were distant relations. The others had no to their possessions. They didn't think anything would happen. Everything was taken away from them and they all perished.

We went first to Italy by train, and then to the boat. I remember the train ride, and all the other people who were going to Shanghai. The mood was only slightly relaxed that we were leaving. The real sign of relief came when we crossed the border from Austria into Italy.

My Hasidic family, the Knases, came to Shanghai in 1939 as well, but we didn't meet until later in Shanghai. He was in engineering school in Austria, but hadn't finished his studies yet. He came to Shanghai with his mother and sister in law both of whom were doctors. His father had passed away years before but his mother came with them to Shanghai as well.

Our boat was full of Jewish people, mostly from Austria and a few from Germany. We made music and sang on the ship and there were social activities. We were nearly 6 months on the boat which became like a home to us. We arrived in Shanghai on February 21, 1939.