



JOHN JAY COLLEGE  
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

LLOYD SEALY LIBRARY  
Special Collections

### Dr. Charles H. Kremer Papers

*arranged and described by:* Ellen Belcher

December 2010

updated: February 2017 EB

*Gift of:* Dr. Charles H. Kremer, 1984

*Probable Copyright holder:* Lewis N. Kremer (son) Kremer Affiliates, Hudson, NY

*Provenance:* The Charles Kremer Papers were donated by Dr. Kremer to John Jay College in 1984. They were housed in the Center for Genocide Studies until 2010, when they were transferred to the Lloyd Sealy Library.

*Size* 3 ½ linear feet in 4 boxes

*Languages of Materials:* English, Rumanian, German

*Dates:* 1930s-1984

*Access:* This collection is available by appointment without restrictions to researchers at the Lloyd Sealy Library Special Collections Room. Contact information: [libspcoll@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:libspcoll@jjay.cuny.edu) or 212 237 8246

#### **Biographical and Background Information:**

Charles Kremer was born in Braila, Rumania on July 15, 1897. His family moved to NYC in 1907, but soon returned to Rumania 6 months later. After studying medicine at the University of Jassy, in the summer of 1919, a young Charles Kremer stowed away in a freighter, leaving Rumania because of rising anti-Semitism. He arrived in New York via Egypt and England and by various means on November 10, 1919. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1924 and returned to New York as a practicing dentist, a career from which he retired in 1976.

From 1952 onwards, Kremer spent nearly all of his free time documenting and advocating for justice against Nazi war criminal Archbishop Valerian Trifa, the results of which are these papers. Kremer was also for many years president of the United Rumanian Jews of America, later called the Rumanian Jewish Federation of America, Inc, the Committee to Bring Nazi Criminals to Justice in U.S.A, Inc. Even after Trifa deportation from the US, Kremer continued to work to bring Trifa to trial in an international criminal court until his death in New York City 1987

At times he was aided in his research and advocacy by several public and political figures including, Raph Blumenthal *New York Times* reporter, then State Senator Alan Hevisi, Eugene Thirolf, attorney in the US Justice Dept, Simon Weisenthal and others. Copies of correspondence with all of these individuals are present in these papers.

Trifa was an Archbishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate in America, and based in in Grass Lake, Michigan and served on the board of the National Council of Churches. After a series of court hearings, trials and postponements, Trifa eventually surrendered his US naturalization certificate and passport in 1981 and moved to Portugal in 1984 under a federal deportation order, where he died, in Cascais, Portugal 1987. .

### **Description of the Papers:**

A large percentage of these papers are photocopies of originals which must have been at one time in the possession of Dr. Kremer. According to documentation within the collection, Kremer photocopied documents repeatedly, and duplicates can be found throughout the collection. According to a 1983 survey of the collection in Kremer's home, the original documents were at that time stored in a warehouse.

Kremer's unpublished autobiography *The Jew Who Fought Back (or the Dentist and the Archbishop)* was not found amongst these papers (see Scheinin 1989).

### **Arrangement and Provenance Notes**

Most of these papers are numbered with a red pen, but this numbering system doesn't appear to have any relation to the order of the papers as received by the library. The original file names have been retained in the arranging and description of the papers, although the contents of the papers within the folders do not always correspond with the file names. These files may have been established by an archivist hired by the Center for Genocide Studies to arrange and describe the papers although an original finding aid was not found.

At some point after that the NY State Historical Documents Inventory Project recorded this collection (OCLC: #80120351) at 6 cubic feet when it was held in the offices in the Center for Genocide Research. The collection as received by the Lloyd Sealy Library in 2009-2010 was originally 4 linear feet. After discard of duplicates and separation of publications for cataloging into our book collections, measures 3 ½ linear feet.

For published books separated from this collection, please search the John Jay Catalog, CUNY+ keyword "Kremer Collection".

### **References**

United States of America, Plaintiff-Appellee, v. Valerian Trifa, Defendant-Appellant. 662 F.2d 447; 1981 U.S. App. LEXIS 16371 <http://law.justia.com/cases/federal/appellate-courts/F2/662/447/416406/>

"Valerian Trifa." On Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valerian\\_Trifa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valerian_Trifa)

"[The Case of Archbishop Trifa Charged with a pro-Nazi past, he gives up U.S. citizenship.](#)" (1980). *Time*, 116(10), 55. [available with John Jay log-in]

Blum, Howard (October 1976)

"The Hunt for an American Nazi." *Esquire* 71- <http://archive.esquire.com/issue/19761001>

Blumenthal, Ralph

“Dr. Charles Kremer, 89, Dies; Pressed Trifa War Crime Case.” *New York Times* May 28, 1987  
<http://www.nytimes.com/1987/05/28/obituaries/dr-charles-kremer-89-dies-pressed-trifa-war-crime-case.html>

Bobango, Gerald J.,

*Religion and Politics: Bishop Valerian Trifa and His Times*, East European Monographs, Boulder & New York, distributed by Columbia University Press, 1981.  
[http://www.worldlingo.com/ma/enwiki/en/Valerian\\_Trifa#cite\\_note-timecasetrifa-1](http://www.worldlingo.com/ma/enwiki/en/Valerian_Trifa#cite_note-timecasetrifa-1)

Goldman, Ari L.

“Valerian Trifa, an archbishop with a fascist past, dies at 72.” *New York Times*, January 29, 1987  
<http://www.nytimes.com/1987/01/29/obituaries/valerian-trifa-an-archbishop-with-a-fascist-past-dies-at-72.html>

Scheinin, Richard (Spring 1985)

“The Dentist and the Archbishop.” *Inside Magazine* pp. 73-

United States. Congress. House. Committee on Foreign Affairs. Subcommittee on International Operations., . (1980). *Allegations concerning the Romanian service of Radio Free Europe: hearing before the Subcommittee on International Operations of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Ninety-sixth Congress, second session, February 21, 1980*. Washington: U.S. Govt. Print. Off..

## **Box Listing**

### **Box 1**

#### Kremer Personal Papers

- Correspondence (unsorted – 6 Folders)
- Correspondence, Witnesses
- Speeches
- FBI File on Kremer, 1979
- Photographs
- Publications by and about Charles Kremer
- Correspondence and Press Clippings
- Hora Sima vs Kremer

#### Incriminating Evidence and Information on Valerian Trifa

- Incriminating Evidence – Trifa – Rumanian Documents
- Incriminating Evidence – Trifa - Court Documents
- Incriminating Evidence – Trifa – SS Documents from Buchenwald
- Incriminating Evidence – Trifa – US Documents – Immigration
- Incriminating Evidence – Trifa – Legal Documents
- Incriminating Evidence – Trifa – Rumanian Govt. Collaboration (2 files)
- Incriminating Evidence – Trifa – Rabbi D. Shafran
- Incriminating Evidence – Trifa – Testimonies
- Incriminating Evidence - Trifa [3 folders]

**Box 2**

Incriminating Evidence – Trifa – Historic Documents [4 folders]  
Trifa – Publications About [3 folders]  
Trifa - Anti-Trifa Reactions against NCC  
Trifa - Anti-Trifa Church Publications and Correspondence  
Pro-Trifa Church Publications [2 folders]

**General Materials on Rumanian Jews and Nazi War Criminals**

Rumanian Exile Publications  
Rumanian Exile Publications (Facist) – [2 folders]  
Nazi War Criminals Prosecution Newsclippings  
Nazi War Criminals Prosecution US Govt. Reports  
Nazi War Criminals Prosecutions in the War  
News Clippings Nazis in the US

**Box 3**

Nazi War Criminals - Legal Decisions  
News clippings (unsorted)  
Photocopies of books in Rumanian  
2 micro-cassette audio tapes “S Friedlander 10/24/84 Columbia U

**Box 4 Kremer Personal Papers (Oversized)**

Diplomas, Certificates and Awards granted to Kremer.