

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

In re Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation
Case No. CV96-4849

Certified Denial

to Claimant Ruth Gronner

Claimed Account Owners: Erwin Gronner and Alejandro Politzer¹

Claim Number: 205904/HU

This Certified Denial is to the claim of Ruth Gronner (the “Claimant”) to a Swiss bank account potentially owned by the Claimant’s relatives, Erwin Gronner Politzer, Alejandro (Alex, Alek) Politzer (the “Claimed Account Owners”).

All denials are published. Where a claimant has not requested confidentiality, as in this case, only the name of the bank has been redacted.

Information Provided by the Claimant

The Claimant submitted a claim stating that Erwin Gronner, who was Jewish, was born on 23 December 1898, and that his mother was Rosa Gronner, née Politzer. The Claimant also submitted an Initial Questionnaire stating that Alejandro Politzer, who was also Jewish, resided in Vienna, Austria, until the early 1930s, when he emigrated to Argentina.

The CRT’s Investigation

The CRT matched the names of Erwin Gronner Politzer and Alejandro Politzer to the names of all account owners and power of attorney holders in the Account History Database and identified accounts belonging to individuals whose names match, or are substantially similar to, the name of the Claimed Account Owners. In doing so, the CRT used advanced name matching systems and computer programs, and considered variations of names, including name variations provided by Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs’ and Heroes’ Remembrance Authority, in Jerusalem, Israel, to ensure that all possible name matches were identified. However, a close review of the relevant bank records indicated that the information contained therein was inconsistent with the information the Claimant provided regarding the Claimed Account Owners. Accordingly, the CRT was unable to conclude that any of these accounts belonged to the Claimed Account Owners.

¹ The Claimant should note that this determination relates only to the Claim Number and Claimed Account Owners stated above, and that the CRT is aware that the Claimant may have submitted other claims.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owners

The list below contains names of account owner and/or power of attorney holder that match the names of the Claimed Account Owner and the reasons why the CRT has concluded that the Claimed Account Owner and an account owner or power of attorney holder are not the same person. If an account owner's place of residence was published, that place of residence is also listed.

Name: Erwin Gronner (Power of Attorney Holder)

Account Identification Numbers: 5024799, 5033285

Specifically, the Claimant stated that her relative, Erwin Gronner, was born on 23 December 1898 and that his mother was Rosa Gronner, née Politzer. In contrast, the records show that the power of attorney holder was born on a different date and had a different mother.

Name: Alexander Politzer (Vienna, Austria); Miklos Pontos (Power of Attorney Holder)

Account Identification Number: 5029575

Specifically, the Claimant stated that her relative, Alejandro Politzer, resided in Vienna, Austria, until the early 1930s, when he emigrated to Argentina. In contrast, according to an asset declaration filed by the account owner in 1938 pursuant to a Nazi decree, the account owner resided in Vienna several years after the Claimant's relative emigrated to Argentina.² The CRT further notes that the Claimant did not identify the power of attorney holder. Moreover, the CRT notes that the account at issue was awarded to another claimant who definitely identified the account owner as his relative, including identifying unpublished information contained in the bank records.

The Claimant should note that all accounts awarded by the CRT are published upon release on the CRT's website at www.crt-ii.org.

Right of Appeal and Request for Reconsideration

Pursuant to Article 30 of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the "Rules"), the Claimant may appeal this decision or submit a request for reconsideration within ninety (90) days of the date of the letter accompanying this decision.

An appeal must be based upon a plausible suggestion of error regarding the CRT's conclusions set out in this decision. Any appeals which are submitted without a plausible suggestion of error shall be summarily denied. A request for reconsideration must be based on new documentary evidence not previously presented to the CRT that, if considered, would have led to a different outcome of the claim. Claimants should briefly explain the relevance of the newly submitted documents in view of the conclusions stated in the certified decision.

² Pursuant to a decree issued on 26 April 1938, all Jews who resided within the Reich, or who were nationals of the Reich, including Austria, and who held assets above a specified level were required to register all their assets as of 27 April 1938 (the "1938 Census"). These records are available in the Austrian State Archive (Archive of the Republic, Finance).

The Claimant should send appeals and/or requests for reconsideration in writing to the following address: Oren Wiener, Claims Resolution Tribunal, Attention: Appeals / Request for Reconsideration, P.O. Box 9564, 8036 Zurich, Switzerland. If more than one account has been treated in this decision, the Claimant should identify the account, including, where available, the Account Identification Number, that forms the basis of the appeal and/or request for reconsideration.

Scope of the Denial

The CRT now considers the Claimant's claim to the accounts of Erwin Gronner Politzer and Alejandro Politzer closed. Please note that this decision applies only to the Claim Number and Claimed Account Owners identified herein, and that the CRT is aware that the Claimant may have claimed accounts held by other persons or entities both in the Claim Number specified above and in other claims submitted to the CRT.

Certification of the Denial

The CRT certifies this Denial for approval by the Court.

Claims Resolution Tribunal
14 September 2007