

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Denial

to Claimant [REDACTED]

in re Account of Julius Knöpfmacher

Claim Number: 220526/SB¹

This Certified Denial is based on the claim of [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to the accounts of Julius Knöpfmacher (Knöpflmacher, Knöpfelmacher).² This Denial is to the published account of Julius Knöpfmacher (the “Account Owner”) at the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

All denials are published, but where a claimant has requested confidentiality, as in this case, the names of the claimant, any relatives of the claimant other than the account owner, and the bank have been redacted.

Information Provided by the Claimant

The Claimant submitted a Claim Form asserting that his great-uncle, Julius Knöpfmacher, who was born on 31 October 1877 in Auspitz, Austria-Hungary (now Hustopece, Czech Republic), and was married to [REDACTED] on 12 March 1905 in Goding, Austria, owned a Swiss bank account. The Claimant stated that his great-uncle, who was Jewish, was the owner of a coffee house, and that he resided at Tuchlergasse 4/1/6 and Spittelauerplatz 1 in Vienna, Austria. The Claimant stated that his great-uncle was murdered by the Nazis in Riga, Latvia in November 1941. The Claimant indicated that he was born on 13 November 1932 in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia (today the Czech Republic).

The Claimant submitted documents in support of his application, including a notice from the authorities in Vienna confirming that as of 20 October 1924, Julius Knöpfmacher resided at Spittelauerplatz 1 in Vienna, and a declaration of Julius Knöpfmacher’s death, which states that his last place of residence was Tuchlergasse 4/1/6, Vienna. The Claimant also submitted a copy of the declaration submitted by his relative pursuant to a decree of 26 April 1938 requiring all

¹ The Claimant submitted two additional claims to the accounts of Bruno Deutsch and Arthur Mayer, which are registered under the Claim Numbers 205592 and 217601, respectively. The CRT will treat the claims to these accounts in separate determinations.

² The CRT did not locate an account belonging to Julius Knöpflmacher or Knöpfelmacher in the Account History Database prepared pursuant to the investigation of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP” or “ICEP Investigation”), which identified accounts probably or possibly belonging to Victims of Nazi Persecution, as defined in the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the “Rules”).

Jews who resided within the Reich, or who were nationals of the Reich, including Austria, and who held assets above a specified level to register all their assets as of 27 April 1938 (the “1938 Census”). This record, numbered 27382, indicates that Julius Knöpfmacher was born on 31 October 1877, that he was a widower, that, from 1938, he resided at Spittelauerplatz 1, Pichlergasse 4/6, and Spittelauerplatz 1/17 in Vienna, and that he owned a business which was located at Porzellangasse 22, Vienna.

Information Available from the Austrian State Archive

In the records of the Austrian State Archive (Archive of the Republic, Finance), there are documents concerning the assets of two different persons named Julius Knöpfmacher. One set of records, described above, refer to the Claimant’s relative. The other set of records indicates the date of birth, street address in Vienna, occupation, and marital status of the other person named Julius Knöpfmacher.

Information Available in the Bank’s Records

The CRT notes that the Claimant submitted a claim to an account belonging to his relative, Julius Knöpfmacher. The auditors who carried out the investigation to identify accounts of Victims of Nazi Persecution pursuant to instructions of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP” or the “ICEP Investigation”) reported one account whose owner’s name matches that provided by the Claimant. The account is identified below by its Account Identification Number, which is a number assigned to the account by the ICEP auditors for tracking purposes.

Account 5035072

The Bank’s records indicate that the Account Owner was Julius Knöpfmacher, who resided in Vienna, Austria. The Bank’s records also indicate the Account Owner’s title, street address, and the date of closure of the account at issue.

The CRT notes that the information contained in the Bank’s records corresponds to the information contained in the 1938 Census records submitted by the person named Julius Knöpfmacher who is not the Claimant’s relative.

The CRT’s Analysis

Admissibility of the Claim

The CRT has determined that the claim is admissible according to Article 18 of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the “Rules”).

Identification of the Account Owner

The CRT concludes that the Claimant has not identified the Account Owner as his relative. Although the name of his great-uncle matches the published name of the Account Owner, the information provided by the Claimant differs materially from the unpublished information about the Account Owner available in the Bank's records and the 1938 Census records. Specifically, the Claimant stated that his great-uncle was born on 31 October 1877 and was the owner of a coffee house. In contrast, the 1938 Census records show that the Account Owner was born several years earlier and had a different profession. The CRT also notes that, although he provided two street addresses for his great-uncle, the Claimant was not able to identify the Account Owner's street address in Vienna, as contained in the Bank's records and the 1938 Census Records. Consequently, the CRT is unable to conclude that the Account Owner and the Claimant's great-uncle are the same person. Moreover, it should be noted that the CRT has awarded the account to another claimant, who plausibly identified the Account Owner as her relative. All decisions are published upon release on the CRT's website at www.crt-ii.org.

Right of Appeal

Pursuant to Article 30 of the Rules, the Claimant may appeal this Denial to the Court through the Special Masters within ninety (90) days of the date of the letter accompanying this decision. Appeals should be delivered to the following address: Office of Special Master Michael Bradfield, 51 Louisiana Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001 USA.

The Claimant should send appeals in writing to the above address and should include all reasons for the appeal. If more than one account has been denied in this Certified Denial, the Claimant should identify the Account Identification Number which forms the basis of the appeal. Appeals submitted without either a plausible suggestion of error or relevant new evidence may be summarily denied.

Scope of the Denial

The Claimant should be aware that the CRT will carry out further research on his claim to determine whether an award may be made based upon the information provided by the Claimant or upon information from other sources.

Certification of the Denial

The CRT certifies this Denial for approval by the Court.

Claims Resolution Tribunal
30 November 2005