

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Denial

to Claimant Bella Belster

Claimed Account Owners: Bronya Malina, Hanna Stern and Gersh Malina¹

Claim Number: 207554/SB

This determination is based on the claim of Bella Belster (the “Claimant”) to a Swiss bank account potentially owned by Bronya Malina, Hanna Stern and Gersh Malina. The CRT did not locate an account belonging to Gersh Malina 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”).

This Certified Denial is to a Swiss bank account potentially owned by the Claimant’s relatives, Bronya (Brukha, Bronya, Johanna, Hanna, Yuhanna) Malina, née Stern, and Hanna Stern (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 her mother, Bronya Malina, who was Jewish, resided in the Ukraine and had the maiden name Bronya Stern. The Claimant further stated that her maternal grandmother, Hanna Stern, who was also Jewish emigrated to France sometime after 1917. The CRT notes that the Claimant provided only limited information about her grandmother and did not indicate where in France her grandmother resided or her grandmother’s maiden name.

The CRT’s Investigation

The CRT matched the names of Bronya (Brukha, Bronya, Johanna, Hanna, Yuhanna) Malina, née Stern, and Hanna Stern to the names of all account owners in the Account History Database

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.

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.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

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

Name: Johanna Stern (AKA Hannah Arendt) (Paris, France)

Account Identification Number: 4020137

With regard to the Claimant's claim to an account belonging to her mother, Bronya Malina, the Claimant stated that her mother's maiden name was Bronya (Johanna) Stern and that she resided in the Ukraine. In contrast, the records show that the account owner had a different maiden name and resided in France. With regard to the Claimant's claim to an account belonging to her grandmother, Hanna Stern, the CRT notes that the Claimant did not identify the account owner's city of residence, Paris, nor did she identify the account owner's maiden name.

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.

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 Bronya Malina, Hanna Stern and Gersh Malina 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
18 March 2008