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The first part of the collection consists mainly of the correspondence between Hulda Schottländer and Dr. Moritz Schwerin, mostly during the period of their engagement in the years 1840-1843. Hans Schwerin, the couple's grandson, transcribed most of the letters in the 1940s. Further transcripts of letters which did not survive are also included. The second part of the collection documents the life and fate of Hans Schwerin's family, in particular of his son Ernst. Additional documents, photographs and objects pertain to members of the extended family, in particular the Heinersdorffs and Freudenbergs.

Individuals

Hulda Schottländer was born in 1826, the youngest daughter of the merchant Jacob David Schottländer and his wife Philippine. She had three sisters, Louise, Fanny and Mathilde, and three brothers, Edward, Julius and Heinrich. A fourth brother, Leopold, died before Hulda was born. Jacob Schottländer came to Berlin around 1792 from Altschottland, a town near Danzig, and ran a household linen store on Mühlendamm. Philippine Scotland née Löwe died in 1832. Whereas his sons pursued careers, Jacob Schottländer moved in 1839 with his still unmarried daughters Fanny, Mathilde and Hulda to Freienwalde. At the age of 12, Hulda Schottländer met a good friend of her brother Julius, the medical student **Moritz Schwerin**. As Schwerin apparently shared an apartment with Julius Schottländer, he regularly frequented his friend's father's house. Around 1840, Moritz Schwerin began courting Hulda and they wrote regularly to each other. The relationship was initially disapproved of by the Schottländer family for a variety of reasons. One was the uncertain career prospects of the groom, another the young age of the bride. Julius Schottländer in particular was against their marriage and severed the friendship with Moritz Schwerin. Following his baptism in 1831, Julius aimed to become a successful merchant, to whom Schwerin's origin no longer appealed (nicht logisch). After a four year long engagement, the couple was allowed to marry and the wedding took place in 1844 in Freienwalde. By that time, Moritz Schwerin had become a doctor in the town of Altlandsberg and had established a household. He was born in 1810 as one of five sons of the merchant Hirsch Schwerin and his wife Emma née Blum. His father had apparently died early and not left much of an estate, leaving the young couple in financial difficulties from the start. The situation remained difficult. Their son Paul was born in 1845, Ernst Schwerin a year later. Hulda Schwerin's health was precarious since her childhood and it worsened following the birth of her sons. She was assisted by her sister Mathilde, who had married the merchant Sigismund Heinersdorff, but remained childless. Shortly after giving birth to her third child in 1849, Hulda Schwerin died at age 24. Her daughter only survived her by barely two years. In 1858, Paul and Ernst Schwerin became orphans after their father died following a brief illness. After his death they grew up with their aunt **Mathilde Heinersdorff**.

Ernst Schwerin completed a medical degree and married Jeanette Abarbanell, the daughter of a physician. He and his wife participated in the founding of the "German Society for Ethical Culture," and for many years he was on the board of the Berlin Craftsmen's

Association, his father-in-law having been one of the founding fathers. In the following years, **Jeanette Schwerin** became an initiator and promoter of various welfare associations and contributed significantly to the professionalization of social welfare. In her year of death she founded the "Central Newspaper of the Federation of German Women's Associations." Among her notable students was Alice Salomon. Little is known about the couple's only son Moritz Eduard. He married the non-Jew Luise Schröder, with whom he had three children. He died in Belgium as a corporal in the German Army in November 1914. Nothing is known about the further history of his family.

Sigismund Heinersdorff brought **Paul Schwerin** into the Berlin lace and tulle company Freudenberg & Meyer as an apprentice. He became well-established there, being appointed an authorized signatory. In 1875, he married **Klara Antonie née Freudenberg**, his boss's daughter, and became co-owner of the business. Paul and Antonie Schwerin had two children: a daughter Martha, born in 1876, and a son Hans, born two years later. Martha married the merchant Sally Salomon, with whom she had three daughters: Käte (born 1900), Trude (born 1902) and Lotte Salomon (born 1908). **Hans Schwerin** followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, entering medical school in Berlin in 1897 and completing his studies in 1901 in Freiburg. Since 1902, he practiced as a registered ear, nose and throat doctor in Berlin. He married Erna Guth from the town of Gumbinnen and in 1912, their daughter Annemarie was born. Hans Schwerin served from 1914 to 1918 as a physician in the First World War and was awarded the Iron Cross 2nd Class. In 1919 his son Ernst Schwerin was born.

Erna Schwerin died in 1921. Some two and a half years later, on 5 December 1923, Hans Schwerin married the non-Jewish nurse Eva Rutkowski, whom he had met during the war. Their daughter Ursula was born the following year. **Annemarie Schwerin** began studying law at the University of Berlin in the early 1930s, but was expelled after Hitler came to power. She emigrated to Paris to continue her studies and there married a Frenchman named Gabriel Raynard. After the occupation of France, she was first interned in Gurs and then most likely deported to the East, where every trace of her was lost. Her husband was transferred to Morocco in 1942 as a soldier. **Ursula Schwerin** came to England on a children's transport in 1939. Thus, only **Ernst Schwerin** remained in the house of his parents. Following elementary school, he attended the Bismarck Gymnasium, but left before receiving a high school diploma. From 1935 to 1938 he completed a bricklayer apprenticeship in Neidenburg in the district of Masuren. A planned emigration to Australia did not materialize, and in 1939 he was required to do forced labor at the German Arms and Ammunition Factory. He avoided arrest during the infamous "Factory Action" (Fabrikaktion) at the end of February 1943, having been warned by his father and colleagues. He first stayed with a neighbor for a few days, but then decided to go underground with two friends (one of them being Gert Ehrlich). Various helpers and living quarters enabled him to survive, and in November 1943 he illegally crossed the Swiss border together with Gert Ehrlich. The two friends first lived in a labor camp for internees in Möhlin (from November 28, 1943 to December 28, 1944). In December 1944, Ernst Schwerin was allowed to begin studying

structural engineering in Basel. During the war he reestablished contact with his former Berlin girlfriend **Ursula Tarnowski**, who had emigrated with her parents in 1941 to the United States. With the help of her family he was able to travel to New York in 1947 and married Ursula Tarnowski a short time later. He was reunited with his younger sister Ursula in 1946 when she visited Switzerland from Great Britain. She had become a nurse and followed him to the US in the early 1950s.

Hans Schwerin did not survive the Nazi era. He was forced to give up his medical practice in 1938, after 36 years of practicing. Between 1940 and 1941, he worked in the Jewish Hospital. According to his official employment book, he worked thereafter as a "treator of the ill", a derogatory title given to the Jewish physicians who were allowed to treat Jewish patients, but not call themselves doctors. During the periods of time in which he wasn't working Hans Schwerin devoted himself to genealogical research. In a painstaking effort he transcribed the letters of his grandparents and reproduced them for his own children. He was also able to draw on diaries and letters that have not been preserved. Although he was released after his internment following the "Factory Action", he was arrested again in February 1944 and found guilty of helping Jews who had gone underground. Judging from the information provided in his "protective custody" record, it appears that he was transferred to Auschwitz on June 19, 1944 and from there to the Groß Rosen concentration camp on November 11, 1944. No further records on him exist, but it can be assumed that he died in Groß Rosen. Eva Schwerin survived the war in Berlin, and in 1947 moved to England to be with her daughter Ursula and then in 1949 to America in order to be close to her children. She died in 1990 at the ripe age of 102 years.

Martha Salomon née Schwerin managed to emigrate to Shanghai together with her youngest daughter Lotte. Lotte had previously married the merchant Hans Gutmann. Mother and daughter died shortly after one another in the last year of the war and are both buried in Shanghai. Käte Salomon married Walter Loepert, with whom she had two daughters, Eva and Annemarie. The entire family was deported to Piaski in 1942 and probably murdered in Trawniki. The daughter Trude Salomon died in 1918 of the Spanish flu.