



Our Family

by

Heinz and Thea Ruth Skyte, née Ephraim

THE EPHRAIMS IN BERLIN

In 1878 grandparents Julius and Rosalie lived at Grenadierstrasse 6 in the so-called *Scheunenviertel* of Berlin, where many of the new arrivals in Berlin stayed. They eventually settled at Grosse Frankfurterstrasse 62, where their children were born:

- Paul David Ephraim (13 February 1881 - 8 June 1957 Arnhem)
- Bertha (Betty) Ephraim (16 November 1882 - deported 3 March 1943, murdered Auschwitz)
- Alfred Ephraim (5 October 1884 - 8 February 1963 Berlin)
- Georg Ephraim (23 March 1888 - 1 December 1888 Berlin)

Julius ran his business "*Internationales Institut fuer Incasso und Commission*" at Kleine Frankfurter Strasse 20. He was an enthusiastic philatelist and an authority particularly on the Private Post Offices in Germany and on errors and varieties of the early German stamps, of which he had a valuable collection.



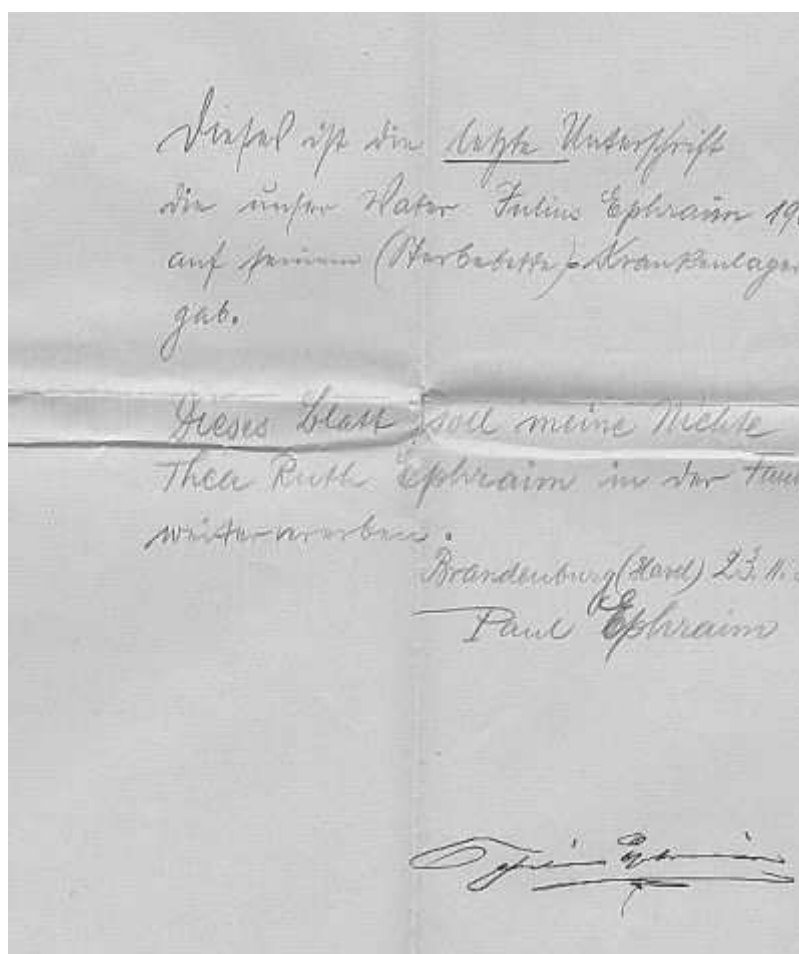
Silver Wedding Photograph of Julius and Rosalie Ephraim, 2 December 1898

(photo: Heinz & Thea Skyte)

Rosalie's father, Meyer Joseph Levy, born on 3rd August 1815 in Birnbaum an der Warthe also eventually moved to Berlin and spent the last years of his life with his daughter and her family. He died in Berlin on 20th January 1900.

In August 1896 Rosalie was recovering from a serious illness and spent some time recuperating at the seaside. Family letters throw some insight into the life of the family. Grandfather Julius writes that he is extremely busy. He has been working from early morning and still had not finished at 9 p.m. and may have to continue half the night. Paul appears to be working and comes home for lunch, but does not finish until 8 pm. Betty spent the day with cousins, the Katz family. My father, eleven year old Alfred appears to have had a fairly new bicycle. He tells his mother that he is already able to ride it and can jump on and off and asks his mother to bring him back some shells and a souvenir. Great-grandfather Meyer Levy, as he signs himself, tries to put his daughter's mind at rest regarding the well-being of the family. He tells her that Bertha, called Betty by everyone but her grandfather, looks well after the household and has already made two meals. More could not be expected of her at her age. Betty was thirteen years old at the time. Much emphasis appears to put on bathing as a means of gaining strength. In another letter written by her children Paul, Betty and Alfred and her father for Rosalie's birthday, Paul advises his mother always to go for walks on the beach or in the woods, even if it is cool, so that she is able to return home fit and well. Betty informs her that she has baked some macaroons all by herself, as she knows that her mother liked them and has also made her a large tablecloth for the kitchen. Alfred writes a little poem. It was usual for children to recite poems on occasions of birthdays and family celebrations.

Julius died in Berlin on 1st June 1904. Rosalie survived her husband by some ten years and died on 25 December 1914. They are both buried on the Jewish Cemetery Berlin-Weissensee.



The last signature given by Julius Ephraim during his last illness in 1904, with instructions from his son Paul to his niece Thea Ruth Ephraim that this signature should be passed on in the family.

(photo: Heinz & Thea Skyte)

Paul, Betty and Alfred continued to live in an apartment at Sybelstrasse 28, Charlottenburg, a western suburb of Berlin, where Betty continued to keep house for her brothers.