

The first grouping contains the birthday books, created by Anna Pachner Klement for her grandson, Tomáš (Tomi). The Klements were a wealthy Jewish family in pre-World War II Prague. They owned a large fashion house and two clothing stores, and lived in an elegant apartment in the city. Soon after Tomi was born, his parents Egon and Hedvika (Heda) purchased a house outside the city, with a large garden and staff. Within two years, Tomi was diagnosed with a nerve disease known as Sydenham's chorea (commonly known as St. Vitus Dance), and his fragile health made him even more precious to his family. Beginning at age two, his grandmother created albums that depicted stories of a young boy and his adoring grandmother. They also depict the life of one Jewish family during the 1930's. Two years after Tomi's birth, Adolf Hitler came to power, and the albums begin to record the changing attitude towards Jews in Czechoslovakia. The last album was written in 1940 and in it Mrs. Klement describes how they are forbidden to go to the theatre or the movies. In July 1943, the Klement family was deported to Theresienstadt concentration camp and fourteen months later they were shipped to Auschwitz where Anna, Heda and Tomi were gassed. Egon was taken to a labour camp at Gleiwitz, survived a death march and returned to Prague. He eventually settled in Toronto with his new wife, Františka and her son Miro.

Box 1 The 1933 album. A long poem describes Tomi's birth and early childhood. It also describes the purchase of the house outside Prague and the creation of a play area for Tomi in the garden. Artist unknown.

The 1934 album. Anna Klement describes Tomi's illness and how an angel stood by him during his high fevers. She writes about her trip to a spa and Tomi playing with his pet doves and his rocking horse shaped like a rooster. Illustrated by Tomi's aunts, Ajta and Eva Pachner, with calligraphy by his aunt Nina.

Box 2 The 1935 album. This year's poem describes the four year old Tomi exploring the storage shed in the garden and finding treasures like an old wind-up toy mouse and marionettes of classic Czech characters. She also mentions an airplane flying over the house. With illustrations by Bláha and calligraphy by Fürstová.

The 1936 album. Along with family stories, there are first mentions of current events, such as the invasion of Ethiopia by Italy, the civil war in Spain and the devaluation of the Czech currency. Tomi's stay in a sanatorium is mentioned as is his mother's gallstone attack while on a trip to Vienna. The removed gallstone was returned to her in a jar which receives its own illustration.

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Box 3

KLEMENT FAMILY Papers

- The 1937 album. This volume features poems like “Tomi and the telephone”, “The Butterfly” and the story of “Florian, the neighbour’s son”. It was illustrated by R. Dvořáková, a member of the Czech academy. The first 1940 album, created in January. (Albums for 1938-1939 seem not to have survived) Anna takes her other grandson, Jindrich, on a tour of Prague, now occupied by the Nazis. At the National Theatre they are not allowed to enter because of the restrictions placed on Jews. The album ends with Jindrich being urged to always love his homeland. Again illustrated by R. Dvořáková.
- Box 4** The second 1940 album done for Tomi’s 9th birthday. It is the story of the Souček family, whose father dies young, leaving his wife with six children. The oldest, Jeník, is 13 years old and wants to help his mother, taking on a variety of jobs, while still at school. Again illustrated by R. Dvořáková. Synopses and poetic translations of the birthday books by Miro and Olga Klement
- Boxes 5-7** Photograph albums of Tomi, his grandmother and parents, along with other family members (many unidentified or unidentifiable) and of family travels.
- Item 8** Large photograph album
- Box 9** Photographs of the summer home of the Klement family in Radešovice, 50 km outside of Prague. Photographs of the department store, brochures, business card, apartment in Prague and family members. MS pattern book.
- Box 10** Anna Klement’s diaries. The 1st is dedicated to Tomi and begins on July 19 1934, and ends January 26, 1935. The 2nd begins July 25, 1935 and ends May 1, 1937 (Several pages partially mutilated). MSS and word-processed transcription
- Box 11** 3 bound volumes of MS poems by Anna Klement. Bound typescript of Anna Pachner Klement’s poems, many of which appeared in her *Bunte Blüten* (Prag, 1932) published to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Jewish Sickness Insurance Fund.
- Box 12** Klement family papers: obituary notice for Anna Pachner (Kohn) Klement’s brother-in-law, Seligmann Kohn; marriage certificate for Hedvika & Egon Klement; Hedvika’s birth certificate (and certified English translation); tax certificate; Prague Jewish Community certificate of attendance for Egon; Egon’s attempt to enroll in Czech Army (1945); Miro Klement’s family documents to be able to leave Prague; Hedvika’s death certificate (reversed photostat); Egon & Miro’s mother inherit Hedvika’s estate; 1947 copy of Egon’s enrollment in Czech Army (World War I); the Klement family’s documents for emigration to Argentina,

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KLEMENT FAMILY Papers

Františka becomes a Canadian citizen; passports, army identification papers and photographs of his battalion, etc.
Programmes and other materials from the Musikverein “Stadtkapelle” Winterberg.
Miro and Olga attempt to find a home for the Tomi birthday books; to mount an exhibition and to publish selections from the volumes (2000-2004). Includes biographies of members of the family; Miro & Olga’s trip to Prague and Berlin in 2002 (with related materials) and other related materials
Book proposal by Madison Press Books, Toronto, with a sample text.
Dummy book for the Klements to take to Prague in 2002. (Uncorrected text)
Formal photographs (unidentified – 28 pieces, 2 folders)
Store front & staff (3 pieces, 1 folder)
Miniature photographs (20 pieces, 1 folder)
Photographs of children, especially Tomi (61 images, 3 folders)

Box 13 Holiday photographs (80 images, 4 folders)
Group images (38 images, 1 folder)
“Singletons” (47 images, 2 folders)
Postcards of Edvard Beneš and Jan Masaryk (5 pieces, 1 folder)

Box 14 10 reels of 16 mm Kodak film (description of 1st two film with reel no. 1)
4 CD’s of the Tomi albums.

When Olga Williams Klement died in 2007; Miro Klement asked that we accept her papers as additions to the Klement family archives

Box 15 Olga W. Klement’s diaries, 1981-1995 (inconsistently kept)

Box 16 Art work, autobiography; correspondence with Sir Hugh Casson, John Denison, Thomas Howarth, John Seward and her mother. Files dealing with her personal life.
2 notebooks of notes, addresses, etc.
2 Betacam tapes.

Box 17 Olga Klement’s original art work based on an image in the birthday books.
Miro Klement’s renditions of the Klement family tree.