

## Curriculum vitae of Anselm Hammerschmidt

Anselm Hammerschmidt was born on 6 September 1934 in Berlin-Wilmersdorf. He was the only child of the lawyer Fritz Hammerschmidt and his wife Ernestine Hammerschmidt, née Frischmann. In some documents relating to Anselm's family, his middle name is given as Ludwig.

He started school on 1 August 1940 or 1 October 1940 as Anselm Israel Hammerschmidt. It is not clear from the index card of the Reich Association of Jews which school Anselm went to. At that time, the Hammerschmidt family already lived at Helmstedter Straße 24, where the writer Anna Seghers also lived from 1928 to 1933.

In 1936, Anselm's cousin Wolfgang Hammerschmidt visited his uncle Fritz Hammerschmidt in Berlin: 'Uncle Fritz took me to his beautiful flat in Wilmersdorfer Prinzregentenstraße. I slept in the living room on the couch that Aunt Erna prepared as my bed in the evening. Little Anselm, my youngest cousin, was only three years old and a sweet, spoilt only child with girlish long black eyelashes.'

In correspondence files kept at the Arolsen Archives, there is a note from 1946 stating that Anselm Hammerschmidt 'is not to be found in the Jewish records, not in the "Hias" records [author's note: Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society] of Jewish survivors, not in the records of the finance department'. 'Presumably deported on the same day as Fritz Hammerschmidt (Osttransport 9.3.44), judging by the date of the last notification.'

Anselm Hammerschmidt was deported from Berlin to Auschwitz together with his father Fritz Hammerschmidt and his grandmother Eugenie Frischmann, née Schwarz, on 9 March 1944 on the 50th Eastern Transport. Originally, his mother Ernestine Hammerschmidt, née Frischmann, was also to be deported on 9 March 1944, but was removed from the transport list. Nine-year-old Anselm Hammerschmidt was never to see his mother again. 'By decision of the Berlin-Charlottenburg district court on 19 July 1947, Anselm Hammerschmidt was declared dead. The date of death was established as 23 March 1944.'

Sources: ancestry, Bundesarchiv, Arolsen Archives

'Spurensuche - Zur Geschichte der jüdischen Familie Hammerschmidt in Cottbus' by Wolfgang Hammerschmidt, published by Psychosozial-Verlag, Gießen, 1996 (ISBN: 978-3-932133-28-2)

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