

# Guide to the Paul Maximilian Tedesco Papers

MS 2109



compiled by Michelle Peralta

July 2022

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 2109

**CREATOR:** Tedesco, Paul

**TITLE:** Paul Maximilian Tedesco papers

**DATES:** 1916-1968

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** The materials are in German, French, and English.

**SUMMARY:** The materials in the Paul Maximilian Tedesco papers fall mainly into three areas: documents relating to Tedesco's academic qualifications and performance evaluation as a secondary school teacher in Vienna; letters of reference and support for his scholarly work for research leave and for academic positions; and material relating to his forced retirement from teaching after the annexation of Austria (1938), papers permitting emigration, and eventual appointment to the Institute for Advanced Study in 1938.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2109>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2109>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Estate of Stanley Isler, 2019.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Paul Maximilian Tedesco Papers (MS 2109). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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### Processing Information

Manuscripts and Archives staff arranged and described these materials according to national and local standards.

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## Biographical / Historical

Paul Maximilian Tedesco was born in Vienna, Austria on May 5, 1898. He studied Indo-European languages with Paule Kretschmer, Indology with Leopold von Schroeder, and Iranian studies at the University of Vienna under Bernhard Geiger. Tedesco earned his doctorate in 1920.

Although Tedesco had the support of scholars such as Geiger, Antoine Meillet, and Friedrich Carl Andreas who recommended and supported Tedesco as a scholar in Iranian studies, he was unable to secure an academic appointment. The rejection of his applications was under the pretext of his qualifications, which was not uncommon for Jewish scholars. Instead, Tedesco taught at various secondary schools in Vienna beginning in 1925. He was on a research leave when he was forced into retirement after the annexation of Austria into Germany by the Nazi regime (Anschluss) in 1938.

Tedesco then left Austria and immigrated to the United States. He spent his early years in the U.S. at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey before moving to New Haven, Connecticut in 1943 for a research fellowship at Yale University. Tedesco eventually became an associate professor of Indo-Iranian and Slavic Languages in 1952. From 1960 until his retirement in 1966, Tedesco was the Edward E. Salisbury Professor of Sanskrit and Comparative Philology.

He died in New Haven, Connecticut on December 17, 1980.

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## Scope and Contents

The materials in this collection fall mainly into three areas: documents relating to Paul Tedesco's academic qualifications and performance evaluation as a secondary school teacher in Vienna; letters of reference and

support for his scholarly work for research leave and for academic positions; and material relating to his forced retirement from teaching after the Anschluss (1938), papers permitting emigration, and eventual appointment to the Institute for Advanced Study in 1938.

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## **Arrangement**

The material is arranged chronologically.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Prior to 1930	Prior to 1930
	Folder contains: Heimatschein (domicile certificate) dated 25 April 1916; Copy of Tedesco's doctoral diploma in Latin, dated 30 June 1920 Vienna; Letter in French dated 13 August 1929 from Antoine Meillet attesting to Tedesco's qualifications; Letter in German dated 19 June 1924 presumably from Christian Bartholomae that acknowledges receipt of work and grants Tedesco permission to list him as a reference; Typed Gutachten dated 8 September 1929 from Professor Andreas (presumably Friedrich Carl Andreas) that provides a positive recommendation to the London School of Oriental Languages, attesting to Tedesco's qualifications for an open position; Materials relating to Tedesco's qualifications, appointment, performance, and compensation as a secondary school teacher in Vienna from 1921-1931; Testament to Tedesco's scholarly work from the director of the seminar for Slavic philology at the University of Vienna dated 1929 with support of Tedesco's request to renew his research leave.	
b. 1, f. 2	1936-1938	1936-1938
	Folder contains: Tedesco's Austrian identity card; Scholarly letters of reference dated 1936; Scholarly letters supporting further research leave dated 1937; Official notification of research leave dated 4 September 1937; Vienna Board of Education (Stadtschulrat) notification of forced permanent retirement dated 1938 May 30; Handwritten copy of Tedesco's birth certificate dated 1938; bound together materials, including a statement that Tedesco owes no taxes or fees and has permission to emigrate dated 11 August 1938, notification of appointment regarding tax statement, statement for military administration confirming Tedesco as Jewish ("Volljude"); Letter of invitation to join the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, New Jersey from Director Abraham Flexner dated 8 July 1938; Certificate attesting to Tedesco as Jewish for military administration; Personal letter from Abraham Flexner with suggestions for how to start work at the Institute for Advanced Study.	
b. 1, f. 3	1968	1968
	Offprint, signed by Tedesco to Warren Cowgill (Yale Linguistics Professor), "Studien zur Sprachwissenschaft und Kulturkunde. Gedenkschrift für Wilhelm Brandenstein." Innsbruck, 1968.	
b. 1, f. 4	Undated	Undated
	Folder contains: A reference letter from Professor Arthur Christensen of the University of Copenhagen.	

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Antisemitism  
Jews -- Austria -- Vienna

### **Names**

Tedesco, Paul

### **Acquired From**

Hansen, Valerie, 1958- , donor