

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

In re Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation
Case No. CV96-4849

Certified Award

to Claimant [REDACTED]

in re Account of Irma Meier

Claim Number: 203133/LK

Award Amount: 49,375.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to the account of Irma Meier (the “Account Owner”) at the Wiedikon branch of the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

All awards are published, but where a claimant has requested confidentiality, as in this case, the names of the claimant, any relatives of the claimant other than the account owner, and the bank have been redacted.

Information Provided by the Claimant

The Claimant submitted a Claim Form identifying the Account Owner as his mother, Irma Meier, née [REDACTED], who was born on 17 April 1916 in Germany, and was married to [REDACTED] sometime before 1938, in Germany. The Claimant stated that his mother, who was Jewish, fled Germany for the United States with her husband in February 1938. The Claimant further stated that he was aware that his mother traveled to Switzerland on holidays and may have opened an account there. According to the Claimant, since he was the only child of his parents, he is the sole surviving relative of his mother. The Claimant explained that his mother died on 9 December 1953 in Chicago, the United States, and that his father died on 9 December 1965 in Chicago. In support of his claim, the Claimant submitted his mother’s United States Naturalization Certificate, and his own birth certificate that identifies his mother as Irma Meier. The Claimant indicated that he was born on 3 April 1944 in Chicago.

Information Available in the Bank’s Records

The Bank’s records consist of printouts from the Bank’s database. According to these records, the Account Owner was Irma Meier. The Bank’s records indicate that the Account Owner held an account of unknown type, which was transferred to a suspense account for dormant assets on 15 March 1977. The Bank’s records further indicate that

the balance of the account on the date of its transfer was 12.75 Swiss Francs. The account remains open and dormant.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant's married name matches the published name of the Account Owner. The CRT notes that the Bank's records do not contain any specific information about the Account Owner other than her name. In support of his claim, the Claimant submitted documents, including his mother's United States Naturalization Certificate and his own birth certificate indicating that his mother was Irma Meier. The CRT notes that the other claims to this account were disconfirmed because those claimants provided different last names than that of the Account Owner. Taking all of these factors into account, the CRT concludes that the Claimant has plausibly identified the Account Owner.

Status of the Account Owner as a Victim of Nazi Persecution

The Claimant has made a plausible showing that the Account Owner was a Victim of Nazi Persecution. The Claimant stated the Account Owner, who was Jewish, fled Germany for the United States with her husband in February 1938.

The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that he is related to the Account Owner by submitting documents, including his birth certificate, demonstrating that she was his mother. There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs.

The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The Bank's records indicate that the account remains open and dormant.

Basis for the Award

The CRT has determined that an Award may be made in favor of the Claimant. First, the claim is admissible in accordance with the criteria contained in Article 18 of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the "Rules"). Second, the Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that the Account Owner was his mother, and that relationship justifies an Award. Finally, the CRT has determined that neither the Account Owner nor her heirs received the proceeds of the claimed account.

Amount of the Award

In this case, the Account Owner held one account of unknown type. The Bank's records indicate that the value of the account as of 15 March 1977 was 12.75 Swiss Francs.

According to Article 29 of the Rules, if the amount in an account of unknown type was less than 3,950.00 Swiss Francs, and in the absence of plausible evidence to the contrary, the amount in the account shall be determined to be 3,950.00 Swiss Francs. The current value of the amount of the award is determined by multiplying the balance as determined by Article 29 of the Rules, by a factor of 12.5, in accordance with Article 31(1) of the Rules, to produce a total award amount of 49,375.00 Swiss Francs.

Scope of the Award

The Claimant should be aware that, pursuant to Article 20 of the Rules, the CRT will carry out further research on his claim to determine whether there are additional Swiss bank accounts to which he might be entitled, including research of the Total Accounts Database (consisting of records of 4.1 million Swiss bank accounts which existed between 1933 and 1945).

Certification of the Award

The CRT certifies this Award for approval by the Court and payment by the Special Masters.

Claims Resolution Tribunal
19 November 2003