

International Standard for Archival Description

1.1 Reference code	UNHCR 52
1.2 Title	Papers of the Dohrn Family
1.3 Dates of creation	1929-2000
1.4 Level	Fonds
1.5 Extent (quantity)	Less than .12 m

2.2 Administrative/Biographical history Fridtjof Nansen became a friend of Anton Dohrn during Nansen's 1887 stay at the Naples Zoological Station (Stazione Zoologica die Napoli) which Dohrn founded and directed. Anton Dohrn was succeeded by his son, Reinhard, as director of the Institute, and Reinhard was succeeded by his son, Pietro. The family maintained an active interest in Nansen throughout the twentieth century and collected items relating to his life and work.

In the 1920s, the Italian artist Fausta Vittoria Mengarini sculpted a bust of Fridtjof Nansen at her studio in New York. Cast in bronze and intended for the League of Nations, it was not delivered prior to the outbreak of World War II. After the war, and with the demise of the League, Mengarini donated the bust to Anton Dohrn, whom she knew. The bust stood on Anton and then Pietro Dohrn's desk in the Station until Pietro retired. In 2001 the three heirs of Reinhard Dohrn donated the bust to the UNHCR Office in Rome.

2.3 Archival history The Dohrn family papers relating to the Nansen bust and the family collection of other Nansen memorabilia were moved by Pietro Dohrn from Naples when he retired from the Station. They were donated to the UNHCR Office in Rome along with the donation of the bust of Nansen.

3.1 Scope and content Fridtjof Nansen sent letters to the sculptor relative to the bust and her work, and these were acquired by the Dohrn family, along with photographs of Nansen, Mengarini, and the bust. The papers also include correspondence relating to the Mengarini donation of the Nansen bust to Anton Dohrn, as well as documents relating to the heirs of Mengarini. A few pieces of memorabilia and photographs of Nansen are also included.

3.4 System of arrangement See finding aid.

4.2 Conditions governing reproduction Some photographs are copyrighted. See item list

4.5 Finding aids Item list

7.2 Rules or conventions Internal UNHCR rules

7.3 Date(s) of descriptions 6 July 2001