Guide to the Karl John Richard Arndt Collection of Bernhard Muller and the Harmony Society

WA MSS S-2690

by Lisa Conathan

2011

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-2690

CREATOR: Arndt, Karl John Richard

TITLE: Karl John Richard Arndt collection of Bernhard Muller and the Harmony Society

DATES: 1721–1984

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 10.08 linear feet (12 boxes)

LANGUAGE: In German and English.

SUMMARY: The papers document Karl Arndt’s research on the Harmony Society in the United States, 1805-1905, (including its leaders Johann George Rapp and Frederick Reichert Rapp) and the settlements founded by Bernhard Muller, also known as Count Leon (including the New Philadelphia Congregation, 1832-1833 and the settlement of Germantown, Louisiana, 1833-1871). Material includes Arndt’s collection of primary sources, his research files, including photocopies of other documentation, and the draft of his three-volume work Des Messias Wiederkehr. Also included in the collection are books from Johann Georg Goentgen’s library

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.arndt

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.arndt.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

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

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Chapel Hill Rare Books on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 1993.
Karl John Richard Arndt, born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1903, was a scholar of German-American history specializing in utopian societies. He was a professor at Louisiana State University from 1935 until 1947, and at Clark University, where he was head of the German Department from 1950 to 1969. He served in the United States Military Government in Germany, in the Office of Church-State Relations, from 1945 to 1950. Arndt wrote several volumes of history on the Harmony Society, including *George Rapp’s Harmony Society, 1785-1847* (Rutherford, New Jersey: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1972).

**Muller, Bernhard (Count Leon), 1788-1834**

Bernhard Muller, also known as Count Leon, Proli, and Archduke Maximilian von Este, was born near Frankfurt, Germany in 1788 and as a young man gave sermons predicting the onset of the millennium, which created conflict with Church and State officials. He immigrated to the United States in 1831, first living in the Harmony Society in Butler County, Pennsylvania, and later founding the separatist New Philadelphia Congregation (in present-day Monaca, Pennsylvania) and, in 1833, the settlement of Germantown, in Grand Ecore, Lousiana. Muller died of yellow fever in Germantown in 1834.
Scope and Contents

The collection documents Karl Arndt’s research on the Harmony Society in the United States, 1805-1905, (including its leaders Johann George Rapp and Frederick Reichert Rapp) and the settlements founded by Bernhard Muller, also known as Count Leon (including the New Philadaphia Congregation, 1832-1833 and the settlement of Germantown, Louisiana, 1833-1871). Material includes Arndt’s collection of primary sources, his research files, including photocopies of other documentation, and the draft of his three-volume work *Des Messias Wiederkehr*.

Arrangement

Collection Contents

Series I. Primary Material

7.42 linear feet (8 boxes)

Series I consists of Arndt’s collection of primary sources used for his research on Count Leon and his involvement in nineteenth-century German-American religious sects. Material includes documentation of the organization and leadership of the Harmony society, the New Philadelphia Congregation, and Germantown, Louisiana, printed material by and about Harmonists and Leonites, correspondence to and from sect members, photographs of residents of Germantown, Louisiana, maps used when the Leonites journeyed from Pennsylvania to Louisiana, and books from Johann Georg Goentgen’s library.

Document numbers in parentheses reflect Arndt’s identification of the material. Material is also identified by number in a detailed list of collection contents filed in Box 1.

Arranged according to Karl Arndt’s numbering of sources (chronologically in two groups).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1</td>
<td>Correspondence, manuscripts and printed material (documents 1-60)</td>
<td>1825-1836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>54 folders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Document 1 is stored in: Oversize Box 11.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2</td>
<td>Correspondence, manuscripts and printed material (documents 61-125)</td>
<td>1836-1860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>53 folders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3</td>
<td>Correspondence, manuscripts and printed material (documents 126-177)</td>
<td>1861-1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>54 folders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3</td>
<td>Vision books (documents 178-182)</td>
<td>1721–1847, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 folders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 4</td>
<td>Manuscripts, maps, and photographs (documents 183-199)</td>
<td>1832-1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 folders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5</td>
<td>Manuscripts, maps, photographs, and printed material (documents 200-208)</td>
<td>1832-1904</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 folders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6</td>
<td>Books from Goentgen’s library in Germantown</td>
<td>1765-1803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 folders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>Books from Goentgen’s library in Germantown</td>
<td>1810–1826, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 folders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8</td>
<td>Manuscript material from Goentgen’s library in Germantown</td>
<td>1828-1858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 folders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series II. Secondary Material

2 linear feet (2 boxes)

Series II consists of Karl Arndt’s research files on Count Leon and the Harmony Society. The files include printed material, photocopies of newspaper articles and other documents. Arndt numbered some of the material as a separate series of documents (1B-44B). Other material is unnumbered.

Arranged as received by the Beinecke Library.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 9</td>
<td>Research files, including photocopies of manuscripts and other documents (documents 1B-44B)</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>43 folders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 10</td>
<td>Research files, including photocopies of manuscripts and other documents (unnumbered documents)</td>
<td>1775–1984, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>37 folders</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
Series III. Writings of Karl John Richard Arndt

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Series III consists of Karl Arndt's draft of *Des Messias Wiederkehr*, a history of Count Leon and the Harmony society. The work is divided into three volumes. The drafts of Volumes 1 and 2 appear complete, while the third appears incomplete.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 11</td>
<td><em>Des Messias Wiederkehr</em>, draft, typescript, corrected</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 folders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Oversize Material

0.25 linear feet (1 box)

| b. 12 | Adelsbrief von Johann Peter Heuser, 1797, copied 1825 (document 1) (Series I) | 1825 |
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
- German Americans -- Louisiana -- Religious life
- German Americans -- Pennsylvania -- Religious life
- Utopias -- United States

Geographic Names
- Butler County (Pa.) -- Religious life and customs
- Louisiana -- Religious life and customs
- Natchitoches Parish (La.) -- Religious life and customs
- Pennsylvania -- Religious life and customs

Names
- Arndt, Karl John Richard
- Goentgen, Johan Georg
- Muller, Bernhard, -1832
- Rapp, Frederick, 1775-1834
- Rapp, George, 1757-1847

Corporate Bodies
- Harmony Society
- New Philadelphia Society