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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
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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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: <https://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 <https://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.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Karl John Richard Arndt Collection of Bernhard Muller and the Harmony Society is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Karl John Richard Arndt Collection of Bernhard Muller and the Harmony Society. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collection are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing at the time of acquisition and in 2011, including rehousing and minimal organization. Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

Arndt, Karl John Richard, 1903-1991

Karl 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, Louisiana. 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 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*.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Primary material, 1721-1937. II. Secondary Material, 1775-1984. III. Writings of Karl John Richard Arndt, undated.

Collection Contents

Series I: Primary Material, 1721-1937

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).

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

Series II: Secondary Material, 1775-1984*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.

b. 9	Research files, including photocopies of manuscripts and other documents (documents 1B-44B) <i>43 folders</i>	undated
b. 10	Research files, including photocopies of manuscripts and other documents (unnumbered documents) <i>37 Folders</i>	1775-1984, undated

Series III: Writings of Karl John Richard Arndt, undated

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.

b. 11	<i>Des Messias Wiederkehr</i> , draft, typescript, corrected 5 Folders German	undated
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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