

Register of the
Klemis A. Offermann
Collection

Collection 71

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, MI 49104-1440
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Processed by: Denis Kaiser

Klemis A. Offermann Collection

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Scope and Content

Klemis A. Offermann was born on February 11, 1881, at Goetgen, Germany. His first name was also sometimes spelled Klemens, and his last name as Offerman. He became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1905 and attended the Missionary Seminary at Friedensau from 1905 to 1907. He then worked as a Bible worker in Düsseldorf for four years. There he married Marie Klara Griesbach (1877 - 1967) who was also a Bible worker.

They moved to the United States in 1911 where both were employed at the International Publishing Association at College View, Nebraska for five years. Afterwards they moved to the branch office of Pacific Press Publishing Association at Brookfield, Illinois, where Offermann served as associate editor and later editor of the German periodicals, *Christlicher Hausfreund* and *Deutscher Arbeiter* [later *Botschafter* and *Deutscher Botschafter*], as well as *Zeichen der Zeit*. In 1925, he was ordained to the ministry served as pastor of the German church in College View, Nebraska, and then in Chicago, Illinois. He served as a member of the advisory committee of the International Branch of Pacific Press at Brookfield, Illinois (1923-1938), and as a member of the board of trustees of Broadview College and Theological Seminary at La Grange, Illinois (1928-1933).

Although he officially retired in 1938 the *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* lists his name as an ordained minister of the Lake Union Conference until 1942, and beginning in 1943 his name is found in the list of honorary ministers. Even after his retirement from official work he assisted in various capacities such as translating the Sabbath School Quarterly and other materials into German (at least during the years 1950 to 1957).

During the last years of their lives Klemis and Marie lived in Dowagiac, Michigan (1954-1968). He died there on January 19, 1968, just 23 days after his wife passed away.

Offermann wrote many articles and translated from English to German many books by Ellen G. White and other authors, thereby making a great contribution in spreading the Seventh-day Adventist message among the German speaking people. Offermann also wrote some small books himself. In addition to German and English he was also well acquainted with Aramaic and Syriac. The following books by Offermann are in the Center for Adventist Research: *Zu Ewigen Höhen*, and *Aramaic Origin of the New Testament: A Clear and Concise Presentation of Astonishing Facts Showing That the New Testament Must Have Been Written in Aramaic or Syriac, Not Greek*.

The Offermann Collection contains the correspondence between Offermann and a number of others. Of particular interest is the exchange of letters between Offermann and Betty Günter (former Lochmann) for 18 years (1948-1966). She was a student at Friedensau Seminary during the same time as Offermann. This correspondence offers an interesting perspective on events and developments in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in East and West Germany during the 1950s and 1960s. There are also copies of Offermann's writings as well as copies of writings by others.

Arrangement

The arrangement of the collection is essentially as it was donated. It is categorized by correspondence, writings, and general materials.

Provenance

The provenance of this collection is uncertain. It has been in the Center since the 1970s.

Use

All users of this collection are required to complete the "Application to Use Unpublished Records," and to observe the regulation specified in the "Patron Agreement" and "Researcher's Code of Conduct." All records in this collection are open and available for research. Citation for this collection:

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Klemis A. Offermann Collection Collection 71

I. Personal

Correspondence

Correspondence with Henry Behler (in German)

Bx 1 Fld 1 Letters sent and received from 1948, 6 letters.

Correspondence with J. T. Boettcher (mixed, German and English)

Bx 1 Fld 2 Letters sent and received from 1928, 5 letters.

Correspondence with Henry F. Brown (in English)

Bx 1 Fld 3 Letters sent and received from 1944-1947, 12 letters.

Correspondence with S. Christoffers (in German)

Bx 1 Fld 4 Letters sent and received from 1948, 5 letters.

Correspondence with J. H. Cochran (in English)

Bx 1 Fld 5 Letters sent and received from 1934-1938, 13 letters.

Correspondence with Edgar Duggan (in English)

Bx 1 Fld 6 Letters sent and received from 1950-1954, 7 letters.

Correspondence with Betty Lochmann Günter (in German)

Bx 1 Fld 7 Letters received from 1948-1949, 5 letters.

Bx 1 Fld 8 Letters received from 1950, 29 letters.

Bx 1 Fld 9 Letters received from 1951, 41 letters.

Bx 1 Fld 10 Letters received from 1952, 27 letters.

Bx 1 Fld 11 Letters received from 1953, 33 letters.

Bx 1 Fld 12 Letters received from 1954, 30 letters.

Bx 1 Fld 13 Letters sent and received from 1955, 51 letters.

Bx 1 Fld 14 Letters sent and received from 1956, 56 letters.

Bx 1 Fld 15 Letters sent and received from 1957, 63 letters.

Bx 1 Fld 16 Letters sent and received from 1958, 55 letters.

Bx 1 Fld 17 Letters sent and received from 1959, 35 letters.

Bx 2 Fld 1 Letters sent and received from 1960, 34 letters.

Bx 2 Fld 2 Letters sent and received from 1961, 30 letters.

Bx 2 Fld 3 Letters sent and received from 1962, 26 letters.

Bx 2 Fld 4 Letters sent and received from 1963, 26 letters.

Bx 2 Fld 5 Letters sent and received from 1964, 25 letters.

Bx 2 Fld 6 Letters sent and received from 1965, 23 letters.

Bx 2 Fld 7 Letters sent and received from 1966, letters.

Correspondence with George M. Lamsa (in English)

- Bx 2 Fld 8 Letters sent, undated, 4 letters.
- Bx 2 Fld 9 Letters sent and received from 1941, 16 letters.
- Bx 2 Fld 10 Letters sent and received from 1942, 19 letters.
- Bx 2 Fld 11 Letters sent and received from 1943, 12 letters.
- Bx 2 Fld 12 Letters sent and received from 1944, 16 letters.
- Bx 2 Fld 13 Letters sent and received from 1945-1947, 18 letters.
- Bx 2 Fld 14 Letters sent and received from 1949-1960, 12 letters.

Correspondence with George McCready Price (in English)

- Bx 2 Fld 15 Letters sent and received from 1944, 1946, 1958, 7 letters.

Correspondence with R. Rühling (in German)

- Bx 2 Fld 16 Letters sent and received from 1934-1935, 1941, 14 letters.

Correspondence with Francis Thomay (in English)

- Bx 2 Fld 17 Letters sent and received from 1945-1946, 7 letters.

Correspondence with C. C. Torrey (mixed, German and English)

- Bx 2 Fld 18 Letters sent and received from 1942, 1944, 1947, 10 letters.

General Correspondence (mixed, German and English)

- Bx 2 Fld 19 Letters sent and received, undated, 7 letters.
- Bx 2 Fld 20 Letters sent and received from 1919-1929, 11 letters [correspondence with people such as: Augusto Pages, W. C. White].
- Bx 2 Fld 21 Letters sent and received from 1930-1939, 18 letters [correspondence with people such as: B. G. Wilkinson, A. Vollmer, H. F. Schuberth, L. E. From, B. L. Grundset].
- Bx 2 Fld 22 Letters sent and received from 1940-1949, 71 letters [correspondence with people such as: Holger Lindsjo, L. E. From, J. D. Snider, Merwin R. Thurber, A. F. Gordon Mackay, Olof H. Nelson, A. T. Olmstead, George G. Cameron, Paul S. Newey, Emil Gugel, L. H. Christian, Walter Noack, Adolf Wegener].
- Bx 2 Fld 23 Letters sent and received from 1950-1959, 81 letters [correspondence with people such as: Gunter Lüpke, Joachim Jeremias, Emmanuel Hoyen, Roy F. Cottrell, Heinz-Dietrich Wendland, J. Nicoloci].
- Bx 2 Fld 24 Letters sent and received from 1960-1967, 65 letters [correspondence with people such as: Wycliffe Bible Translators, Alger F. Johns].

II. Writings

Published Writings by Klemis A. Offermann

Published Articles

- Bx 3 Fld 1 "Im Bund mit Gott," *Zeichen der Zeit*, January 1965, 5-6.
"Importance of Aramaic (Syriac): New Interest in Idiom Spoken by Jesus," *Another Language* 3, no. 2 (?): 3.
"Der neue Weltkalendar," *Zeichen der Zeit*, March 3, 1938, 67-68.
"The Septuagint and the Peshitta," *Defender Magazine*, September 1955, 22-23.
"Sünde, Sündopfer, Sündenstrafe, ewiges Leben," *Adventbote*, July 1, 1965, 245-246.
"Die wunderbare Macht der Liebe," *Zeichen der Zeit*, December 1964, 5-6.
"Wie kann die Macht der Sünde gebrochen werden?" *Zeichen der Zeit*, March 1964, 5-6.

Published Pamphlets

- Bx 3 Fld 2 "The Sabbath—Syriac" (2 copies)

Unpublished Writings by Klemis A. Offermann

- Bx 3 Fld 3 Unpublished Book Manuscript "Aramaic, the Background and the Language of the New Testament: A New Approach to a Better interpretation" [reviewed by George McCready Price, April 1946].
Bx 3 Fld 4 Articles from A - Z.
Bx 3 Fld 5 Materials on the Aramaic and Syriac Language (mostly by Offermann).

Published and Unpublished Writings on Various Topics by Other Authors

Amalgamation

- Bx 3 Fld 6 Quotations on Amalgamation by Ellen G. White.
"Kreuzung zwischen Mensch und Tier".
Frank L. Marsh, "The Amalgamation Statements," (1947)
James V. Neel and Murray Teigh Bloom, "Brown-eyed Parents, Blue-eyed Children, WHY?" *Colliers*, March 7, 1953, 11-14.

Frank L. Marsh, "A Discussion of Harold W. Clark's Paper, 'Amalgamation,'" (Lincoln, Nebr., April 11, 1948).

George McCready Price, "The Problem of Hybridization," *Ministry*, April 1931, 13-14.

Calendar Reforms

Bx 3 Fld 7

Jean Nußbaum, "Ansprache," *Adventbote*, February 15, 1932, 50-51 [speech on the calendar reform at the League of Nations, October 14, 1931].

"The Calendar Reform," (unpublished article).

Anton W. Wilson, *A Perpetual Calendar* (Los Angeles, Calif.: Wetzel Publ. Co., 1931).

Carlyle B. Haynes, *Calendar Change Threatens Religion* (Washington, D.C.: Religious Liberty Ass., 1944).

Alvin W. Johnson, "Calendar Propaganda," ... February 10, 1955, 30.

Carlyle B. Haynes, "Calendar Revision and the Vatican," *Lake Union Herald*, August 3, 1954.

Carlyle B. Haynes, "Calendar Moves of Calendar Revisionists," *Lake Union Herald*, March 23, 1954, 2.

G. W. Sowler, *Interesting Facts Concerning the Proposed World Calendar* (Allegan, Mich.: G. W. Sowler, 1949) [2 copies].

G. W. Sowler, *More Facts on Calendar Revision* (Allegan, Mich.: G. W. Sowler, 1949) [2 copies].

G. W. Sowler, *Letters of Testimony to G. W. Sowler Concerning His Tracts* (Allegan, Mich.: G. W. Sowler, 1950).

G. W. Sowler, *Shall We Have a New Calendar for 1951?* (Allegan, Mich.: G. W. Sowler, 1950).

Journal of Calendar Reform, July 1952, 91-92.

A. Vollmer, "Die Kalenderreform und unsre Gemeinschaft," *Adventbote*, December 1, 1931, 353-356.

Letter by Elisabeth Achelis, president of the World Calendar Ass., April 20, 1955.

Sol Bloom, "Objections to Calendar Reform," (July 11, 1929).

Alvin W. Johnson, "State department Strongly Protests 'World Calendar,'" *Lake Union Herald*, April 12, 1955, 1, 3.

Carlyle B. Haynes, "Time and the Calendar" (Book Review).

“Der Weltkalender,” *Sonntagsblatt Staats-Zeitung und Herald*, December 26, 1943, 3c.

Various single clippings and notes.

Various Other Topics

- Bx 3 Fld 8 “Arbeitsgemeinschaft für vorbereitende Seelsorge”
(April 27-28, 1953).
“Aus der Werkstatt eines großen Lexikons: Der große Brockhaus”.
“Bible Translations”.
Adolf Wegener, “Christus—Der Bezwingen des Drachen”.
S. Mortensen, “Future Events of Importance”.
Edward S. Zelle, Jr., “Gebet für die Kranken”.
“Die große Bedeutung der Zahl 40 im Plane Gottes”.
“Guidance for Earth’s Last Generation” (sermon helps for Spirit of Prophecy Sabbath, April 12, 1958).
O. F. Schwedrat, “Das königliche Gesetz” (9 chaps.).
“Die Lehre vom Heiligtum laut Brief an die Hebräer”.
“Peshitta”.
Petros D. Yoseph de Baz, “A Short Description of the History and Church of the Assyrian Nestorians”.
- Bx 3 Fld 9 Various Materials on and by Wycliffe Bible Translators.

III. Business Materials

- Bx 3 Fld 10 Salary Lists of Broadview College (1922-1929).

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