

MORAVIAN ARCHIVES

Inventory of the papers of

The Conference of Spiritual Descendants of John Hus
1937- 1938

Theresa Zataveski
2007

The Conference of Spiritual Descendants of John Hus, 1937-1938. 3 boxes. 151 C

History:

According to the letterhead of the Conference of Spiritual Descendants of John Hus, the Conference was “ A Brotherhood of believers who trace their spiritual ancestry to Bohemia’s martyred reformer.” It was a conference which gathered together about 170 attendants, from sixteen different religious bodies, who all trace their roots back to John Hus.

John Hus was a religious reformer who started a movement based on the ideas of John Wycliffe. Hus declared the principles of religious freedom, and wanted the people to be able to read the Bible and other writing in their own languages. Hus was eventually accused as a heretic, and was burned at the stake on July 6, 1415. Today, the following churches trace their origins to Hus: the Moravian Church on the estate of Count Zinzendorf, the Evangelical Unity of Czech-Moravian Brethren in North America, which occurred after emigration to the New World, the Czech Brethren Evangelical Church in Prague, the Bohemian and Moravian Brethren churches, and the Baptist, Congregational, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, and other religious groups.

At the Synod of the Moravian Church in Lititz, PA in 1936 it was proposed to hold a conference which would gather together all of the spiritual descendants of John Hus. A committee of twenty-five people from various religious affiliations was formed, as well as an executive board which included the president of the Northern Province, Clement Hoyler; the Southern Vice-President, Joseph Barton; the Eastern District Vice-President, Milo Filipi; the Western District Vice-President, Joseph Havlik; J.F. Sefl, historian and literary secretary; H.E. Rondthaler, educational secretary; Edward Catlos, treasurer, and Julius Heger, steamship agent. The Moravian congregation at Watertown, Wisconsin invited all to meet for the conference at their church. The events included recognition of the educational work of the Unity, hymnody and church music, exhibits of historical objects, book tables, an outing to neighboring congregations, an outdoor gathering, a joint Communion service, and messages of inspiration. According to Hoyler, the Conference could be summed up in one quote, “One is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are Brethren.” The Conference was a success, and the intention was to hold more conferences in the future. There is no evidence, however, that another conference did take place.

Archival History:

Some correspondence in the collection indicates that the materials were gathered together by Bishop Clement Hoyler, Milo Loppnow, and other attendants of the Conference, and sent to W.N. Schwarze, archivist of the Moravian Archives at the time, for preservation. The collection arrived at the archives in November of

1938. The finding aid was prepared by Theresa Zataveski, student at Moravian College, in 2007.

Scope and Content:

The materials in the collection include various letters on the planning of the Conference and on the success, receipts, hymns, periodicals, articles, pictures, application forms, post cards, leaflets, letterheads, lists, maps, programs, drafts of documents, a register of attendants, comments, and various other documents pertaining to the Conference. The intention was to hold many more conferences in the future. The preservation of these documents was important to the attendants as a reference for future planning.

System of Arrangement:

Much of the correspondence is arranged alphabetically, while there are several additional folders for other materials. The additional folders include comments, conference music, greetings, miscellaneous documents, missionary file, periodicals, and publicity. Information on the original arrangement can be found in a letter from Bishop Clement Hoyler to archivist W.N. Schwarze.

Conditions governing access:

This collection is open to the public.

Language:

Most of the documents in the collection are written in English; however, there are some documents which are written in Czech.

Related Units of Description:

Correspondence in the collection indicates the existence of related materials. These include materials from Milo Loppnow such as English copies of greetings from Prague. Hoyler also discusses Dalton's Book on Jablonski, and mission publications such as text books and hymn books, which were not sent to the archives with the collection. Additionally, a letter from Hoyler indicates that some materials were being sent to the archives separately from the collection. The letter is not clear on what documents these may be. There is no record in the collection of any added materials, or materials that may be elsewhere in the archives. There are several letters which discuss the process of gathering materials to print the proceedings of the Conference. The *Proceedings of the Conference of Spiritual Descendants of John Hus*, can be found in Reeves Library, Moravian College, as well as in the Moravian Archives.

Literature:

The Moravian (1938).

Proceedings of the Conference of Spiritual Descendants of John Hus. Reliance Publishing Company (copy in Moravian Archives and in Reeves Library, Moravian College)

Box 1

1. Correspondence (folders A-Z):

The folders contain correspondence between Clement Hoyler and the following:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. American Trust Society | Kroening, W. F. |
| Bautz, Alfred L. | Lekso, Joseph |
| Barton, Joseph | Loppnow, Milo |
| Barton, Jos. A. | Losa, Vaclav |
| Benson, C. A. | Louzecky, V. |
| Bergmann, G. D. | Luksa, Frank F. |
| Beseda, H. F. | Merlanti, Ernesto |
| Bregenzer, Mrs. E. | Mewaldt, I. R. |
| Bren, Joseph | Mueller, K. A. |
| Burian, L. | 6. Nagay, Adam |
| 2. Chernosky, C. H. | Novotny, Joseph |
| Couillard, V. L. | Nowack, C. F. |
| Chval, C. A. | Pavleseck, F. |
| Catlos, Edward | Pelikan, J. J. |
| Deer, I. E. | Pfohl, J. K. |
| Detterer, Ernest | Pokorny, F. |
| Dobes, Joseph | Porter, L. |
| Filipi, Milo | Press, S. D. |
| Fliegal, J. | Rau, A. G. |
| Flinn, V. L. | Reinke, S. P. |
| Folta, Geo. P. | Richter, H. |
| Fort, John | Robbins, H. C. |
| Fries, Miss A. L. | Rondthaler, H. E. |
| 3. Gapp, S.H. | 7. Schwarze, A. E. |
| Greenfield, John | Schwarze, W. N. |
| 4. Hamilton, K. G. | Schweinitz, P. de |
| Hanc, Josef | Sefl, Joseph |
| Hansen, R. F. | Shultz, G. M. |
| Heath, Geo. R. | Slabey, A. P. |
| Havlik, Josesh | Slabey, Daniel |
| Hegar, Joseph | Smetanka, Jaroslav |
| Heger, Julius | Smolik, Miss Lydia |
| Heise, Miss Flora | Sneberger, Frank |
| Heita, Theo | Spinka, Matthew |
| Helmich, D. C. | Stortz, H. H. |
| Hollub, Chas. J. | Stupka, V. |
| Hornicek, Frank | Seumper, C. E. |
| Junek, H. T. | Svoboda, Frank |
| | Swavely, F. H. |
| | Vilt, J. R. |
| | Weber, F. E. |
| | Wensel, Wm. |
| | Wesemann, Lorenz |
| | Zeller, S. C. |
| | Zmrhal, J. J. |
| | Zrunke, Albert |

Box 2

5. Kant, H. T.
- Katsunoff, G. R.
- Kostohryz, F. J.
- Koukol, Chas.
- Kreitlow, Robert
- Krenek, Josef

Box 3

8. Comments Folder:

- Comments on the Hus Conference
- Correspondence between Hoyler and the following:
 - Helmich
 - Gapp
 - Catlos
 - Chernosky
 - Barton
 - W. N. Schwarze
 - Pfohl
 - Filipi
 - Chval
 - Kreitlow
 - Richter
 - Volkman and Geschke
- There is one letter which is missing the ending, therefore, one cannot tell who the writer was.

9. Conference Music Folder:

- “By the Straight Path”
- List of Moravian Chorales used at the Watertown Conference
- Notes and comments on Moravian Hymns and Tunes
- Hymn numbers 105, 58, 30, 246, 116, and Hymn of Praise
- Hussite Battle Hymn (words and sheet music)
- Explanatory Notes about the choral collections by Jaromir Urbanec, Prague
- Jar. Urbanec’s “To the Memory of Comenius”
- Jar, Urbanec’s “To the Memory of Hus”

10. Greetings Folder:

Greetings were received from the following:

- The Council of the Synod of the Czech Brethren Church in Czechoslovakia
- The Congregation of the Evangelical Unity of Czech-Moravian Brethren at Granger, Texas
- The Hus Memorial School, Temple, Texas
- Rev. Joseph Novotny, D. D. (copy)
- Rev. Josef Dobeš, D. D.
- Rev. C. A. Gutensohn
- Rt. Rev. O. Gemuseus
- Rev. C. H. Ibsen
- Rev. F. Drebert
- Rt. Rev. E. S. Crosland
- Rt. Rev. A. Westphal
- Rev. Howard H. Stortz
- Joseph A. Barton
- C. B. Michael (with copy of Conference roster)
- Elizabeth Strohmeier

- Kenneth S. Hamilton
- F. Sneberger
- Press, S. D.

11. Miscellaneous Documents Folder:

- Post card (Prvni Kurs Skoly Husovy)
- Post card (Rev. Antonin Motycka)
- Picture (taken by Martinets Studio, Granger, Texas, with small accompanying page listing the people in the picture)
- Post card (Druhy Kurs Skoly Husovy)
- Post card (picture of summer (1938) class of the Hus Memorial School)
- Approval/acceptance form for membership to Czech-Moravian Brethren Church and to the Evangelical Unity of the Czech-Moravian Brethren in North America
- Portrait of C. H. Chernosky
- Excerpts from Matthew 23:8
- List of accommodations for the Conference
- Episcopal, denominational, and local church seals
- Program from Bohemian Presbyterian Church, Hopkins, Minnesota
- Evangelical Unity of the Czech-Moravian Brethren of North America pamphlet
- Application form for accommodations for conference
- Pamphlet of resolutions adopted by the 11th Synod of the Western district of the Moravian Church in America
- Pamphlet of resolutions adopted and Laymen's Conference report of the 24th Synod of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America
- List of Questions for discussion in Chicago
- Letter to group who met at Chicago YMCA from Hoyler (copies sent to M. Spinka, Julius Heger, John Fort, Edw. Catlos, Vincent Stupka, Jos. E. Sefl, Chas. A. Chval, and Joseph Hegar)
- Original draft and final printed copy of Hoyler's pamphlet greeting/invitation to the Conference
- Sample copy of letter sent to the "First Choices" for the various offices
- Results of ballot for officers
- Blank Conference stationary
- Letter to members of the committee on seven ways to assist
- Original draft and final General Committee
- Ballot for election of officers and accompanying letter
- List of books sent from the archives to the Hus Conference in Watertown
- List of books to be brought by the Rev. John Weinlick
- First draft, final draft, and final printed copy of the program for the Conference
- Map of Jefferson County, Wisconsin
- Map of area where Conference was held
- Letter from N. St. George Tucker to Dr. Livingstone Porter
- Letter from the Council of the Synod to Hoyler
- Official greeting to the Conference at Watertown from the Council of the Synod
- Correspondence between Hoyler and the Curator of the Synod
- Register of attendants at the Hus Conference

12. Missionary File Folder Correspondence:

The folder contains correspondence between Clement Hoyler and the following:

Mor. Book Room, London
Am. Bible Society
Miss. Buchh., Herrnhut
Bourquin, W. S. AFR. East
Dingwall, J. Demerara
Engels, H. Sur. Creole
Gaarde, N. Unyamwesi
Gemuseus, O. Nyasa

Hettasch, P., Labrador
Hutton, A. E., W. I. East
Maasz, K., Sur. Javanese
Peter, F. A., Tibet
Raillard, H., Sur. Hindu
Schaberg, W.S., Afr. West
Westphal, A., W. I. West

13. Periodicals Folder:

- Clippings from the Watertown "Daily Times"- Sat. Aug. 6, 1938; Fri. Aug. 5, 1938; Thurs. Aug. 4, 1938; Mon. Aug. 8, 1938
- Green Bay Press Aug. 3, 1938
- The Witness (Sept. 1938) Vol. XVIII No. 9
- KRESTANSKE LISTY Christian Journal (July 1, 1937) Vol. XXXIX No. 26
- Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Sun. July, 10, 1938
- Hustia (June 15, 1938) Vol. 21 No. 6
- Bratske Listy Brethren Journal (Aug. 1938) Vol. 35 No. 8
- The Wachovia Moravian (Sept. 1938) Vol. LIV No. 9
- Der Bruder = Botsrhafter 1938 Vol. 72 No. 17
- The Wachovia Moravian (Aug. 1938) Vol. LIV No. 8
- Pravada (July 1938) Vol. XIX No. 4
- Watertown Daily Times (July 1938) Vol. XLII No. 161

14. Publicity Folder:

- Copy of circular letter sent to Bohemian Presbyterian Patrons by their clerk, Joseph Havlik
- Correspondence with Lennox, telling who to send copies of the MORAVIAN to
- A Conference of Spiritual Children of John Hus* (article written by Hoyler for the Wachovia Moravian, July 30, 1937)
- Letter from Wachovia Moravian to Hoyler regarding his article
- Printed article, *The Proposed Conference of the Spiritual Descendants of John Hus* Wachovia Moravian Aug. 11, 1937
- The Hus Conference of 1938* by Hoyler
- Hus Conference* by Hoyler
- Letters to Charles regarding Hoyler's article, *The Conference of Spiritual Descendants of John Hus*
- Letter to Walser H. Allen regarding Hoyler's article, *The Conference of Spiritual Descendants of John Hus*
- Conference of Spiritual Descendants of John Hus* article by Hoyler for the MORAVIAN and letters from the MORAVIAN to Hoyler regarding the article
- Letter from Hoyler to Wisconsin Daily Sentinel on printing an article
- Letter from Hoyler to the Milwaukee Journal regarding printing the program for the Conference