

MORAVIAN ARCHIVES

**Inventory
of**

**Synods and Conferences
in Europe
1736 - 1761**

SynConf

**Paul Peucker
2007**

Synods and Conferences in Europe, 1736-1761. 3 boxes.**SynConf***History:*

The conference that was held in Marienborn in December of 1736, a few months after Zinzendorf had moved from Herrnhut into the Wetterau area, is traditionally considered to be the first synod of the Moravian Church. Zinzendorf regularly held synods for the leaders of the church. Zinzendorf was the central figure during these synods, who summarized, evaluated and developed plans for the future of the church.

Archival history (History of fonds):

Copies of the minutes and reports of the synods and other conferences were sent from Europe to America, because the results were also relevant for the Moravians in America. Some of these records were sent to Bethlehem on purpose, others may have been taken to Bethlehem by individual Moravians and later placed in the archives. In the 1970s or 1980s most of the minutes were organized in boxes labeled "synods" or "synodalia". In 2007 a new finding aid was prepared by Paul Peucker.

Scope and content:

This collection of minutes is not complete, but it does contain the minutes or summarized minutes of many important synods, held during Zinzendorf's lifetime. The minutes record the discussions and deal with a wide variety of topics. The minutes of the interim administration (Ratskonferenz) deal with the central administration of the worldwide Moravian Church after Zinzendorf's death (1760).

Accruals, Appraisal: Similar material will possibly be found in yet unprocessed boxes in the Moravian Archives. These will then be added to this collection.

System of Arrangement:

The collection is divided into three series: synods, other conferences and interim administration. The arrangement within these series is chronological.

Conditions governing access: open. *Language:* mostly German. *Physical characteristics:* fair to good.

Finding Aids: inventory 15; also as searchable database (Augias).

Related Units of Description:

The Unity Archives in Herrnhut has the official copies of these minutes. The Herrnhut collection is more complete. Most of the minutes in the Herrnhut collection are transcribed.

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1. Synods

1.a. Marienborn 1736

- 10 **Resolutions taken at the synod in Marienborn.**
(Dec 8 - 9, 1736)
Later (18th-century) copy.
1 item
Language: German

1.b. Ebersdorf 1739

- 11 **Minutes of the synod held in Ebersdorf.**
(Jun 9 - 16, 1739)
Later (18th-century) copy.
1 folder
Language: German

1.c. Gotha 1740

- 12 **'Expedienda et Conclusa Synodi ecclesiae Moraviensis Gotha habitae', resolutions taken at the synod in Gotha.**
(Jun 12 - 20, 1740)
1 item
Language: German

1.d. Marienborn 1740

- 13 **Resolutions, taken at the synod in Marienborn.**
(Dec 4 - 31, 1740)
1 notebook
Language: German
- 14 **Excerpt from the resolutions, taken at the synod in Marienborn.**
(Dec 4 - 31, 1740)
Incomplete, see SynConf 13 for a complete copy.
1 item
Language: German

1.e. Marienborn 1741

- 15 **Minutes of the preparatory conference, preceding the synod in Marienborn.**
(Jun 20 - 25, 1741)
1 notebook
Language: German
- 18 **Abstract from the minutes of the synod in Marienborn.**
(Jun 20 - 28, 1741)

Later (18th-century) copy. This manuscript probably formed one collection with SynConf 10 and 11.

2 quires

Language: German

17 **Fragment from the minutes of the synod, held in Marienborn.**

(June 26, 1741)

Minutes of the first session.

The text is conform the official minutes in the Unity Archives.

1 item

Language: German

16 **Fragment of the minutes of the synod, held in Marienborn.**

(Jul 2 - 3, 1741)

The text is conform the official minutes in the Unity Archives.

8 pages

Language: German

1.f. London 1741

19 **Notes, taken by August Gottlieb Spangenberg during the synod in London.**

(Sep 11 - 16, 1741)

With addenda in other hands (among which Zinzendorf).

1 folder

fairly worn

Language: German

1.g. Hirschberg 1743

23 **Text of the address spoken by Zinzendorf at the opening of the synod at Hirschberg.**

(June 30, 1743)

Also in the minutes (SynConf 20).

1 item

Language: German

21 **List of attendees at the synod at Hirschberg.**

(Jun 30 - Jul 9, 1743)

1 item

Language: German

20 **Minutes of the synod in Hirschberg, with an index.**

(Jun 30 - Jul 11, 1743)

260 pages

Language: German

22 **List of resolutions taken at each session during the synod at Hirschberg.**

(Jun 30 - Jul 11, 1743)

2 copies

1 item

Language: German

1.h. Marienborn May/June 1744

- 24 **Minutes of the synod at Marienborn.**
(May 12 - 31, 1744)
Includes:
The minutes end with session XI, May 31 (as in the Herrnhut copy). The conclusion of the synod was on June 15.
206 pages
Language: German
- 4 **Report of a prayer day (Gemeintag), held during the Marienborn synod in Herrnhag.**
(Jun 10 - 12, 1744)
The Gemeintag was held in Herrnhag, whereas the deliberations of the synod took place in Marienborn.
1 notebook
Language: German
- 26 **Conclusion (Verlass) of the synod at Marienborn.**
(Jun 14 - 15, 1744)
1 item
Language: German
- 25 **List of resolutions taken at each session during the synod at Marienborn.**
(May 12 - 31, 1744)
Also includes a list of topics, to be discussed during the Marienborn or another synod.
1 folder
Language: German
- 27 **Extract from the minutes of the synod in Marienborn regarding the 'children parents' (Kindereltern). (May - June 1744)**
Includes two copies, one in Ettwein's hand.
1 folder
Language: German

1.i. Zeist 1746

- 28 **Minutes of the synod at Zeist.**
(May 12 - Jun 14, 1746)
Content: minutes, 1-416.
"Praeparations-Rede zum Verlass" (preparatory address at the conclusion), 417-432.
"Verlass" (conclusion), 433-500.
See index, SynConf 30.
500 pages
Language: German
- 29 **Minutes of a committee or 'oekonomische Conferenz', held during the synod at Zeist.**
(May 24, 1746)
Was originally part of the general minutes, p. 501-527.
1 folder
Language: German
- 30 **Alphabetical index to the minutes of the synod at Zeist and the committee meeting.**
(1746)

- 1 folder
Language: German
- 31 **Another copy of the minutes of the synod at Zeist.**
(May 12 - Jun 14, 1746)
This copy was formerly owned by Charles J. Seidel.
1 book
Language: German
- 7 **Notes taken at the synod [in Zeist] during the discussion on children and education; notes taken during the same discussion combined with an extract from the Single Brothers' Synod in London of 1753 on the same topic.**
(1746, 1753)
Includes two different sets of notes, one taken by Johann Ettwein.
2 items
Language: German

1.j. Herrnhag 1747

- 47 **Concluding address by Zinzendorf at the synod in Herrnhag.**
(June 4, 1747)
Includes a report of the ordinations that took place during this service.
1 item
incomplete
Language: German
- 8 **Diary, kept by Johann Ettwein during the synod in Herrnhag and following weeks.**
(May 15 - Jul 25, 1747)
This item was falsely identified as the minutes of the synod in Zeist (1746).
1 item
fragment
Language: German

1.k. Gnadenberg 1748

- 32 **Conclusion ('Verlass) of the synod at Gnadenberg (Krausche).**
(June 28, 1748)
Originally part of the Jüngerhausdiarium ("28. Beilage zur 26ten Woche").
1 folder
Language: German

1.l. London 1749

- 9 **Conclusion of the synod, held in London.**
(September 30, 1749)
Incomplete, one quire is missing.
1 item
Language: German

1.m. Gnadenberg 1750

- 33 **Minutes of the Silesian and Upperlusatian provincial synod, held in Gnadenberg.**
(May 12 - 13, 1750)

On back cover: "Schickt Br. Johannes".
 1 notebook
 Language: German

1.n. Barby 1750

- 34 **Minutes of the first part of the synod at Barby.**
 (Aug 24 - Sep 11, 1750)
 Published in the Gemeinnachrichten 1750 (Beilage zur 36. Woche, no. 42).
 1 notebook
 Language: German
- 35 **Minutes of the second part of the synod at Barby (sessio 1-9).**
 (Sep 17 - 24, 1750)
 Published in the Gemeinnachrichten 1750 (Beilage no. 45).
 4 notebooks
 Language: German
- 36 **Minutes of two 'private' conferences, held during the synod in Barby.**
 (Sep 15 and 26, 1750)
 Published in the Gemeinnachrichten 1750 (Beilage no. 49). More comprehensive text of these minutes, in UA (transcription: ausz2110).
 1 notebook
 Language: German

1.o. Herrnhut 1750

- 37 **Report of the synod in Herrnhut.**
 (Nov 13 - Dec 2, 1750)
 Published in the Gemeinnachrichten 1750 (Beilage no. 74 zur 48. Woche). More comprehensive text of these minutes, in UA (transcription: ausz2110).
 1 notebook
 Language: German

1.p. London 1752/1753

- 38 **Excerpt from the minutes of the single brothers' synod in London.**
 (Dec. 19, 1752 - Jan. 15, 1753)
 1 folder
 Language: German

2. Other Conferences

Minutes of smaller conferences.

- 1 **Minutes of a 'Lehr-Conferenz' (doctrinal conference) in [Marienborn ?].**
 (11. February 1741)
 1 item
 Annotation: Language: German
- 41 **Minutes of conferences regarding the boys (Knabenkonferenzen) in Herrnhut.**
 (1754 - 1755)
 Includes:
 Conference Apr. 19-20, 1754

- Conference Sep. 19-24, 1755
1 folder
Language: German
- 6 **Extract from the minutes of a meeting of the helpers in Marienborn (Helferkonferenz) on the position of 'children's parents' (Kindereltern) and education.**
(December 24, 1745)
1 item
2 copies
Language: German
- 5 **Minutes of a conference in Marienborn.**
(Jan 4 - 27, 1745)
Alternate set of minutes in Unity Archives (see transcription, ausz1640). Maybe these are personal minutes. Possibly handwriting of Layritz.
1 notebook
Language: German
- 39 **Excerpt from the minutes of a meeting in Westminster regarding marriage for people who do not live in a Moravian community.**
(January 23, 1753)
1 item
Language: German
- 2 **Minutes of a meeting during a lovefeast in Herrnhag about sending out of brothers and sisters to different places and positions.**
(July 15, 1741)
The last person on the list to be sent out was "Zinzendorf to Pennsylvania".
1 item
Language: German
- 44 **Minutes of conferences held with the helpers of the single brothers' choirs in England.**
(Jun 6 - 8, 1761)
1 folder
Language: German
- 45 **Minutes of a conference, held by Johannes von Watteville with the laborers of the married people's choirs in England.**
(June 22, 1761)
1 item
Language: English
- 46 **Concluding address by [Johannes von Watteville?] at the English provincial synod in Lindsey House.**
(June 23, 1761)
1 item
Language: German
- 40 **Excerpt from a report of a conference in Westminster on the hierarchical offices in the Moravian Church.**
(October 18, 1753)
Includes:
Published in Gemeinnachrichten 1753 (Beilage zur 42. Woche).
1 item
Language: German

- 3 **List of resolutions, reached at Synodal Conferences held in Gnadeck and Gnadenfrei ('Gnadenschlößgen'), Silesia.**
(Sep. - Nov. 1743)
The text does not include the discussions, only the resolutions.
12 pages
Language: German

3. Interim Administration, 1760-1764

- 43 **Excerpts from the minutes of the Ratskonferenz, regarding North America, the Westindies, Surinam and Barbice.**
(June 1760 - June 1761)
1 folder
Language: German
- 42 **Excerpts from the minutes of the Ratskonferenz, the interim administrative board of the Unity.**
(May 30, 1760 - Apr. 1, 1761)
After Zinzendorf's death (1760) the Ratskonferenz was in charge of the affairs of the Unity and of the Herrnhut congregation. The Ratskonferenz was replaced on April 1, 1761, by the Oeconomatskonferenz. Resolutions, regarding the affairs of the Herrnhut congregation, are left out from this copy.
1 notebook
Language: German