



Finding aid
of the

Greenland Papers
1736 – 1786

MissGrnl

Paul Peucker
2019

1.1 Reference Code

MissGrnl

1.2 Title

Greenland Papers

1.3 Date(s)

1736-1786

1.4 Level of Description

Item level

1.5 Extent and medium of the unit of description (quantity, bulk, or size)

1 box (15 folders)

2.1 Name of Creator

Moravian Congregation of Bethlehem

2.2 Administrative / Biographical History

Moravian mission work in Greenland began in 1733 when Matthäus Stach, Christian Stach, and Christian David arrived near Godthaab where they founded Neuherrnhut (Noorliit, today part of Nuuk). In 1899 there were six main stations, twenty-eight outstations, and thirty-three schools. In that year, the General Synod of the Moravian Church decided to hand over Moravian work in Greenland to the Danish Lutheran Church. In 1900 the Moravian missionaries left Greenland for good.

The Bethlehem Moravians did not have any formal oversight over the mission in Greenland. The mission there was administrated by the Mission Board in Herrnhut, Germany.

2.3 Archival History

In the archives of the Bethlehem congregation various materials regarding Greenland had gathered: diaries and reports from Greenland that were communicated to the Moravians in America, or linguistic material left to the church by former Greenland missionary Johann Friedrich Beyer who died in Bethlehem in 1760. Some items predate the existence of Bethlehem.

The collection was formed by previous archivists by pulling material regarding Greenland and combining these into one collection. The papers were cataloged by Paul Peucker in February 2019.

2.4 Immediate source of acquisition or transfer

n/a

3.1 Scope and content

diaries, reports, copies of letters from Inuit to Moravians in Europe, a Greenlandic-German dictionary, a Greenlandic hymnbook (partly printed, partly handwritten), and a history of the work in Greenland

3.2 Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

n/a

3.3 Accruals

Future additions will probably be found elsewhere in the archives

3.4 System of Arrangement

Records are grouped according to the following categories: general, diaries, correspondence, and linguistic material

4.1 Conditions governing access

Unrestricted

4.2 Conditions governing reproduction

4.3 Language/ scripts of material

German, English, Greenlandic

4.4 Physical characteristics and technical requirements

4.5 Finding aids

Printed finding aid in reading room; online finding aid

5.1 Existence and location of originals

5.2 Existence and location of copies

5.3 Related units of description

The records from the mission board and from the local mission stations are at the Unity Archives in Herrnhut, Germany.

Also see the diaries and letters in the Gemeinnachrichten (Congregational Accounts).

5.4 Publication Note

6.1 Note

7.1 Archivist's Note

Processed by Paul Peucker

7.2 Rules or Conventions

DACS, ISAD (G)

7.3 Date(s) of descriptions

February 2019

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01. General

- 11** "Einige Fragen von gewissen Umständen, sowohl der Grünländer als uns selbst an die Kreuz-Gemeine in Marienborn"
List of various questions by the Inuit and the missionaries to the congregation at Marienborn, with answers, (ca. 1745).
1 item
German
- 2** "Relation von der Mission der Brüder in Groenland von 1733-1751"
History of the Moravian missions in Greenland, 1733-1751, 1751.
2 copies
Copy 1 was owned by Spangenberg
30 p.
contemporary copies
English translation: MissGrnl 1
German
- 1** "Account of the Mission of the Brethren in Greenland from 1733 till 1751"
History of the Moravian missions in Greenland, 1733-1753, 1753.
Includes:
2 copies
Copy 1 is in the hand of John Ettwein who is likely the author or translator of the text.
This English translation contains an additional paragraph on the years 1752 and 1753
20 p.
English translation
German original: MissGrnl 2
English
- 13** Notes by Spangenberg regarding the Moravian mission in Greenland, (ca. 1755).
1 item
German

02. Diaries

- 3 **Diary of the Moravian mission at Neuherrnhut (Noorliit) in Greenland, 6 Aug. 1736 - 10 July 1737, 1736 - 1737.**
1 bundle
contemporary copy
worn
German
- 16 **Diary of the Moravian mission in Greenland, Aug. - Dec. 1744.**
1 booklet
English translation
English
- 5 **Diary of the Moravian mission at Neuherrnhut (Noorliit) in Greenland, August 1751 - June 1752, 1751 - 1752.**
In the hand of Jacob Rogers; continued in a different hand.
32 p.
English translation
English
- 4 **"Br. John's Journal of what pass'd in Greenland from the time of his coming there, Anno 1752 June - Aug."**
Johannes von Watteville's visitation report to Greenland, June - August 1752, 1752.
In the hand of Jacob Rogers
38 p.
English translation
English
- 17 **Diary of the Moravian mission in Greenland, Aug. 1752 - June 1753.**
Beginning with the departure of Johannes von Watteville on August 12, 1752.
1 item
English translation
English
- 18 **Diary of the Moravian mission in Greenland, Sep. 1753 - June 1754.**
Also includes translations of excerpts from letters written by Inuit.
Note that the diary for the period Sept. 24, 1753 - Jan. 30, 1754, follows after Febr. 2 - June 10, 1754.
2 quires
English translation

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English

- 19 **Diary of the Moravian mission in Greenland, Aug. - Dec. 1754.**
In the hand of Jacob Rogers; continued in a different hand.
3 quires
English translation
English
- 6 **Diary of the Moravian mission at Neuherrnhut (Noorliit) in Greenland, September 1755, 1755.**
5 p.
English translation
English
- 20 **Diary of the Moravian mission in Greenland, Sep. - Dec. 1756.**
Instructions in the margin: "For Sichem & Pachgatgoch & then back again to Bethlehem"
1 quire
English translation
English
- 21 **Diary of the Moravian mission in Greenland, Jan. - May 1757.**
Instructions in the margin: "For Sichem & Pachgatgoch & then back again to Bethlehem"
1 quire
English translation
English
- 7 **Various texts regarding the Moravian mission in Greenland, probably translated from the Gemeinnachrichten (Congregational Accounts), 1758.**
Includes:
1. Diary of Neuherrnhut (Noorliit) in Greenland, April - July 1758
2. "Br. Sörensen's Diary of his and the Greenlandish Brethren and Sisters stay in Pissikharbik on their Herring Fishery, from May 15 till June 10th, 1758"
3. Excerpts from letters written by Inuit to Johannes von Watteville
4. Travel diary of Matthaeus Stach, Jens Haven, and Peter Haven from Copenhagen to Greenland and the expedition to find another location for a mission near "colony Zokertop," (1758?)
19 p.
English translations
English

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- 8 **"Journal from New Herrnhuth for the months of July and August 1764"**
Diary of the Moravian mission at Neuherrnhut (Noorliit) in Greenland, July - August 1764, 1764.
 Also includes excerpts of letters from Inuit to Johannes von Watterville and other members of the Zinzendorf family
 8 p.
 English translation
 English
- 9 **Diary of the Moravian mission at Lichtenau (Alluitsoq) in Greenland, July 1785 - June 1786.**
 Written by Johann Gottlieb Ender, Christian David Rudolph and Heinrich Menzel
 21 p.
 English translation
 English

03. Correspondence

- 12 **Letter from Niels Brönlund Block in Christianshåb (Qasigiannugit) in Greenland to an unidentified Moravian brother, 1750.**
 Includes:
 Block had met this Moravian man in Kopenhagen in 1742
 1 item
 German
- 22 **Translations of excerpts from letters written by Inuit, (ca. 1755).**
 1 quire
 English translation
 English

04. Linguistic Materials

- 10 **"Tarajovingvoak Karalin Okausianik"**
Greenlandic translation of Salt for the Lambs, by Friedrich Böhnisch, with a letter to "Brother Türstich", 1747.
 The letter is included in the booklet and dated Neu Herrnhut (Noorliit), 4 July 1747. The identity of "Brother Türstich" is unclear. Perhaps the name refers to the character of being thirsty (türstich = dürstich = thirsty).

"Salz für die Schäfgen und Lämmer aus dem Felsen gehauen" (32°, Marienborn, 1744) was a catechism for children in the form of a hymn, composed by Johannes von Watteville, and published in various editions and translations.

miniature booklet (24 p.)

Greenlandic translation

Greenlandic

- 15 Hymn book in Greenlandic, compiled by Johann Friedrich Beyer, (ca. 1750).**
- title (ms.): Illeit Jungerotissenguoit Kallalin Okausienne
- printed signature: Illei-inneit Ingverautikschengvoennik karalin okausiennik (16 hymns, with German titles)
- printed signature: Illei-inneit Ingverautikschengvoennik karalin okausiennik (hymns 17-33, with German titles)
- 49 handwritten pages, hymns no. 34-110 (with German melody titles)
There are handwritten corrections in the printed parts
In Spangenberg's hand: "Vors Archiv in Bethlehem"
Johann Friedrich Beyer (1719-1760) moved to Bethlehem in 1754 after he had served as a Moravian missionary in Greenland.
1 volume
German, Greenlandic
- 14 Dictionarium Grönladicum by Johann Friedrich Beyer, 1750.**
The dictionary is dated "Neu Herrnhuth in Grönland, den 16ten April 1750"
In Spangenberg's hand: "Vors Archiv in Bethlehem"
Johann Friedrich Beyer (1719-1760) moved to Bethlehem in 1754 after he had served as a Moravian missionary in Greenland.
1 vol. (163 p.)
rebound and restored in 19th century (rodent damage)
German, Greenlandic

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