

Findaid 2/107

A.0782

**Carl Hugo Hahn
1818-1882**

**Compiled by Werner Hillebrecht
2009**

National Archives of Namibia
Findaid 2/107: A.782 Carl Hugo Hahn
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Missionary Carl Hugo Hahn on a riding ox

Accession A.0782 Carl Hugo Hahn

Introduction

Note on provenance and description

These autographs originating from the Hahn family were purchased in 1998 by the National Archives of Namibia from an antiquarian bookseller, with financial assistance by the University of Namibia.

Due to the dire staffing situation of the National Archives at the time of purchase, the accession was only registered in 2004, and described in 2009.

The accession consists of five distinct items, of which 4 can be ascribed to missionary Carl Hugo Hahn. They are accommodated in a custom-made archival box, and stored in the Archives' safe.

(Werner Hillebrecht)

Biographical note

Carl Hugo Hahn (1818-1895), Missionary of the *Rheinische Missionsgesellschaft*, was one of the most influential missionaries in 19th century Namibia. Born into a German-speaking family from Livonia (today's Latvia, in Hahn's time governed by Russia), he joined the Rhenish Mission in 1838, was ordained in 1841 and sent to Southern Africa. 1842 in Windhoek, since 1844 until 1853 in Otjikango, which he named Gross-Barmen. He undertook fundraising trips to Europe in 1853-1855 and 1859-1863. He settled at Otjimbingwe in 1855, where he established the *Augustineum* teacher training school in 1866 and established a commercial mission enterprise, the *Missions-Handels-Aktiengesellschaft*. Hahn interfered strongly in local politics, supporting the attempts of trader Andersson to establish a hegemony based on sections of the Herero in central Namibia. He travelled to Ovamboland and was instrumental in motivating Finnish missionaries to start work there. In 1872, he resigned from the mission and settled in South Africa, where he became pastor of the German Lutheran congregation in Cape Town. In 1882 he was appointed "*Special commissioner for Walwich Bay Territory*" by the Cape Government. Retired in 1884, lived for some time in Germany, travelled to visit his daughter in the US, and lived with a son in Paarl, South Africa. He was an important Herero linguist, very much aided by the efforts of his domestic servant and interpreter, Uerieta (Johanna Maria Gertze). Married Emma Sarah Hone in 1843, four children.

(Adapted from Brigitte Lau)

Description

No.	Item	Dates
1	Notebook with "Kurzer Lebenslauf von 1818-1841" and diary "1 Januar 1841 bis 27 Jnr 1845" of Carl Hugo Hahn, bound but covers missing.	1818-1845
2	Diary of Carl Hugo Hahn, bound but covers missing, 1857-21.Juni 1863. Beginning is sing, first pages with some text loss (apparently termite damage). With folded loose insert.	1857-1863
3	Undated manuscript by Carl Hugo Hahn (after 1884)	1874-1882
4	Letter to Hugo Hahn (not Carl Hugo Hahn! C.H.L. (Cocky) Hahn?) from his mother (Judith Julie Auguste Hahn, née von Linsingen, 1861-1938 ?), dated 2.4.1912. <i>Contains biographical details of her father.</i>	1912
5	Notebook with copies by Carl Hugo Hahn from various authors, inscribed "Hugo Hahn. Vicar in St. Elisabeth 1874". <i>Contains:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) I.J.N. Vom Gebet [p.1-2]; (2) Dr. M. Luther's Mahnung zum Gebet für die Kirche und wider die Feinde derselben [...] [p.10-11]; (3) Das Sacrament des Altars [p.12-15]; (4) Prospectus der Dogmatik (von Miss. Insp. Walmann) [p.16-17]; (5) notes on "Liturgie" and "Confirmation" [p.18-19]; (6) De resurrectione carnis (p.20); (7) Tertullian, Aus dem Traktat "von der Geduld" (p.24-29); (8) Das Ehebett christlich und ärztlich beleuchtet, ein Noth- und Hilfsbüchlein für Eheleute und Verlobte. Basel, J.G. Bahnmeier, 1843 [new pagination p.i-ii, 1-124] 	1874-1882