Materials at MLA on the Central Asia trek, ca. 1880.

Manuscript Collections

MLA.MS.035. The Peter Siebert Goertz (1886-1948), Mathilde Harms Goertz and Helen Riesen Goertz Papers include a Central Asia (Dalke) Diary 1888 by Siebert Goertz.

MLA.MS.045. Central Asia Trek, 1880-1929. Assembled from descendants of persons involved in the trek (Penner, Jantzen, Toews, Klaassen). Includes correspondence, memoirs, articles plus minutes of American committees formed to aid and rescue the Mennonites in Asia. 0.3 cubic feet.

MLA.MS. 115. Hans Bartsch (1894-1959). Includes letters in German written to Johannes Bartsch and Anna Harms Bartsch, his parents, beginning ca. 1882 from relatives living in Russia or Central Asia. 0.3 cubic feet.

MLA.MS.118. Johannes K. Penner (1850-1924). These papers are unprocessed. Penner migrated to Central Asia in 1880 then to Beatrice, Nebraska in 1884.

Small Archives Collections (one folder or less)

S.A. I. 180. Unidentified Dutch typescript, page 1 missing, has to do at least partly with Claas Epp trip to Central Asia, found in Krahn papers Dec. 1984

S.A. II. 58. Travel account of Heinrich B. Janzen from Saratov, Russia, to Tashkent in Central Asia, 1881; original and photocopy; handwritten German; and typewritten English translation by Hilda Voth, completed Dec. 2, 1992

S.A. II. 240. 50th anniversary sermon by John Toews, includes story of Central Asia trek

S.A. II. 360. David Schmidt (1835-1898) family record and report of trek to Central Asia; typed

S.A. II. 745. Notes by H. R. Voth on church founded by Hermann Heinrich Peters (is this a group that went to Central Asia?)

S.A. II. 1519. Anonymous diary of the trek of Russian Mennonites to Central Asia, 1880s; handwritten German original and typed English translation; Brought in by Bethel professor A. Wayne Wiens, 26 June 1992. It was found among the papers of his grandfather John D. Jantzen of Hillsboro, KS, so it presumably comes from some member of the Jantzen family. Later it was in the possession of Wayne’s uncle J. Marc Jantzen of Stockton, CA. Wayne brought it in to have it translated and then donated the original to the MLA.
S.A. II. 1605. Jacob Jantzen autobiography, written in 1939 when he lived in Bessie, Oklahoma; he apparently was on the Central Asia trek; handwritten German original; donated to MLA by Mrs. H. H. Horn of Cordell, Oklahoma, in 1970; found in MLA.MLA.I (pre-1979 MLA office files), folder “Horn, Mrs. H. H.”, further correspondence can be found there.

S.A. III. 44. Map of Claas Epp trek to Central Asia, by Joh. Bartsch, English translation, blueprint (cross-referenced in map drawer)

**Articles**


**Books and Monographs**


Bier, Philip N. *The Quest for Shar-I-Sabs* (Fiction), Pittsburgh, PA: Dorrance, 1993. M 813.54 B477g


Klaassen, Jacob. *Grandfather’s Description of the Trip to Central Asia 1880. Asienreise.* 1964. [previously published in *Der Bote,* a Canadian-German-Mennonite weekly, from May 21st to September 23d, 1941, under the title “Aus Vergangner Zeir. Reiseerinnerungen von Jacob Klaassen-Eigenheim.” M 289.747 K662g


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