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Columbia University Deutsches Haus records4079666

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Columbia University. Deutsches Haus
Title:	Columbia University Deutsches Haus records
ID:	4079666
ID:	MS#0255
Date [inclusive]:	1911-1975
Physical Description:	0.83 Linear Feet 2 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English , German .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Columbia University Deutsches Haus records; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Historical Note

Established at Columbia University in 1911, Deutsches Haus was the first foreign language house at an American University. In 1910, Edward D. Adams, president of the Germanic Society of America, made a gift to the University of the Deutsches Haus. The private residence at 419 West 117th was purchased by the University in the spring of 1911. After a summer of construction and preparation, the Haus opened in September 1911, with Rudolf Tombo, Jr., Associate Professor of German as Director and a generous library of contemporary German literature. A bureau of academic information was established which cooperated with the University of Berlin.

As a consequence of World War I, Deutsches Haus was closed in 1917. At President Butler's suggestion, the former residence of late Talcott Williams, Emeritus Director of the School of Journalism, was purchased by the Trustees and became the second Deutsches Haus. Now

under the administration of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Professor Frederick W.J. Heuser was appointed director and the Haus opened in January 1929.

Operation of Deutsches Haus ceased again during World War II, but returned with a full program in the 1950s. It continued to serve as an information bureau and curated library, which would host book exhibits. By the 1950s, the library contained more than 10,000 volumes, both in German and English on German history, politics, economics, music, art, and literature.

Deutsches Haus was founded in 1910 at 419 West 117th Street as a center for German Studies; closed in April 1917; reestablished in January 1929 at 423 West 117th Street; moved to 548 West 113th Street in 1967 and to 420 West 116th Street in 1975.

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Summary

Correspondence, documents, portraits and photographs of the Deutsches Haus. The correspondence files consist of General Correspondence for the letters K-M, 1929-1943 and a special group which relate to the founding of the Haus in 1929. There are letters and tributes from many well known people on the occasion of the opening of the Haus. There are also correspondence documenting its function as an information center for German Studies. Among the correspondence are: Max Brod, George Eastman, Kuno Francke, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Thomas Mann, Edwin Markham, Andrew Mellon, Max Planck, Arthur Schnitzler, Jakob Wasserman, Arnold Zweig, and Stephan Zweig

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Summary

Also included is the guest register of the Deutsches Haus, 1911-1975, containing the signatures of numerous visitors to the Haus, with occasional invitations and announcements of activities pasted in, as well as photographs of a spring 1971 party. In addition there are a few letters of congratulations on the reopening of the Haus in 1967 and photographs of one of its buildings on West 117th Street. There is one oversize folder of photographs and portraits.

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Arrangement

Selected items cataloged; remainder arranged.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF replaced with full finding aid (JR). 2020-03-16

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Accruals

No additions are expected.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared.
Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Columbiana. Method of acquisition--Transfer, 1986; Date of acquisition--1986. Accession number--M-1986.

Ownership and Custodial History

Transferred from Deutsches Haus, 1967.

Ownership and Custodial History

Transferred from Columbiana, 1986.

Processing Information

Entered in AMC 08/29/90.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Additional records about Deutsches Haus can be found in [Central Files \(UA#0001\)](#), [Historical subject files \(UA#0002\)](#), [Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs records \(UA#0083\)](#), and [Columbia University Library Office files \(UA#0214\)](#). Photographs of exhibitions, events and the Haus can be found in [Historical photograph collection \(UA#0003\)](#) and [Office of Public Affairs photograph collection \(UA#0109\)](#).

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Controlled Access Headings

- German language

- German literature
- Germany -- History
- Germany -- Civilization
- Announcements
- Clippings (Information Artifacts)
- Visitors' books
- Invitations
- Photographs
- Brod, Max, 1884-1968
- Eastman, George, 1854-1932

Other Finding Aids

[Legacy finding aid](#)

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Collection Inventory

Series I. Columbia University Deutsches Haus records, 1911-1975

Title/Description	Instances
Catalogued Correspondence	
Angell, James Rowland	box 1
Brod, Max	box 1
Davis, James J.	box 1
Eastman, George	box 1
Francke, Kuno	box 1
Hapgood, Norman	box 1
Hofmannsthal, Hugo von	box 1
Leach, Henry Goddard	box 1
Mann, Thomas	box 1
Markham, Edwin C.	box 1
Mellon, Andrew William	box 1
Planck, Max	box 1

Reuter, Gabriele	box 1
Schmittbonn, Wilhelm A.	box 1
Schnitzler, Arthur	box 1
Wasserman, Jakob	box 1
Wickersham, George W.	box 1
Zweig, Arnold	box 1
Zweig, Stefan	box 1
Uncatalogued Autographed Portraits	
Auerbach, Berthold	box 1
Bloem, Walter	box 1
Brod, Max	box 1
Elster, Ernst	box 1
Eucken, Rudolf	box 1
Falke, Gustav	box 1
Gunthers, Hugo	box 1
Heyse, Paul	box 1
Husserl, Edmund	box 1
Koch, Dr. Robert	box 1
Lamprechtz, K.	box 1
Manzel, Ludwig	box 1
Mommsen, Theodor	box 1
Planck, Max	box 1
Ranke, Leopold von	box 1
Reymond, DuBoys	box 1
Saucken, Eduard	box 1
Schick, Josef	box 1
Schlaf, Johannes	box 1
Spielhagen, Friedrich	box 1
Treitschke, Heinrich von	box 1
Viebig, Clara	box 1
Voigt-Diederichs, Helene	box 1
Walzel, Oskar	box 1

Wolf, Julius	box 1
Zweig, Stefan	box 1
Uncatalogued Files	
General and Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1929-1946	box 2
Guest Register, 1911-1975	box 2
Photographs	box 2
Reopening of Haus - Letters of Congratulations, 1967	box 2
Clippings	box 2

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