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Ernst Georg Heinrich Hermann Blohm Papers

1912 – 1987



Inventory compiled by
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E G H H BLOHM (1912 - 1987)

Ernst Georg Heinrich Hermann (Heini) Blohm, who made a large contribution to the development of German-South African trade, economy, education and culture, was born in Windhoek on 23rd December 1912, the son of German pioneers.

Heini Blohm received his school education in Windhoek, Berlin and Swakopmund. In 1931 he became a clerk in the *Landbank* in Windhoek, whereafter he joined the SWA Public Service, as a magistrate's clerk, a justice of peace and clerk assistant of the Legislative Assembly of SWA, and as private secretary to the administrator. In 1939 he left the government service to start a legal career with the firm Hirsekorn & Miller.

The outbreak of the Second World War and his subsequent internment from 31 July 1940 until 21 May 1946, in the camps at Windhoek, Andalusia and Baviaanspoort, changed his plans. On being discharged from internment, he joined the German-Afrikaans Relief Association (DAHA) of which he was in charge until 1950. Mr Heini Blohm was responsible for the defence of some 3000 Germans before the Deportation Commission, the DAHA relief parcel service, the establishment of the Company for European Immigration and the SA Music and Theatre Company which brought out German artists like Erna Sack, Heinrich Schlusnus, Marcel Wittrisch, Elisabeth Schwartzkopf and others to South Africa. The DAHA also assisted in normalising the German / South African relationships after the War.

While secretary of DAHA, Mr Heini Blohm had conducted negotiations with the Custodian of Enemy Property with regard to the assets of a large number of Germans and German companies absent from South Africa during the war. One of these companies was the *Überseeische Industrie & Handelsgesellschaft* in Berlin, whose assets (valued at R1 million) were released in 1956 by the Custodian, for the purposes of providing office and other accommodation for German consular and diplomatic representatives in South Africa. CONDIP Properties, with himself as chairman, was founded by Mr Heini Blohm for this purpose.

In 1950, Mr Heini Blohm resumed his legal studies at the University of Pretoria as an extramural student. In November of the same year, he joined the Merensky Organisation as business and financial manager. Upon the death of Dr Hans Merensky, Mr Heini Blohm became a trustee and in 1978, president of the Hans Merensky Trust (from 1974 onwards called the Hans Merensky Foundation) until 1984. According to a file in the Blohm Papers,¹ the Merensky Foundation became Heini Blohm's main task and occupation in life. During his term of office with the Merensky Organisation it diverted its activities from mining to agriculture, forestry, timber, and research.

Through Mr Heini Blohm's association with Dr Erich Lübbert, a well known German industrialist, he became chairman of the Overseas Trust Corporation as well as of the Unit Securities Group of Companies. Mr Blohm was also one of three trustees administering the Hermann Ohlthaver Trust, a charitable and educational trust of some magnitude, established by Ohlthaver in 1972.

Mr Heini Blohm was one of the first directors of the Bantu Investment Corporation in 1958, (which later became the Corporation for Economic Development), where he served for 22 years. From 1963 he was member of the directorate of the South African-German Chamber of Trade and Industry which he founded with Dr Harald Bielfeld and Mr J Schweyer. Thereafter, he became chairman and finally in 1976 and 1977 president of the Chamber. During the same period he was also chairman of the Board of the SA Nature Foundation.

In 1963 Heini Blohm was invited to join the Board of SAMAD, later Volkswagen of South Africa. He retired as chairman of the Company in 1984. During his twenty years of serving Volkswagen in South Africa, he saw the Company grow to one of the major motor manufacturers in the country.

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File no 3 *Biographical information*, 1984.

Throughout his life, German cultural and educational interests in South Africa always enjoyed Mr Blohm's special attention. He was director of the German Clubs in Pretoria and Johannesburg and responsible for the foundation of the German Country Club at Halfway House. Furthermore, he was also actively involved with the development of the German schools in Windhoek, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town.

The German Bundespräsident honoured Mr Blohm in 1978 by presenting him with the "*Grosses Bundesverdienstkreuz*" for his contribution towards the development of better German-South African relations in the field of culture, education and trade. He was similarly honoured by the South African Government with a special medal of Merit in 1987. Being a native of Namibia, Mr Blohm always had a keen interest in that country. Besides serving in the Ovambo Development Corporation and The First National Development Corporation of SWA, he was also on the boards of Metje and Ziegler Ltd and Swabank Ltd.

Mr Heini Blohm married Gertrude Sandberg and the couple had five children. The Blohms retired to Hermanus where Mr Heini Blohm died in 1987 at the age of 74.

The Blohm Papers (5,6 linear metres)

The E G H H Blohm Papers, which were donated to the Hesse Collection of German Africana, is one of the most important private accessions housed in the Archives. They reflect the distinguished career of a man who played an important part in the development of German and South African cultural, economic and trade relations over many decades. The Papers were organised in three groups: personal, family and subject files.

The Papers comprise of interesting personal and official correspondence, photographs, speeches, memoranda and press cuttings. Mr Blohm had a sound knowledge of the Blohm (including the American side of the Blohm family), Ludwig and Sandberg genealogies, of which copies are included in the Blohm Papers.

In Mr Blohm's correspondence to his mother and in his friends recollections' as prisoners-of-war during World War II, the researcher gets a thorough view of the frustrations experienced by the German internees in SA between 1939 - 1946 in the camps. At the end of the war Blohm contemplated emigrating to the Argentine.

The Blohm Archives also contain valuable material on Mr Blohm's economic career as as a director, chairman, president and trustee of many local and overseas- based companies and trusts. The files on The Merensky Foundation, Volkswagen of SA and CONDIP Properties Ltd are substantial.

Mr Blohm's special interest in German culture is reflected in the number of files on German South-African organisations, German schools and old-age homes etc. contained in these Papers.

The E G H H Blohm Papers are accessible to researchers with a reading knowledge of German, English and Afrikaans as Mr Blohm was fluent in these languages and used all three in the Papers.

Related material

The Library Archives also a transcript of tapes, dictated by Mr Blohm in 1986, on his association with Dr Hans Merensky and Jurgen von Bülow (26 pages). See ADA 551.092 MERE BLOH, barcode 0001315087.

Blohm Papers (5,6 linear metres)

Personal

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| 1 | Blohm Archives correspondence | 1987; 1991 |
| 2 | Autobiographies: <i>Menschen, die mein Leben bestimmt haben</i> and <i>Chronik</i> transcriptions of tape-recordings, diary entries and notes | 1975; 1983 - 1987 |
| 3 | Biographical information <i>Bierzeitung</i> , notes and press cuttings | 1930; 1946 - 1985 |
| 4 | Correspondence | 1919 - 1987 |
| 5 | Certificates: EG Blohm and family (baptismal, death, school, power of attorney, etc) | 1901 - 1963 |
| 6 | Diaries with notes and appointments | 1958 - 1987 |
| 7 | Early career in South West Africa Land and Agricultural Bank / Office of the Administrator correspondence Internment: World War II ² | 1931 - 1939 |
| 8 | Possible emigration to the Argentine correspondence and annexures | 1947 - 1948 |
| 9 | Directorships correspondence and annexures | 1962 - 1975 |
| 10 | Speeches | 1971 - 1985 |

Family

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| 11 | Genealogy and photographs of Blohm and Sandberg families | c1804 - 1985 |
| 12 | Gräfin Selma von Baudissin (mother of EG Blohm) | |
| 12.1 | Correspondence, mainly from her son Ernst George Blohm) | 1924 - 1960 |
| 12.2 | Letters from Hans Merensky | 1938; 1944 |
| 12.3 | Death 1961 letters of condolence addressed to EG Blohm | |
| 12.4 | Photograph | |
| 13 | Margaretha Blohm Schmidt <i>Escape from Herero ambush in German South-West Africa</i> press cuttings and annexures | 1904 |
| 14 | RH "CAP" Blohm, Utah, United States of America correspondence, scrap-books with notes, press cuttings, drawings and family photographs | 1933 - 1987 |

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See file no 12.1 [Gräfin von Baudissin](#) and file no 47 [World War II](#).

Subject files

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| 15 | Afrikaans-Duitse Kultuurunie / SADK speeches, circulars and press cuttings | 1950 - 1965; 1981 |
| 16 | Bank of South-West Africa / Namibia minutes, correspondence, reports and press cuttings | 1981 |
| 17 | Bantu Administration and Development Act, memorandum and correspondence | 1951 - 1969 |
| 18 | Berlin Mission Society correspondence and annexures (including re Botshabelo) circulars and finances | 1970 - 1976 |
| 19 | CONDIP Properties (Pty) Ltd | |
| 19.1 | General correspondence and annexures | 1970 - 1980 |
| 19.2 | Financial statements and minutes | 1985 - 1987 |
| 19.3 | History of the <i>Überseeische Industrie & Handelsgesellschaft</i> (Germany) and its subsidiary CONDIP Properties (Pty) Ltd | c1976; 1987 |
| 19.4 | <i>Überseeische Industrie und Handelsgesellschaft</i> , Germany correspondence E von Brandis & others, annexures | 1957 - 1986 |
| 19.5 | <i>Deutscher Land-und Sportklub / Deutscher Turn - & Sportverein</i> , Halfway House E Rothschild's Liederkrantz Club certificate minutes, correspondence and annexures, legal papers and pamphlets | 1905; 1930 - 1979 |
| 19.6 | <i>Eltonuni</i> (Pty) Ltd agreements, correspondence and annexures | 1972 - 1973 |
| 19.7 | German Embassy and Ambassador's residence, Pretoria correspondence and lease agreements, photographs, building and alteration plans; specifications, accounts, and photographs | 1959 - 1970 |
| 19.8 | <i>St Martini Gardens</i> minutes, memorandum and articles of association; agreement between CONDIP, Deutsche Evangelische Lutherische St Martini Kirche and Syfrets Trust Co; financial reports, correspondence, building plans and photographs | 1960 - 1987 |
| 19.9 | <i>Thatchstones</i> , corner 60th and South Ave, Athol, Johannesburg lease agreements, correspondence and annexures | 1959 - 1967 |
| 20 | CONDIP Properties (SWA) Pty Ltd / OLIPROP Pty Ltd correspondence and annexures | 1960 - 1968 |
| 21 | Deutsche Evangelische Altersheim, Johannesburg inauguration speeches (on tape) and pamphlets | 1986 |
| 22 | Deutsche Schule Johannesburg correspondence and annexures, memoranda and accounts, circulars and building plans | 1952 - 1983 |
| 23 | Deutsche Schule Pretoria correspondence and finances | 1969 |
| 24 | Deutsche Schule Windhoek correspondence and history of school | 1949 - 1983 |

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| 25 | <i>Deutsch-Südafrikanische Gesellschaft</i> correspondence and annexures | 1965 - 1968 |
| 26 | <i>Deutsch- Südafrikanischer Hilfsausschuss</i> correspondence and annexures, pamphlets, newsletters | 1945 - 1959 |
| 27 | <i>Deutsch-Südafrikanische Stiftung</i> minutes and annexures | 1967 - 1978 |
| 28 | Dyckerhoff & Widmann correspondence and annexures | 1974 - 1976 |
| 29 | EWG Finance & Investment Corporation correspondence | 1976 - 1980 |
| 30 | Friesland Investments Ltd correspondence and annexures | 1972 - 1981 |
| 31 | Hans Merensky Management Services correspondence and syndicate agreement between JAN Winter, S Markram and EG Blohm, J von Bülow and AG Douglas | 1966 - 1967 |
| 32 | Hans Merensky Mining and Exploration Co Ltd | |
| 32.1 | Precious stones concession: Namaqualand correspondence, agreements and press cuttings | 1960 -1964 |
| 32.2 | Oil prospecting correspondence, reports and agreements | 1965 - 1973 |
| 32.3 | Platinum prospecting: Dwaalkop Prospecting Co (Pty) Ltd correspondence, minutes, accounts and reports | 1967 - 1973 |
| 33 | Hans Merensky Trust / Hans Merensky Foundation ³ | |
| 33.1 | Biographical information: Alexander & Hans Merensky brochures, pamphlets, articles, photographs and press cuttings | 1924;1952 - 1987 |
| 33.2 | Botshabelo speech (EG Blohm), brochures and press cutting | 1962; c 1980 |
| 33.3 | Correspondence and annexures: general and personal | 1958 - 1987 |
| 33.4 | Farewell function: EG Blohm's retirement as president correspondence and annexures | 1984 |
| 33.5 | Minutes: Hans Merensky Foundation meetings (incomplete) | 1980 - 1987 |
| 33.6 | Reorganisation and new constitution correspondence and annexures | 1968 - 1974 |
| 33.7 | Samson Mhlongo request for a bursary / financial assistance | 1955 - 1963 |
| 33.8 | Transvaal Ore Co and the Rio Tinto Finance & Exploration Co / Phalabora Mining Co | c 1950 - 1986 |
| 33.8.1 | Correspondence and annexures, memoranda on the phosphate deposit at Phalaborwa and the accessory mineral potentialities of the palabora carbonatite | c 1950; 1955 - 1966 |
| 33.8.2 | History of the SA government's acquisition of the Transvaal Ore Co's mining claims | 1956 - 1963 |
| 33.8.3 | EG Blohm: Dr Merensky and the above events | 1972;1986 |
| 33.8.4 | Palabora Mining Co Ltd: report and press cuttings | 1963 |
| 33.9 | Westfalia Estate | 1962 - 1982 |
| 33.9.1 | Tenth anniversary HM's death: speech by E Ramokgola | 1962 |
| 33.9.2 | Visitors' book (copy) | 1968 – 1981 |

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The Hans Merensky Trust came to an end with the establishment of the Hans Merensky Foundation on 1 January 1974.

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| 33.9.3 | Opening of Merensky Memorial Building speeches (EG Blohm & SP Botha), invitation, guest list and press cuttings | 1982 |
| 34 | Hermann Olthaver Trust Fund | 1970 - 1987 |
| 34.1 | Biographies of Hermann Olthaver (1883-1979) | 1970 - 1984 |
| 34.2 | Correspondence | 1979 - 1982 |
| 34.3 | Deed of donation | 1970 |
| 34.4 | Deed of amendment of trust | 1973 |
| 34.5 | Financial statements and correspondence | 1984 - 1987 |
| 34.6 | Hermann Olthaver Institute of Aeronomy: report | 1986 |
| 34.7 | Grants (including university grants) | 1986 - 1987 |
| 35 | Ludwig family memorandum, correspondence, annexures, death notices, publications, press cuttings, copies of documents and photograph of Lydia Ludwig | 1908 - 1985 |
| 36 | Ludwigsdorf (Windhoek) cemetery restoration correspondence and annexures, photographs | 1984 - 1986 |
| 37 | <i>Militärische Kooperation Bundesrepublik - Südafrika</i> publication by Jürgen Ostrowsky | 1977 |
| 38 | Overseas Trust Corporation (Pty) Ltd | 1969 - 1987 |
| 38.1 | Correspondence: general | 1969 - 1974 |
| 38.2 | Julie Henning Trust | 1972 - 1975 |
| 38.3 | Mrs IG Lübbert Trust | 1978 |
| 38.4 | Financial statements | 1983 - 1987 |
| 39 | Senate of SA <i>The question of the Senate of SA after the expiration of the period of ten years for which it was constituted in 1910</i> memorandum | 1917 |
| 40 | Simon van der Stel Foundation circulars | 1971 - 1980 |
| 41 | SA Nature Foundation correspondence, report and circulars | 1978; 1986 - 1987 |
| 42 | South African-German Chamber of Trade & Industry Ltd articles of association, standing orders, memorandum, correspondence and menu | 1964 - 1976 |
| 43 | Southern Africa: Political affairs newsletters, memoranda and press cuttings | 1976 - 1986 |
| 44 | South West Africa / Namibia | |
| 44.1 | Commission for the export of the surplus slaughter stock from SWA report | 1921 |
| 44.2 | Deutschen Südwest Bundes minutes of meetings and annexures | 1939 |
| 44.3 | General election correspondence, pamphlets and press cuttings | 1950 |
| 44.4 | History 1904 - 1986 extracts from publications and press cuttings | |
| 44.5 | <i>Kaokoland & Minen Gesellschaft</i> correspondence and report | 1965; 1970 - 1985 |

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| 44.6 | Land tenure in the mandated territory memorandum | 1925 |
| 44.7 | Owambo Corporation for Economic Development correspondence and annexures | 1975 - 1978 |
| 44.8 | Society for Scientific Development, Swakopmund correspondence and newsletters | 1984 - 1987 |
| 44.9 | <i>Südwestafrika von 1882 - 1907</i> publication by Dr O von Weber and correspondence | 1950 - 1958 |
| 45 | Unisec Group press cuttings | 1969 - 1975 |
| 46 | Volkswagen of South Africa | |
| 46.1 | Articles of Association | 1966 - 1973 |
| 46.2 | Minutes of Board of Directors; Exec Committee agenda | 1976; 1982 |
| 46.3 | Correspondence: E Blohm and Volkswagen, Germany | 1977 - 1982; 1986 |
| 46.4 | Correspondence and annexures: general | 1977 - 1982 |
| 46.5 | Correspondence: Managing Director (Messrs Phillips & Searle) | 1975 - 1979 |
| 46.6 | Correspondence: Dr Anton Rupert | 1984 |
| 46.7 | Marketing Volkswagens in Southern Africa correspondence and annexures | 1965 - 1967 |
| 46.8 | Lindsay Saker Motors correspondence and annexures | 1965 - 1966 |
| 46.9 | <i>Longterm Location Study</i> | 1969 |
| 46.10 | Mozambique: Volkswagen sales correspondence and reports | 1963 - 1967 |
| 46.11 | Rhodesian Iron and Steel Company Ltd correspondence and annexures | 1973 - 1976 |
| 46.12 | SA Motor Assemblers & Distributors Ltd (SAMAD) memorandum between SAMAD and Volkswagenwerk; appointment of managing director, annexures and finances building expansion programme correspondence and annexures | 1956 - 1976 1956 1962 - 1976 1961 1963 - 1967 |
| 47 | World War II: Internment of German subjects | |
| 47.1 | Recollections EG Blohm, Wolfgang Sydow, Rolf Kock and Louis Theodor Weichardt | 1940 - 1987 |
| 47.2 | Petition by SWA internees to Gen Smuts | 1945 |
| 47.3 | Affidavits and statements | 1940 - 1948 |
| 47.4 | Permits and notices | 1941 - 1948 |
| 47.5 | Poetry, Andalusia Camp | 1943 |
| 47.6 | Repatriation / deportation to Germany | 1944 - 1950 |