

**UNISA LIBRARY GERMAN AFRICANA COLLECTION**

**GOTTHILF ERNST WESTPHAL &  
CARL THEODOR GOTTHILF GOTTHARDT WESTPHAL  
PAPERS 1884-1965**



Inventory compiled by  
Marietjie van der Walt 1989  
Revised and updated  
Marié Coetzee  
2011

## **GOTTHILF ERNST WESTPHAL & CARL THEODOR GOTTHILF GOTTHARDT WESTPHAL PAPERS (1884-1965)**

### **German Africana Collection Accession 21**

The archival materials of the Berlin Mission Society missionaries Gotthilf Ernst Westphal (1855 - 1922) and Carl Theodor Gotthilf Gotthardt Westphal (1886 – 1965), father and son, contain important information on the religious, cultural, educational and social role of German missionaries in Southern Africa during the late eighteen and early twentieth century. Gotthilf Ernst Westphal was born in Brandenburg, Germany on 15 April 1855. Deeply religious, he joined the Berlin Mission Society and was sent to Southern Africa in 1882 where he started his career as a teacher at Pniel in the Barkly West district. In 1884 he was ordained by Mission Director Wangemann at Bethanien. Ernst married Wilhelmine Marie Sack (1860 -1941), a teacher from Germany, during the same year. After Missionary Martin Baumbach's death, Ernst Westphal became responsible for the leadership of Pniel. With the exception of the years 1887 and 1888 - when he worked in Kimberley - and between May 1901 and August 1902, when he was on home leave in Germany, Ernst was in charge of Pniel Mission until his death in 1922. Pniel was a very difficult mission station to manage at the time of the diamond rush when many diamond diggers and claimholders from all over the world descended on Kimberley. The Berlin Mission Society struggled to protect their land and mission from the newcomers. The Mission Society leased parts of their property for grazing and dwelling purposes to all races during this turbulent time. From the letter books and diaries in the collection, it is obvious that Ernst was a meticulous administrator of the mission properties.

Solomon Plaatje (1876 – 1932), well known newspaper editor, author, translator of Shakespearean plays into Tswana, leader of the Bantu Advisory Board and founder member of the African National Congress, was educated at Pniel Mission School by Ernst and Marie Westphal. In a letter dated 11 September 1960 to Annemarie Knothe, his daughter, Gotthardt Westphal remembers Plaatje as the "monitor" who taught him the A B C as a child. According to Gotthardt, Plaatje could also speak German, English, Afrikaans and French. Music played an important part in the education of the Pniel school children. The Westphals were very musical and Pniel's Choir was famous in Kimberley and surroundings. The Choir sang hymns and songs in Koranna, Tswana, Xhosa and German. In 1894 Plaatje left Pniel to pursue his career in Kimberley.

Gotthardt Westphal was born in Kimberley in 1886 and educated at Pniel, Bethanie and Kimberley High School. After qualifying as a teacher at the Teachers' Training College in Cape Town, Gotthardt taught at Pniel. He studied in Germany from 1908 to 1912 and was ordained a missionary in 1916. He married Margarethe Elizabeth Therese Krause (1894-1964) in the same year. Gotthardt's first mission station was Khalavha in Venda. During the period 1933 to 1935 he was on home leave in Germany, after which Gotthardt was transferred to Johannesburg where he established several new congregations in the townships. Gotthardt was so successful that the missionaries called him *Kirchbau Gottie* or Church Builder Gottie. He retired to his farm Schweigen in the Klaserie district where he died in 1965.

### **The Westphal Papers (2,1 linear metres)**

The archival records consist of diaries, letter books, publications, sound recordings and photographs were donated to the Unisa Library Archives over a period of time by Mrs C Kaske, the Knothe Family, Mrs Thiede and others. The bulk of the material is in German and many of the early records are handwritten in the Sutterlinschrift. The original inventory was compiled in German by Ms Marietjie van der Walt and the number order and German language in the first section was retained. The 2011 revised introduction and additional entries are all in English. See also the *Zittlau Collection* ( Accession 15) for more information on Pniel and the Westphal family. Linda Zollner's publication *The Berlin Missionaries in South Africa and their descendents*, HSRC, Pretoria 1984, provided the archivist with the essential information needed for the inventory on the genealogy and biographies of the Westphal family.

<u>Ordner Nr.</u>	<u>Subjekt</u>	<u>Datum</u>
1.	<u>Tagebücher</u>	
1.1	Die Fragmente	16.11.1884 – 31.12.1884
1.2	Das Tagebuch (1 Band)	4.10.1885 - 24.7.1889
1.3	Das Tagebuch (1 Band)	2.11.1889 - 27.7.1892
1.4	Die Fragmente	Jan – Mai 1893
1.5	Das private Tagebuch (fragmentarisch)	3.6.1893 - 29.9.1893
1.6	Das Pniel Tagebuch (zusammenfassendes)	11Jul. – Sept 1895
1.7	Einige Tagebuchblätter (Zusammenfassungen)	1882-1895
1.8	Das Pniel Tagebuch (zusammenfassendes)	Jan – März 1896
1.9	Das Tagebuch (1 Band)	9.3.1914- 23.7.1914
1.10	Das Tagebuch (1 Band)	11.3.1916- 27.2.1917
1.11	Das Tagebuch (1 Band)	25.7.1918- 21.9.1918
2.	<u>Das Briefbuch</u> Unter anderem in bezug auf Baumbachs Tod (fragmentarisch)	1890-1896
3.	<u>Berichte</u>	
3.1	Jahresbericht der Station Pniel	1895
3.2	Berichte zur Synode : Pniel	5.1.1898
3.3	Bericht zum 25 jährigen Jubiläum der deutschen Kirche : Kimberley	1913?
3.4	Reiseberichte : Luvhimbi - Georgenholtz	26.9.1921
4.	<u>Vorträge und Artikel</u>	
4.1	Ein christlicher Koranna Häuptling: Theus Bloem	O.J.
4.2	Die Erziehung unserer Farbigen zur Selbständig- keit	O.J.
4.3	Pniel Station : Auszüge aus den alten Tagebüchern von 1846	O J
5.	<u>Erzählungen</u> Aufgezeichnet von Westphal, u.a:	
5.1	Morgengrüsse	
5.2	Die Zeit der Occupation	
5.3	Die Hungerzeit	
5.4	Zwei Tanten	
5.5	Eine Braut	
5.6	Dass Ihr es könnt ertragen!	1890-1898
6.	<u>Predigten</u> Ungefähr drei Ordner Predigten aus der Zeit	O.J.

## New archival materials received 1989 – 2011

### RECORDS DONATED TO THE GERMAN AFRICANA COLLECTION BY MR HERMANN KNOTHE, MRS THIEDE, MRS C KASKE AND OTHERS

7	Letter books	
7.1	Letter book of GE Westphal, Berlin Mission Pniel	1890-1899
7.2	Letter book of GE Westphal, Berlin Mission Pniel	1890-1901
7.3	Letter book of GE Westphal, Berlin Mission Pniel	1893-1909
7.4	Letter book of GE Westphal, Berlin Mission Pniel	1901-1906
7.5	Letter book of GE Westphal, Berlin Mission Pniel	1905-1907
7.6	Letter book of GE Westphal, Berlin Mission Pniel	1907-1911
7.7	Letter book of GE Westphal, Berlin Mission Pniel	1911-1921
8	Carl Heinrich Theodore Grützner (1834 – 1910) Reports and financial statements of the Orange Free State Synod sent to the Mission Committee in Berlin	1887-1902
9	Diaries in Sutterlinschrift	
9.1	Volume 1: 23 March 1913 – 31 October 1913 (includes notes by Hanni / Johanna Westphal)	
9.2	Volume 2: 3 Nov 1913 – 2 January 1914	
9.3	Volume 3: 31 Aug 1914 – 17 October 1914	
9.4	Volume 4: 6 February 1915 – 15 April 1915	
9.5	Volume 5: 17 April 1915 – 23 June 1915	
9.6	Volume 6: 24 June 1915 – 9 March 1916	
9.7	Volume 7: 1 March 1917 – 29 July 1917	
9.8	Volume 8: 28 September 1918 – 26 June 1919	
9.9	Volume 9: 15 July 1919 – 22 January 1921	
9.10	Volume 10: Fragments 1869 – 1901	
10	<i>Amtskalenders</i> and diaries Appointments and notes	1902 – 1922
11	Notebooks and publications Sermons, hymns, religious texts, secwana & zulu dictionaries	1865 - 1922
12	Berlin Mission Society Notice: tariff for grazing and dwelling	1904
13	Obituary: <b>Berliner Missionsberichte</b>	April 1922
14	Gotthardt Westphal Letter books with correspondence and notes	1927 – 1951
15	Gotthardt Westphal	
15.1	Reports (Georgenholtz etc), sermons, correspondence, notes, Berliner Mission circulars	1925 – 1965
15.2	Letters to Annemarie Knothe (includes information on Sol Plaatje) & Charlotte Kaske	1960
15.3	Sermons, publications & vocabularies in Sotho and Venda	c 1930 -1950

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| 16   | Gotthardt Westphal  |               |
| 16.1 | <i>Amtskalenders</i> : Appointments and notes                 | 1928 – 1957   |
| 16.2 | Desk calendars: Appointments and notes                        | 1935 - 1963   |
| 17   | Publications  |               |
|      | Sermons, liturgy and religious texts                          | 1932 – 1964   |
| 18   | Photographs (identified & unidentified)                       | c 1890 - 1950 |
| 19   | Sound recordings:   |               |
|      | Ms Erna Charlotte Margarethe Westphal remembers her childhood | 1977          |
|      | 5 tapes   |               |