



Record ID 00100
Donor ID 00061

Main Entry:

City University of New York. City College. Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages.

Title:

Records, 1932—[ongoing]

Physical Description:

3 boxes; 1.2 linear feet

Restrictions on Use:

Chairs' reports and letters of recommendation less than fifty years old are restricted to Dean of Humanities or his/her representative.

Scope and Contents:

Miscellaneous material about the Department; curriculum offerings (1971—1975); record of School of General Studies (Evening Session) instructors and rates, 1943—1959. Personnel records for some full and part time faculty covering the period 1932—1965. Also correspondence between the Department and Morton Gottschall, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Siegbert Saloman Praver regarding arrangements for the year he spent as visiting professor at the College (1957—1958).

Preferred Citation:

City University of New York, City College, Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages Records, 1932—[ongoing], City University of New York, City College, Library, Archives.

Historical Note:

Instruction in German language and literature formed a part of the original curriculum of the Free Academy of New York when the first class entered in 1849. Before departmental organization was established early in the twentieth century, each major subject had its Professorship, supported by instructors of lower rank. After the retirement of the first Professor

of German, the post was held for fifty-three years (1861—1914) by Adolph Werner (Class of 1857) who became a City College institution, much beloved for his personal qualities as well as his scholarship. At the time of his retirement, the curriculum maintained the strong emphasis on study of the language and on speaking which had distinguished it from the beginning, but included elective courses on comedy, the novel, poetry and history of German literature, all taught by Professor Werner. From first to last, Professor Werner made the study of Schiller's plays an essential part of the curriculum. On the entry of the United States into World War I the number of credits assigned to all German courses was sharply reduced, and enrollments declined severely. (Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1918: 59). As a result, members of the Department were either assigned other work, or, in some cases dismissed. While this punitive policy was reversed in 1921, German did not regain its strength in the curriculum until the end of the 1920's when President Frederick B. Robinson appointed Edwin Carl Roedder Professor and Chair of the Department. By 1939 the Department had fourteen full time faculty members in addition to several who taught only in the Evening Session or in the School of Education. World War II substantially reduced the enrollment of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Few electives were offered during this period but the teaching of the German language continued with no repetition of the action taken during World War I.

By the end of the 1940's the Department was at full strength once again. In 1947 under the Chairmanship of Sol Liptzin, Yiddish was added to the Curriculum, and when offerings in Russian were added in 1951, the Department's name was changed to Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages (Board of Higher Education, Minutes, 1951, p. 107—108). Courses in comparative literature open to students without proficiency in German were also developed. Work leading to the M.A. was offered between 1965 and 1978 in a program offered jointly with Brooklyn, Queens and Hunter Colleges.

By the spring of 1993 decreasing enrollments and other factors had led to a department consisting of five senior professors with much of their teaching concentrated at the doctoral program at the City University of New York Graduate School. The Department was one of several dissolved as the result of a program review, and since the fall of 1993 on, courses in the German language have been offered through the Division of Humanities.

Finding Aid Note:

Inventory available in reading room; folder level control.

Subjects:

Personnel files, 1932—1965.

Added Entries:

Gottschall, Morton

Praver, Siegbert Saloman, 1925—

City University of New York. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dean's Office.

Professors of the German Language and Literature

Theodore Gustav Glaubenslee	1848—1861
Adolph Werner (Class of 1857)	1861—1914

Chairs of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages

Ernest Ilgen (Class of 1882)	1915—1917
Camillo von Klenze	1917—1929
Edwin Carl Roedder	1929—1943
Solomon Liptzin (Class of 1921)	1943—1955
John B. Olli (Acting)	1955—1956
Solomon Liptzin	1956—1958
Adolf F. Leschnitzer	1958—1961
Ludwig W. Kahn (Acting)	1961—1962
Ludwig W. Kahn	1962—1967
Samuel L. Sumberg	1967—1972
Marianne Cowan	1972—1973
Michael Rwykin (M.A., City College)	1973—1982
John Gearey	1982—1993

Department of Germanic and Slavic Language Inventory

- General and about. Box 1
- Course Offerings. 1971—1975.
- Faculty Exchanges.
- Evening Session: hours, rates and reports. 1944—1959.
- Neerlandica Americana. V. 6—8 (Sept. 1967—Sept. 1969).
Incomplete. Newsletter of the Department of Germanic
and Slavic Languages. After Sept. 1969, published
by the Ph. D. program in German at the City University
Graduate Center
- Correspondence and papers relating to the following faculty
of the Department:
- Alexeifeff, Kathryn Box 2
 - Beckmeier, Ralph W.
 - Bergenthal, Hugo
 - Boulby, Mark
 - Bradish, Joseph von
 - Carmel, Herman
 - Dahl, Marianne S.
 - Gottlieb, Eugene
 - Gottschall, Morton (Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences)
 - Gutzman, Erich
 - Hall, Clifton Box 3
 - Jackson, William Edward
 - Lehmann, Margaret
 - Leschnitzer, Adolf F.

Michailoff, Helen
Mierman, Werner T.
Negiz, Michael E.
Praver, Siegbert Solomon
Stern, Joseph P.
Steshko, Alexander
Stutz, Alexander
Taub, L. Leo
Thiele, Friedrich
Ulfers, Friedrich
Vasco, Gerhard
Wilder, Heidrun R. (Mrs.)