

Hermann Ranke Egyptian Section records

0082

Finding aid prepared by Jody Rodgers.

Last updated on March 02, 2017.

University of Pennsylvania, Penn Museum Archives

6/1/2016

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Penn Museum Archives
Creator	Ranke, Hermann, 1878-1953
Title	Hermann Ranke Egyptian Section records
Call number	0082
Date [inclusive]	1934-1949
Extent	0.3 linear foot
Language	English
Abstract	Ranke attained his Ph.D. in Egyptology in Munich. He joined his friend H.V. Hilprecht at the University Museum in 1904 as an assistant. Ranke returned to the University Museum, in 1948 as visiting professor and curator. The Hermann Ranke Egyptian section records fill one half of an archival box. Correspondence comprises almost all of the records with the exception of one file of section reports.

Biography/History

Hermann Ranke completed his Ph.D. in Assyriology in Munich then joined H.V. Hilprecht at the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania as his assistant in the Department of Mesopotamia in 1904. Succeeding years took him back to Germany to assist the Berlin Museum in the Department of Egyptology. In 1910, Ranke was appointed Professor of Egyptology at Heidelberg University. He attained full professorship in 1922.

In 1937, Ranke was forced by the Nazi regime to relinquish his professorship due to "un-German activities." He found asylum with his friends at the Penn Museum as curator of the Egyptian Section. He remained here until the United States entered WWII, then returned to Germany where his wife and three youngest children resided. He lost his oldest son in the war.

Following the war Ranke was reinstated as Professor Emeritus at Heidelberg.

Ranke returned to the University Museum, in 1948 as visiting professor and curator. During his tenure, the section experienced several important changes. Ranke prepared the first guide to the Egyptian collection and rearranged the mummy room. He began the publication of the excavation at Dendereh conducted by Clarence S. Fisher. His acquisitions included a painted stela, a kneeling statue from the time of the Persian conquest of Egypt and a Hathor statue from the last century B.C..

Ranke translated James H. Breasted's History of Egypt and prepared a new edition of Adolf Erman's primary text, Aegypten und aegyrisches Leben in Altertum. Ranke completed his major work a few months before his death in 1953; Die asgyptischen Personennamen.

Scope and Contents

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Administrative Information

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Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Correspondence

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Egypt

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Ranke, Hermann, 1878-1953
- Shadwell, Gilbert C.

SUBJECT(S)

- Hieroglyphics--Egyptian

Collection Inventory

CORRESPONDENCE, 1935-1955.

	Box
1935-1936 Curatorial.	1
1937-1949 Curatorial with museums.	1
1937-1946 Curatorial.	1
1947-1948 Curatorial.	1
1942-1951 Re: hieroglyphics (Shadwell).	1
1943-1945 Re: photographs.	1
1938-1941 Ranke with museums.	1

SECTION REPORTS 1941-1948.