

Title: Behncke, Franz H. Papers

Reference Code: Mss-0089

Inclusive Dates: ca. 1890 – 1961

Quantity: 17.0 cu. ft.

Location: WH SSC

Abstract: Franz Heinrich (Francis Henry) Behncke was born in Germany in 1868 to an aristocratic land-owning family. He left his homeland and found work as a clerk in Bangkok and fought in the Boer War in South Africa. He was captured and exiled by the British, but he eventually returned to South Africa and engaged in several different vocations before becoming a “Health Evangelist.” He immigrated to the U.S. and attended the Lindlahr College of Natural Therapeutics in Illinois from 1914-1917 and then worked at Lindlahr Sanitarium in Elmhurst, IL, as Physical Director, Lecturer and Social Manager until 1927. He also worked at Sun-Diet Sanitarium in Aurora, NY (1929-1939) and at Bergholz Institute in Milwaukee (1940-). He earned a national reputation as a teacher and lecturer. He passed away in March 1964.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of correspondence, publications, memoirs, diaries, photos, scrapbooks and other ephemera that detail Behncke’s life in Africa, Asia and the United States as well as his involvement with the health fitness field.

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English, German

Notes: The bulk of the collection was transferred from the Milwaukee Public Library. It was processed by Kevin Abing, June 2019.

Arrangement:

| Folder Heading | Box # | File # |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| Diaries, 1892-1918 | 1 | |
| Diaries, 1919-1953 | 2 | |
| Copy/Letter Books, 1890-1908 | 3 | |
| Copy/Letter Books, 1908-1914 | 4 | |
| | | |
| CORRESPONDENCE | | |
| Correspondence – Dolly Behncke (wife), 1928-1938 | 5 | 1 |
| Correspondence – Dolly Behncke , ca. 1920-1951 | 5 | 2 |
| Correspondence – Herman Behncke (son), 1928-1938 | 5 | 3 |
| Correspondence – Herman Behncke, 1921-1953 | 5 | 4 |
| Correspondence – Lucie ehncke (daughter), 1928-1938 | 5 | 5 |
| Correspondence – Lucie Behncke, ca. 1940-1953 | 5 | 6 |
| Correspondence – Robert Behncke, 1928-1938 | 5 | 7 |

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| Correspondence – Robert Behncke (son), 1942-1946 | 5 | 8 |
| Correspondence – Victor Behncke, 1928-1938 | 5 | 9 |
| Correspondence – Victor Behncke (son), ca. 1942-1951 | 5 | 10 |
| Correspondence to Siblings | 5 | 11 |
| – Family History by Victor Ottmann | | |
| – Franz Jacob Behncke & Elisabeth von Tevenar (father & mother) | | |
| – Elise Souchay (sister), 1912-1949 | | |
| – Lina Hartmann (sister), ca. 1946-1953 | | |
| – Lucie Beyne (sister), ca. 1948-1950 | | |
| Correspondence with Family & Relatives, ca. 1920-1956 (1 of 2) | 5 | 12 |
| Correspondence with Family & Relatives, ca. 1920-1956 (2 of 2) | 5 | 13 |
| Correspondence with Family & Relatives, January-June 1947 | 5 | 14 |
| | | |
| Correspondence – Admiral Fritz Behncke, ca. 1946-1951 | 6 | 1 |
| Correspondence – Erich von Tevenar (cousin), 1938-1949 | 6 | 2 |
| Correspondence – Personalalia of Self & Friends, ca. 1919-1927 | 6 | 3 |
| Correspondence with Friends, ca. 1919-1940 | 6 | 4 |
| Correspondence – Personal Acquaintances, ca. 1939-1957 | 6 | 5 |
| Correspondence – Gertrude E. Beal, 1931-1938 | 6 | 6 |
| Correspondence – Mrs. E.M. Johnson (Albion, NE), 1929-1934 | 6 | 7 |
| Correspondence – Dr. Hans Puhlmann, 1946-1954 | 6 | 8 |
| Correspondence – General, ca. 1919-1940 | 6 | 9 |
| Correspondence – Mixed Letters, 1918-1952 | 6 | 10 |
| Correspondence, 1894-1924 | 6 | 11 |
| Correspondence, 1897-1898 (1 of 2) | 6 | 12 |
| Correspondence, 1897-1898 (2 of 2) | 6 | 13 |
| Correspondence, 1899-1900 | 6 | 14 |
| | | |
| Correspondence, 1921-1929 | 7 | 1 |
| Correspondence, 1923 (1 of 2) | 7 | 2 |
| Correspondence, 1923 (2 of 2) | 7 | 3 |
| Correspondence, 1924-1941 | 7 | 4 |
| Correspondence, 1930-1939 | 7 | 5 |
| Correspondence, 1940-1949 | 7 | 6 |
| Correspondence, 1955 | 7 | 7 |
| Correspondence, 1956-1957 | 7 | 8 |
| Correspondence – Christmas, 1956-1957 | 7 | 9 |
| Correspondence, 1957-1961 | 7 | 10 |
| Correspondence, “A” – “B” (ca. 1921-1950) | 7 | 11 |
| Correspondence, “A” – “Q” (ca. 1927-1959) | 7 | 12 |
| Correspondence, “C” – “G” (ca. 1920-1949) | 7 | 13 |
| Correspondence, “H” – “K” (ca. 1918-1949) | 7 | 14 |
| Correspondence, “L” (1919-1949) | 7 | 15 |
| Correspondence, “M” – “P” (ca. 1920-1958) | 7 | 16 |
| Correspondence, “R” – “W” (ca. 1919-1954) | 7 | 17 |

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| Correspondence, "R" – "W" (ca. 1929-1941) | 8 | 1 |
| Letters in Africa, Vol. 1, No. 1 (1894-1911) | 8 | 2 |
| Letters in Africa, Vol. 1, No. 2 (1894-1911) | 8 | 3 |
| Letters in Africa, Vol. 1, No. 3 (1894-1911) | 8 | 4 |
| Letters in Africa, Vol. 1, No. 4 (1894-1911) | 8 | 5 |
| Letters in U.S.A., Vol. 2, No. 5 (1912-1928) [1 of 2] | 8 | 6 |
| Letters in U.S.A., Vol. 2, No. 5 (1912-1928) [2 of 2] | 8 | 7 |
| Letters in U.S.A., Vol. 2, No. 6 (1912-1928) | 8 | 8 |
| Letters in U.S.A., Vol. 2, No. 7 (1912-1928) [1 of 2] | 8 | 9 |
| Letters in U.S.A., Vol. 2, No. 7 (1912-1928) [2 of 2] | 8 | 10 |
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| Letters in U.S.A., Vol. 2, No. 8 (1912-1928) | 9 | 1 |
| Letters in U.S.A., Vol. 2, No. 9 (1912-1928) | 9 | 2 |
| Letters in U.S.A., Vol. 3, No. 10 (ca. 1929-1938) | 9 | 3 |
| Letters in U.S.A., Vol. 3, No. 11 (ca. 1928-1936) | 9 | 4 |
| Letters in U.S.A., Vol. 3, No. 12 (ca. | 9 | 5 |
| Letters in U.S.A., Vol. 3, No. 13 (ca. 1920-1934) | 9 | 6 |
| Sun-Diet "Letters," Vol. 16, File "A" – "N" (ca. 1929-1938) | 9 | 7 |
| Sun-Diet "Letters," Vol. 16, File "O" – "P" (ca. 1930-1938) | 9 | 8 |
| Sun-Diet "Letters," Vol. 16, File "R" (ca. 1929-1937) | 9 | 9 |
| Sun-Diet "Letters," Vol. 16, File "S" No. 1 (ca. 1929-1936) | 9 | 10 |
| Sun-Diet "Letters," Vol. 16, File "S" No. 2 (ca. 1930-1936) | 9 | 11 |
| Sun-Diet "Letters," Vol. 16, File "T" – "Z" (ca. 1929-1938) | 9 | 12 |
| | | |
| Letters – Important! | 10 | 1 |
| Correspondence – Health & Hygiene | 10 | 2 |
| – Ekeberg Farms | | |
| – Fern Gould | | |
| – Florence Olmstead | | |
| Correspondence – Health & Hygiene – Nature Cure Various Letters | 10 | 3 |
| Correspondence – Health & Hygiene – Elmhurst, IL, 1928 | 10 | 4 |
| Correspondence re "Seven" (Behncke Autobiography) | 10 | 5 |
| | | |
| PUBLICATIONS | | |
| "Pep-Ward Ho!": Manuscript, 1928 | 10 | 6 |
| "Seven: Autobiography of a Soldier of Fortune": Manuscript | 10 | 7 |
| "Stepping Stones in the United States": Manuscript | 10 | 8 |
| "A Well Regulated Life": Manuscript | 10 | 9 |
| | | |
| <i>The Watchtower</i> , 1959-1960/ <i>Awake!</i> , 1958-1959 | 11 | 1 |
| <i>Zeichen der Zeit</i> , #1-#47 (not inclusive), 1957 | 11 | 2 |
| Publications – Miscellaneous (1 of 2) | 11 | 3 |
| – <i>Weltwanderer und Glückfucher</i> | | |
| – "Waters of Life" | | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Troubles in Africa" - "Life's Remaining Years," <i>Balanced Living Journal</i>, 1946 - <i>A Twenty Years' Struggle in South Africa</i> by Dietrich E. Braun | | |
| Publications – Miscellaneous (2 of 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Sixty-Six Years Young" - "Life's Lesson" - "The Professors Picture Book" - "Ancient Siam (Thailand)" - "Body Culture" - "Sun-Diet Health Foundation" - "Roaming Four Continents" - "Lose Blätter" - <i>The Karezza Method or Magnetation, the Art of Connubial Love</i> | 11 | 4 |
| HEALTH & HYGIENE MATERIAL | | |
| Bergholz Clinic, Milwaukee (1 of 2) | 11 | 5 |
| Bergholz Clinic, Milwaukee (2 of 2) | 11 | 6 |
| Bossow's Recharge Resort – Algonquin, IL | 11 | 7 |
| Contemporary Magazines | 11 | 8 |
| Dr. Crandall's Health School of York, PA | 11 | 9 |
| Dr. Jensen's Natures Retreat, Altadena, CA, Canyon Crest Road | 11 | 10 |
| Dr. M. Sayle Taylor Records, 1928 | 11 | 11 |
| Fred S. Hirsch of the Health Center, Los Angeles, CA | 11 | 12 |
| Manuscripts | 11 | 13 |
| Nature Cure Institutes – Dr. Henry Lindlahr | 11 | 14 |
| Nature Cure Institutes – Lindlahr College | 11 | 15 |
| Nature Cure Institutes – Milwaukee | 11 | 16 |
| Nature Cure Institutes – My Trip to Waconda Springs, KS | 11 | 17 |
| Oxford Groupe, Montreal, Canada, 1937 | 11 | 18 |
| | | |
| Randle, Helen – Avon Park, FL | 12 | 1 |
| Scribbled Notes | 12 | 2 |
| Scribbling | 12 | 3 |
| Sun-Diet Health Foundation | 12 | 4 |
| Sun-Diet Health Foundation No. 3 | 12 | 5 |
| Sun-Diet Health Foundation – Bulletins, 1935-1938 | 12 | 6 |
| Sun-Diet Health Service | 12 | 7 |
| Tilden School of Health – Denver, CO | 12 | 8 |
| Physical Culture Letters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Denver, CO, 1928 - Geneva, NY, 1929 | 12 | 9 |
| Health & Hygiene – Miscellaneous | 12 | 10 |
| Newspaper Clippings | 12 | 11 |
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| PERSONAL MATERIAL | | |
| Adenauer, Konrad – Visit to Milwaukee, 1956 | 12 | 12 |
| Biographical/Genealogical Information | 12 | 13 |
| Calendars/Records/Etc. | 12 | 14 |
| Drawings by Eben Lawson: “Old Timers” | 12 | 15 |
| Esperanto | 12 | 16 |
| “Memories” | 12 | 17 |
| | | |
| “Ninety,” 1868-1958 | 13 | 1 |
| “On Horseback through Basuto Land, July 16-24, 1907” | 13 | 2 |
| Personal Folders #1-#17 | 13 | 3 |
| 85 th Birthday, 1953 | 13 | 4 |
| 89 th Anniversary, 1957 | 13 | 5 |
| 91 st Birthday Celebration, 1959 | 13 | 6 |
| Victor E. Lawson, Willmar, MN | 13 | 7 |
| Personal – Miscellaneous | 13 | 8 |
| | | |
| Index/Address Book, ca. 1889 | 14 | 1 |
| | | |
| FINANCIAL RECORDS | | |
| Russinngan(?), 1890-1894 | 14 | 2 |
| Finances, 1914-1922 | 14 | 3 |
| Banking & Accounts, 1924-1940 | 14 | 4 |
| Deutsche Bank, 1928-1938 | 14 | 5 |
| Cash Books, 1927-1942; 1942-1945; 1945-1947; 1948-1952 | 14 | Loose |
| Sales of Literature Ledger, 1921-1943 | 14 | Loose |
| Cash Sales of Literature (?), ca. 1921-1931 | 14 | Loose |
| Literary Efforts, 1897-1945 | 14 | Loose |
| Literary Transfer, 1945 | 14 | Loose |
| Ledger, 1952-1953 | 14 | Loose |
| “Rough” Cash Books, 1945-1948; 1949-1951; 1951-1953; 1953-1955; 1955-1958 | 14 | Loose |
| Bank Books | 14 | Envelope |
| | | |
| SCRAPBOOKS (Very fragile condition) | | |
| “Reisebilder” Clippings, 1944-1945 | 15 | Loose |
| Lindlahr Resort, Elmhurst, IL | 15 | Loose |
| Sun-Diet Health Foundation, East Aurora, NY, 1929-1939 | 15 | Loose |
| Bergholz Clinic, Milwaukee, WI | 15 | Loose |
| “All Events” Scrap Book, ca. 1929-1940 | 15 | Loose |
| Scrapbook – Miscellaneous Clippings, 1947-1950 | 15 | Loose |
| | | |
| Books from Personal Library | 16 | |
| – <i>The Guide to South Africa for the Use of Tourists, Sportsmen, Invalids & Settlers</i> , 1909-1910 edition | | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>The Ship of Ishtar</i> by A. Merritt, 1924 - <i>Nature Cure</i>, Lindlahr Nature Cure Institutes, n.d. - <i>The Philistine: A Periodical of Protest</i>, Vol. 19 (1904) - <i>Riches</i> by J.F. Rutherford, 1936 - <i>Skookum Chuck</i> by Stewart Edward White, 1925 - <i>Natura Hygia</i> by Jose Honorato Ferreira, 1918 - "<i>The Kingdom is at Hand</i>", 1944 - <i>This Freedom</i> by A.S.M. Hutchinson, 1922 - <i>D'Artagnan's Letter</i> by M. & H. Bedford-Jones, 1931 - <i>My Favorite Story</i> by Fannie Hurst, Ring Lardner, W. Somerset Maugham, et al, 1928 - <i>In for a Penny</i> by Sophie Kerr, 1931 - Health Series of pamphlets by Dr. Arthur Vos (21 total) - <i>Vorwärts zur Gesundheit!</i> - <i>Lehrbuch der Gesichtsausdruckskunde</i> by Louis Kuhne, 1900 | | |
| <p>OVERSIZE MATERIAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lecture poster, "An Ancient East India Merchant House," 1946 - Lecture poster, "Youthful Living," ca. 1946 - Packet of presentation materials: Africa (see also photos) - Packet of presentation materials: Europe - Packet of presentation material: Asia (see also photos) - Original designs of lecture poster and testimonials: "Prof. F. H. Behncke Health Humorist" - Natural Living Physical Culture Club tribute to Dr. and Mrs. John Maxwell on Golden Wedding Anniversary, 1940 - Original drawing "The Life-Long Exercise" by Arthur Werner - Originals of two "Blackboard" drawings - Negative of (one page) yellow folder "After 40 Years" - Plates of two brochures: "Prof. F. H. Behncke Health Humorist" - Plates of brochure "The Papers Take a Hand" - Diploma from Lindlahr College of Nature Cure for Doctor of Nature Cure degree, 1917 - Certificate from Lindlahr College of Natural Therapeutics for Behncke completing course in Massage and Hydro-Therapy, 1920 - Certificate of membership, American Naturopathic Association, 1924 - Flyer "Twenty Years of Body Culture," ca. 1915 - Tribute to Behncke from <i>Willmar Daily Tribune</i>, 1944 - Part of article "The Rocky Mountain Sheep Group" by Remi H. Santens in <i>The Carnegie Magazine</i>, 1937 - Tribute to Behncke from Lindlahr students, October 1923 | <p>WHS, Sh. D078</p> | |
| <p>PHOTOS</p> | | |

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|---|---------------|-------|
| After the War | 17 | 1 |
| Behncke, F.H. | 17 | 2 |
| Behncke Family | 17 | 3 |
| Bergholz Clinic | 17 | 4 |
| Lindlahr Sanitarium | 17 | 5 |
| People – Identified | 17 | 6 |
| “Pep-Ward Ho!” Duplicates of Illustrations | 17 | 7 |
| Photo Album/Scrapbook: Lindlahr Sanitarium & Health Resort | 17 | 8 |
| Photo Album/Scrapbook: Sun-Diet Health Foundation, East Aurora, NY | 17 | 9 |
| Photo Album/Scrapbook: Sundry Endeavors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Colburn Farm, Chautauqua, NY – Seven Villages of the Society of Inspiration, Amana, IA – “House of David,” Benton Harbor, MI – Roland Sander, Hong Kong, China – Gertrude Beal & Barbara, Toronto, Canada | 17 | 10 |
| Pictures from Calendars, Papers & Church | 17 | 11 |
| Postcards | 17 | 12 |
| Presentation Photos: Africa | 17 | 13 |
| Presentation Photos: Indonesia, 1891-1893 | 17 | 14 |
| Presentation Photos/Material: Biographical | 17 | 15 |
| Sun-Diet Health Foundation, East Aurora, NY | 17 | 16 |
| Sundry Photos – U.S.A. | 17 | 17 |
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| PHOTO ALBUMS | | |
| Postcard Album: Through 7 states and 52 cities of the U.S.A., 1913-1914 | 18 | Loose |
| Postcard Album: Various U.S. States/Cities | 18 | Loose |
| Lindlahr Sanitarium (?), ca. 1915 | 18 | Loose |
| “Pilgrimsrest” (Africa scenes) | 18 | Loose |
| Life’s Exhibit at 90 Years, 1868-1958 | 18 | Loose |
| | | |
| Photo Negatives (Some Glass Plates) | 19 | |
| Half-Tones, Cuts #1-10 | 20 | |
| Half-Tones, Cuts #11-20 | 21 | |
| | | |
| OVERSIZE PHOTOS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “Essentials for Longevity” – Franz Behncke “At Fifty,” 1928 – Graduating class, Lindlahr College of Nature Cure an Osteopathy, 1914 – Graduating class, Lindlahr College of Nature Cure, 1916 – Graduating class, Progressive College of Chiropractic, 1923 – 4 charcoal sketches of Franz Behnke | WHS, Sh. D079 | |
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| OVER-OVERSIZE PHOTOS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lindlahr Sanitarium, n.d. | | |

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| – Unveiling of Dr. Henry Lindlahr Memorial, July 1926 | | |
| | | |
| <p>TRANSFERRED TO MUSEUM DIVISION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Boer Republic flag, ca. 1899 <li>– World War I service flag <li>– Natural Living Physical Culture Club flag | | |