

Information Sheet

R Koehler family.

230 Koehler and Jorn families, papers, 1886-1980.

Ten folders.

MICROFILM

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This is correspondence, biographical material, and miscellaneous papers of Emma Koehler Jorn and Charles G. Jorn of Naylor, Ripley County, Missouri. The correspondence, mostly in German, was received from relatives and friends in southern Illinois coal mining towns, 1890-1920, and from relatives in Bad Tennstedt, formerly East Germany, 1890-1960.

Charles George Jorn (1891-1984) was born in Coffeen, Illinois, where his family had located after moving from Bavaria. His father, Peter Jorn, worked in the coal mines around Coffeen. Charles also was employed in the mines before his marriage to Emma Anna Koehler at Naylor, Ripley County, Missouri. Emma Koehler (1897-) was a native of Donnelson, Illinois, who moved to Ripley County around 1909. After their marriage, Charles and Emma farmed at Naylor until their retirement.

Most of the Koehler-Jorn collection consists of family correspondence addressed to Emma Koehler Jorn, although there are papers which represent several individuals in both families. The earliest letters are from young school friends in Coffeen, Donnelson, and Springfield, Illinois, and from Charles Jorn before their marriage. The letters contain bits of news concerning family and mutual friends, and work in the southern Illinois coal mines. A much larger part of the collection is made up of letters from Koehler relatives in Bad Tennstedt, Germany. Most are from nieces of Emma Koehler. Along with a considerable amount of family news, the letters contain comments on social, political, and economic trends in Germany. Letters from the period between the world wars mention inflation, unemployment, and political turmoil in Germany. Following World War II, the correspondents wrote of the total economic collapse of the country, and pleaded for shoes, clothing, and financial assistance for their families. The evidence suggests that Emma Koehler was generous in her response. The correspondence from Germany ends abruptly in 1960.

Nearly all of the material in the collection is in German. Notes on some of the more significant items have been prepared by Gerda Adawi-White of the staff of the Curtis Laws Wilson Library at the University of Missouri-Rolla. These notes have been filmed at the front of each folder.

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10 October 1985

James E. Price

Loaned for microfilming

Shelf List

This is correspondence, biographical material, and miscellaneous papers of Emma Koehler Jorn and Charles G. Jorn of Naylor, Ripley County, Missouri. The correspondence, mostly in German, was received from relatives and friends in southern Illinois coal mining towns, 1890-1920, and from relatives in Bad Tennstedt, formerly East Germany, 1890-1960.

Folder 01: Papers, 1886-1909.

Folder 02: Papers, 1910-1913

Folder 03: Papers, 1914-1923.

Folder 04: Papers, 1924-1925.

Folder 05: Papers, 1926-1929.

Folder 06: Papers, 1930-1939.

Folder 07: Papers, 1940-1980.

Folder 08: Papers, undated.

Folder 09: Papers, fragments.

Folder 10: Papers, miscellaneous biographical data.

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