

CARL AND ROBERT GAMER PAPERS, 1921-1965
2013.528.1

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

Title: Carl and Robert Gamer papers

Dates: 1921-1965

Accession number: 2013.528.1

Creator: Carl Gamer
Robert Gamer

Extent: 7 linear feet (13 boxes, 2 oversize boxes)

Repository: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW,
Washington, DC 20024-2126

Abstract: Consists of documents, research notes, clippings, and pamphlets created or collected by Dr. Carl Gamer as part of his doctoral research. Gamer, who was a Methodist minister, wrote his doctoral dissertation in political science in the late 1930s, focusing on the free churches in Germany under National Socialism. This collection contains both his research work and materials he collected while researching in Germany in 1938 and 1939. Also includes extensive clippings, bibliographic notes, and research files about his education at the University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana, and on the issues of churches and Nazism. Also includes research notecards, bibliographic information, and drafts written and collected by Dr. Robert Gamer (son of Carl Gamer) in preparation for his doctoral dissertation at Brown University (1965) on the topic of American public opinion regarding international affairs in the period between 1939 and 1941, with a particular focus on the shift from isolationism to intervention.

Languages: German, English

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open for use, but is stored offsite. Please contact the Reference Desk more than seven days prior to visit in order to request access.

Reproduction and use: Collection is available for use. Material may be protected by copyright. Please contact reference staff for further information.

Preferred citation: (Identification of item), Carl and Robert Gamer papers, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives, Washington, DC

Acquisition information: Dr. Robert Gamer donated this collection to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2013 and 2015.

Related archival materials: Additional material related to the Gamer family is located at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The collection includes family correspondence from the American Civil War, documents regarding their lives in Germany from 1909-1919, information about Carl Gamer's experiences on the University Afloat, and correspondence between Carl and Helena Gamer about Carl's dissertation topic.

Processing history: Rebecca Erbelding, March 2015.

Biographical note

Carl Wesley Gamer was born in 1899 in Chicago, Illinois, to Carl and Magdalena Gamer, who were German immigrants to the United States. He had one sister, Helena (1901-1966), who later became a prominent medieval historian. In the early 1909, the family returned to Germany and settled in Wiesbaden, where Carl remained until after World War I. He returned to the United States in 1919 and attended Boston University, where he studied social gospel, graduating in 1925. He and his wife Alice spent a year on the inaugural voyage of the University Afloat, sailing around the world in 1926. During the Great Depression, Gamer, ordained as a Methodist minister, worked in mining towns. In the 1930s, he began to study for a PhD in political science at the University of Illinois. He returned to Germany in 1938 to research for his dissertation studying the free churches under National Socialism. He completed his dissertation in 1940. Gamer also assisted some of Alice's Jewish relatives with their emigration from Austria. During World War II, Gamer served as a chaplain in Normal, Illinois, and then became a professor of political science at Monmouth College. He and his wife, Alice, had two sons, Carlton (b. 1929) and Robert (b. 1938). Carl Gamer died on November 7, 1965.

Robert Gamer was born in Champaign, Illinois, in 1938 to Carl and Alice Gamer. He earned a PhD at Brown University in 1965, writing his dissertation entitled, "Consensus: Poland to Pearl Harbor" about American public opinion regarding international affairs between 1939 and 1941. He is a professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and president of the Edgar Snow Memorial Foundation.

Scope and content of collection

This collection is clearly delineated into two parts, each potentially very valuable for future scholarship. The Dr. Carl Gamer papers cover the coursework, research, and writing of his 1940 doctoral dissertation at the University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana, "Freedom of Religion in Germany: A Study of Theory and Practice Under the National Socialist Regime, with Special Attention to Free Churches of American and English Origin." The term "free churches" referred to the non-established churches that historically had been either churches stemming from the Reformation but (in the early 19th century) refused incorporation into the state church, or churches from non-Reformation traditions that were not affected by that incorporation. The so-called free Lutheran and free Reformed churches fell into the first category; the second category includes a broad range of groups, including Mennonites, Baptists, Methodists, Adventists, Moravian Brethren, and Jehovah's Witnesses. The religious groups in the second category were sometimes viewed as "sects" (and the difference between a "free church" and

"sect" has never been clearly set in Germany). As Gamer's dissertation focused on "Free Churches of American and English Origin", this would have referred to Methodist and Baptists, primarily. Subseries 1 consists of his University of Illinois-Chicago class notes for his masters and doctoral coursework. His professors included important figures in the field of political science, including Dr. James Wilford Garner, Dr. Chesney Hill, Dr. Clarence Berdahl, and Dr. John Fairlie. The notes include information taken from lectures on Nazi Germany and on fascism and debates between isolationism and interventionism. Subseries 2 includes material from his research in Germany, including his diaries from October 1938-June 1942. Though he was in Berlin during Kristallnacht, Gamer was in the hospital, though he writes about what his hearing from doctors and nurses. His dissertation drafts, included in subseries 3, includes handwritten notes and corrections. Gamer originally wrote his dissertation under the direction of Dr. James Garner until his death; the dissertation was completed under the direction of Dr. John Fairlie. Subseries 4 consists of miscellaneous collected publications, clippings, notes and correspondence. Subseries 5 consists of his extensive index cards, containing notes on books and publications, of various topics, and of references.

The Dr. Robert Gamer papers cover the research and writing of his 1965 doctoral dissertation at Brown University, entitled, "Consensus: Poland to Pearl Harbor." Subseries 1 includes draft chapters of his dissertation, including handwritten notes and corrections. Subseries 2 includes an extensive series of index cards, largely consisting of notes on books and references, organized by author and by topic.

The collection also consists of an extensive number of published materials, largely collected by Dr. Carl Gamer and regarding pre-war religious life in Germany, which have been transferred to the USHMM Library and are cataloged with a reference to the archival collection. The published material also includes material collected by Dr. Gamer while in Nazi Germany, 1938-1939.

System of Arrangement:

The collection is arranged in two series, and seven subseries:

Series 1: Dr. Carl Gamer papers, 1921-1952

Subseries 1: University of Illinois-Chicago class notes, ca. 1935-1938

Subseries 2: Research in Germany, 1937-1941

Subseries 3: Carl Gamer dissertation drafts, 1937-1940

Subseries 4: Collected publications and correspondence, 1921-1952

Subseries 5: Index cards of bibliographic and research notes, ca. 1937-1939

Series 2: Dr. Robert Gamer papers, 1962-1965

Subseries 1: Robert Gamer dissertation drafts, ca. 1962-1965

Subseries 2: Index cards of bibliographic and research notes, ca. 1962-1965

Series 1 is arranged chronologically, with the exception of subseries 3, which is arranged in the order of the dissertation chapters, and series 5, which is in the original (undetermined) order set forth by the creator.

Series 2, subseries 1 is arranged in the order of the dissertation chapters, and subseries 2 is arranged in the original order, which appears to be loosely alphabetically.

Indexing terms

Gamer, Carl, 1899-1965.
 Gamer, Robert, 1938-.
 Garner, James W., 1871-1938.
 University of Chicago--Department of Political Science.
 Antisemitism--Germany--History--20th century.
 Christianity and antisemitism--Germany--History--20th century.
 Free churches--Germany--History--20th century.
 Jewish Christians--Nazi persecution--Germany.
 Kristallnacht, 1938--Germany--Berlin.
 National socialism and religion.
 World War, 1939-1945--Public opinion--United States.
 Berlin (Germany)
 Frankfurt am Main (Germany)

CONTAINER LIST**SERIES 1: Dr. Carl Gamer papers, 1921-1952****Series 1, Subseries 1: University of Illinois-Chicago class notes, ca. 1935-1938**

Box/Folder	
1.1	Class notes, Problems of International Organizations, 1935
1.2	European Governments notes, spring 1935
1.3	Political science seminar, 1935
1.4	Notes, political science seminar, 1935-1936
1.5	Term paper: "The Relation of Church and States in France", spring 1935
1.6	American Foreign Relations, Dr. Matthews, 1935
1.7	Thesis notes, summer 1935, part I
1.8	Thesis notes, summer 1935, part II
1.9	Notes for comprehensive exam, 1935
2.1	Class notes, European history, 1935
2.2	International Law, Dr. Garner, 1935-1936
2.3	International Law notes, Dr. Garner, 1935-1936
2.4	International Law, Dr. Chesney Hill, 1935-1936
2.5	International Law, Dr. Chesney Hill, 1935-1936
2.6	Notes and questions about preliminary exam, 1936
2.7	Class notes on socialism, 1936
2.8	Political science, international law, 1936
3.1	Miscellaneous school notes, 1936
3.2	International Law notes, 1936-1937
3.3	British Government, Dr. Berdahl, 1936-1937
3.4	Political theory notes, Dr. Garner, 1936-1937
3.5	Economics notes, 1937
3.6	Economics book notes, 1937
3.7	Reading report, 1937

4.1	Report for seminar in International Law, Dr. Garner, 1937 February 16
4.2	American history notes, 1937
4.3	Political science and government notes, 1937
4.4	History notes for PhD, 1937
4.5	Reading lists, 1937
4.6-4.7	Thesis: "The Relation of the State to Organized Religion in Germany During the Religions Conflict of 1871-1887", 1937
4.8	American case law notes, 1938
4.9	Sociology notes, Berea, undated

Series 1, Subseries 2: Research in Germany, 1937-1941

Box/Folder	
5.1	Diary, 1938 September 13-October 25
5.2	Diary, 1938 October 26-December
5.3	Diary, 1939 April 23-1942 June
5.4-5	Typed version of proposed diary book, ca. 1941
5.6	Draft of book based on Gamer diary, ca. 1941
5.7	Outgoing correspondence, 1938
5.8	German customs forms, blank, 1938
5.9	Copies of documents from Germany, 1939
5.10	Photographs of German published sources, 1939
5.11	Notes on laws and the German church, ca. 1938
5.12	Articles on Germany and Christianity, 1938
6.1	Ads for books on European churches, ca. 1938
6.2	Ads for German publications and calendars, ca. 1938
6.3	German broadside with Hitler statement on Nazi program, ca. 1937
6.4	"Protestant Christianity in Hitler-Germany," 1939
6.5	Correspondence and article: "Die Wahrheit über den Bund freikirchlicher Christen," 1939
6.6	German newsclippings, 1938-1939

Series 1, Subseries 3: Carl Gamer dissertation drafts, 1937-1940

Box/Folder	
6.7	Index notes of books and magazines, ca. 1937
6.8	Book notes, ca. 1938
6.9	General notes on source material, 1938
6.10	Thesis abstract and outline, 1940
6.11	Thesis outline, 1940
6.12	Notes on books and sources for dissertation, 1940
6.13	Handwritten notes on organization of thesis, 1940
6.14	Drafts and copies of Carl Gamer CV, ca. 1938, used for thesis
6.15	Thesis edits, 1940
6.16	Table of contents, 1940

6.17	"Freedom of Religion in Germany," introduction draft, ca. 1939
6.18	Introduction: The Concept of Freedom of Religion, ca. 1939
6.19	Part I, Chapter 3 draft, 1940
6.20- 6.21	Chapter 6: "Loyalty to the State," 1940
6.22	Notes about Germany, 1939, pages a26-a48
6.23	Draft conclusion, 1940
6.24	Citations, 1940
7.1	Article and thesis: "Freedom of Religion in Germany," 1933-1940
7.2	Draft dissertation, 1939
7.3	Thesis, incomplete manuscript copy, 1939
7.4	Thesis manuscript, 1939
7.5	Draft of dissertation, 1940
7.6	Carl Gamer dissertation, final copy, 1940

Series 1, Subseries 4: Collected publications and correspondence, 1921-1952

Box/Folder	
8.1	Notebook of expenses and activities, 1921
8.2	Review of Hugh Walpole's "The Old Ladies," notes on introspection, 1925
8.3	World Conference on Faith and Order, 1927
8.4	Publications on companionate marriage, 1928-1937
8.5	"The Political and Social Doctrine of Fascism," by Mussolini, ca. 1932
8.6	Clippings on Nazism, persecution of Jews, churches, 1935-1936
8.7	Incoming correspondence, 1936
8.8	Clippings for Political science scrapbook, ca. 1936
8.9	"Der Christliche Apologie," 1936
8.10	"War" notes, 1936
8.11	Notebooks on International Relations, current domestic politics, ca. 1936
8.12	Speech about life in Germany 1914-1918 by Gamer, 1936
8.13	Survey courses, ca. 1937
8.14	Brochure, "American Churches to Hitler," 1937
8.15	Pamphlets on Methodism, peace, stewardship, 1937-1939
8.16	General: "Political Soldiery," ca. 1938
8.17	"Public Relations," ca. 1938
8.18	Catholics, 1938-1942
8.19	"Privat Eigentum" notes, ca. 1938
8.20	"Great Tribulation," broadside issued by Universal Church Council, ca. 1938
8.21	Letters from Gamer to Ralph Diffendorfer, 1944-1945
8.22	Correspondence, 1944-1945
8.23	Sermon notes, 1947
8.24	Monmouth aid to Israel, 1952
8.25	Miscellaneous

Series 1, Subseries 5: Index cards of bibliographic and research notes, ca. 1937-1939

Box	
14-15	Index cards, A-Z references and notes on books, concepts, and publications

SERIES 2: Dr. Robert Gamer papers, 1962-1965

Series 2, Subseries 1: Robert Gamer dissertation drafts, ca. 1962-1965

Box/Folder	
9.1	Political science undergraduate syllabi, ca. 1962
9.2	Articles on Judges Frankfurter, Brewer, by Robert Gamer, ca. 1962
9.3	Correspondence regarding research, 1964
9.4	Chapter 1: Public Opinion
9.5	Chapter 1 draft and footnotes
9.6	Chapter 2: The Isolationist World Image
9.7	Chapter 3: The 1930s
9.8	Chapter 3: All or Nothing on Trial
9.9-9.10	Chapter 4: Focusing the Split Image
9.11	Chapter 4: Roosevelt's Imagery
9.12-9.13	Chapter 5: The Mainstream and Pivoting Consensus
9.14-9.15	Chapter 6: The Flow to War Begins
9.16	Chapter 7: The Image Makers
9.17	Chapter 8: The Balance of Justice
10.1	Chapter 9: Sharpening the Focus
10.2	Appendix A: The National Interest Group—What and Why
10.3	Appendix B: Summary of Polls
10.4	Bibliography
10.5	Bibliography notes—magazine and organization research
10.6	Notes and drafts on polls
10.7	Handwritten notes and drafts—polls, book notes
10.8	Notes on World War I
10.9	Draft notes and draft charts
10.10	Chart: James Twohey Associates report on newspaper support for FDR, 1939-1941
10.11	Miscellaneous publications collected by Robert Gamer
10.12	Process of opinion formation
10.13	Draft and notes on isolationism
10.14	Miscellaneous handwritten notes and drafts

Series 2, Subseries 2: Index cards of bibliographic and research notes, ca. 1962-1965

Box/Folder	
11.1	"A"
11.2	America First
11.3	American Association of University Women

11.4	"B"
11.5	"C"
11.6	College Presidents
11.7	Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies (CDAAA)
11.8-11.9	Catholics
11.10-11.11	Church
11.12	Communist Party
11.13	"D"
11.14	"E"
11.15	Extremists
11.16	"F"
11.17	"G"
11.18	"H"
11.19	"I"
11.20	"J"
11.21	Jews
11.22	"K"
11.23	"L"
11.24	Lindbergh
11.25-11.26	Labor
11.27	Library Information
11.28	"M"
12.1-12.2	Mainstream
12.3	"N"
12.4	The Nation
12.5-12.7	National Issues
12.8	New Leader
12.9	Notes on essay on religion, magic, art
12.10	"O"
12.11	"P"
12.12	Polls
12.13	Professors
12.14	"R"
12.15	"S"
12.16	Schwartz, Harry
12.17	Socialism books
12.18-12.20	Socialist Call
12.21	Students
12.22	"T"
12.23	"U"
12.24	Union Now
12.25	"V"
12.26	"W"
12.27	"Y"
13.1-13.3	Books, Assorted
13.4	Books, Foreign Policy

13.5-13.13	Periodicals, Assorted
13.14	Used, Assorted