
Inventory of the J. J. and Anna Dick Papers, 1914-1980

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Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies

Fresno Pacific University

1717 S. Chestnut Avenue

Fresno, California, 93702

Phone: (559) 453-2225

Fax: (559) 453-2124

Email: kennsrem@fresno.edu

URL: <http://sunthree.fresno.edu/affiliation/cmbs>

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Inventory of the J. J. and Anna Dick Papers, 1914-1980

Record Group No.: M173

Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies
Fresno Pacific University
Fresno, California

Contact Information:

Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies
Fresno Pacific University
1717 S. Chestnut Avenue
Fresno, California, 93702
Phone: (559) 453-2225
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Descriptive Summary

Title: J. J. and Anna Dick Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1914-1980

Record Group No: M173

Creator: Dick, J. J. (Jacob J.), 1904-1980

Dick, Anna, 1905-1976

Extent: 1.4 linear ft.

Repository: Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies (Fresno, Calif.).

Fresno, California

Language: English.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], J. J. and Anna Dick Papers, M173, Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Fresno, Calif.

Biography

J. J. Dick was born 19 April 1904 in the village of Schönbrunn, in the Schönfeld colony of South Russia. In 1919 he moved to Alexanderkrone, Molotschna, where he married Anna Baerg in 1925. Anna, a native of Alexanderkrone, was born 18 September 1905. Little information is available about Anna's life before her marriage.

J. J. Dick received his education in Russian public schools, 1910-1916, and later at the Schönfeld Zentralschule, 1917-1919. He was appointed as the Assistant to the Overseer of the Bethania Mental Hospital at Alt-Kronsweide, Chortitza, in 1923, a position he held until 1925. In 1926, Dick became the minister of the Mennonite Brethren congregation at Lichtfelde, Molotschna, where he served until 1929.

The Soviet government sent J. J. Dick into forced labor from 1930 to 1931. Following his release, the Dick family fled eastward and escaped into Chinese Turkestan in 1932. They then traveled 1600 miles on foot and horseback over the Himalaya mountains, reaching India in 1933. The Dicks chose to remain in India, where they joined the Mennonite Brethren mission work in 1934. The story of their journey and subsequent mission work is told in the book, *From Exile in Russia Into Mission Work in India* (1940; 2nd edition, 1958).

The Dicks traveled to Canada in 1939, where they received Canadian citizenship. During this same trip J. J. Dick was ordained as a Mennonite Brethren minister at the Coaldale (Alta.) Mennonite Brethren Church in 1940. Their mission work in India continued until 1957, at which time they relocated to Clearbrook, British Columbia. J. J. Dick continued his ministry there as the chaplain of the Vancouver Central City Mission. He made lengthy visits back to India in 1974 and again in 1977-1978, shortly after Anna's death in 1976. J. J. Dick died in 1980.

Scope and Content

This record group includes correspondence, 1922-1980; undated sermon notes; a Russian notebook, ca. 1914-1915; diaries, 1934-1935 and 1977-1978; undated manuscripts of the book *From Exile in Russia Into Mission Work in India*; clippings and other miscellaneous documents.

Languages Appearing in the Collection

Some material is in German, Russian or Chinese.

Box Box 1	Correspondence, 1922-1976
Box Box 2	Correspondence, 1977-1980 and undated Sermons
Box Box 3	Sermons Russian notebook, ca. 1914-1915 Diary, 1934-1935
Box Box 4	Diary from trip to India, 1977-1978 Manuscript, "Unsere Reise aus Russland . . ." Manuscript, "From Exile in Russia . . ." Clippings of published articles, 1935-1977 Russian documents, 1925-1932 Miscellaneous items
Box Box 5	Miscellaneous oversize items