



GERMANS FROM RUSSIA  
**GRHC**  
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**Finding aid to the  
John Philipps  
Collection  
2007.13**

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## OVERVIEW

**Donor:** John Philipps

**Accession Date:** 2 March 2007

**Collection Number:** 020

**Quantity:** 1.25 linear feet

**Summary:** Correspondence, manuscripts, publications, and photographs related to the work of German-Russian author John Philipps. Also contains autobiographical information and an oral history transcript from Philipps.

**Languages:** German, Russian, and English

**Links:**

- [Books written by John Philipps](#)
- [The Tragedy of the Soviet Germans, book review by Edna Boardman](#)
- [Resources on GRHC's website regarding John Philipps](#)
- [John Philipps photographs on the NDSU Institutional Repository \(DSpace\)](#)

**Access Restrictions:** Open to the public, available upon request. Copyrights to items in this collection remain with original copyright holders or are in the public domain.

**Citation:** John Philipps Collection, 020, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

## BIOGRAPHY

As a German-Russian, John (Johannes) Philipps was born in the Beresan colony of Landau and grew up in a farming family who, however, was already expelled early from their home. He studied agronomy and later worked at the MTS (Machine Tractor Station) in the Waterloo colony of the Ukraine. His youth was overshadowed by poverty and hunger even though he came

from a well-to-do farming family. He experienced the deprivation of citizen rights and wrenching deportation of his family, was captured by British troops and finally uprooted without a country, petitioned for emigration to the United States of America. After he had conquered initial difficulties, he arrived finally in New York, in 1952. He moved to California in 1955, where he accepted U.S. citizenship. He is the author of a number of books on the German Russians including Tragedy of the Soviet Germans (1984), About Myself and Repression of the Germans in South Ukraine, Die deutschen Bauern am Schwarzeen Meer (1994), The Germans by the Black Sea Between the Bug and Dnjestr Rivers (2000) and The Germans under the Tsars, Lenin, and Stalin (2006).

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **John Philipps Collection** contains materials related to the writings and life history of John Philipps. Of particular focus are his works, manuscripts, studies, and travel materials related to German from Russia heritage. The John Philipps Collection is divided into six series: Autobiographical Materials, Correspondence, Manuscript, Subject, Publications, and Photograph.

The Autobiographical Materials Series contains two folders of autobiographical manuscripts about Philipps. These were written in German, and one, "*Mein Lebenslauf*", was translated into English by Kristen Bakken. The Oral History Transcript Folder contains a transcript of an oral history interview of John Philipps conducted by Michael M. Miller of the GRHC on June 23, 1993.

The Correspondence Series consists of letters to- and from- John Philipps, spanning the years 1980 – 2009. The letters are in German, English, and Russian and concern his studies of Germans from Russia and also chronicle the writing and publishing of his books. Many of these letters are sent to- and from- the Germans from Russia Heritage Center regarding research and Philipps' tours of Germany.

Contained within the Manuscript Series are seven typewritten and hand-corrected manuscripts, mainly consisting of several of John Philipps' books and articles. "*Askania Nova der Naturschutzpark*" is a German-language article about the Askania Nova nature reserve in the Ukraine. The Captions Folder contains several pages of notes regarding the captions of the photographs of a publication for which no title information is given. "*Die Wolga Kolonien*" is a manuscript documenting the family groups who settled in various German Russian settlements around the Volga River in Russia. "German Villages in the Ukraine: A Key to the Microfilm" is a study of captured German documents which was prepared by Dr. Adam Giesinger.

Within the Subject Series are six folders of resources which were arranged in the following manner. The Book Leaves folder contains two leaves removed from an unknown book. The title of the article is "*Bon Alexander I. beftatigtes Memorandum des Minifters des Innern*". The Booklets Folder contains four small booklets: "A Welcome to U.S.A. Citizenship", "American Historical Society of Germans from Russia 1980 Convention", "Golden Gate Chapter A.H.S.G.R. June 1974", and "Solzhenitsyn: Conscience of a Nation" by George Feifer, The Ephemera Folder contains four holiday cards, a funeral announcement of Christine Philipps, and

a name badge for John Philipps. The Famine Materials Folder features an article about starvation endured by Russians during 1922-1923 and transcripts of letters written by survivors of this period, all of which are in German. The Maps Folder contains fourteen maps, mainly photocopied. Some of the titles of these maps are “*Die Glückstaler Mutter- und Tochterkolonien*”, “*Mutterkolonien, Limane, Täler und Flüsse im Odessaer Gebiet*”, and “*Die deutschen Siedlungen und Landbesitz der Beresaner Kolonisten bis 1918*”. Also contained within this folder are maps of the country estate of Dominik Sattler, upon which John Philipps lived. The Periodical Clippings Folder contains nine newspaper articles and magazine clippings in German, Russian, and English. Some of the clippings include article about St. Petersburg and Catherine the Great, and also a German-language poem about the colonies in Russia.

The [Publications Series](#) contains ten pre-publication copies of various books about the Germans from Russia, written by John Philipps (unless noted) and other publications. *Die deutschen Bauern am Schwarzen Meer* is about the history of German Russian farming in Ukraine. [Our European Trip from May 31<sup>st</sup> Till July 5<sup>th</sup> 1994](#) is a presentation of a vacation to Europe by Mr. and Mrs. Philipps. It is written in German and English and contains many photographs of events commemorating German Russians that were held in Germany and also images of postcards and photographs of various tourist attractions visited by the vacationers. [Krasna District of Nikolayev Region](#) is a brief history of that district written by Philipps, with illustrations provided by Anton Wilhelm and Magdalena Selenski. *Philipps – Chronik* is a family history of the Philipps lineage, written by John Philipps. This book not only contains many photographs of individuals, but also a Philipps family tree which can be traced back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. [Speier](#) is a book written by Thomas J. Hoffman and documents family groups that settled that colony in the Beresan region of South Russia. *Volk auf dem Weg 1763-1993* is a book prepared by the *Kulturrat der Deutschen aus Rußland* society of Bonn, Germany, published in 1993 in German and Russian.

The [Photograph Series](#) contains 138 photographic images. Several of the images are gelatin silver prints, while the majority of the images are prints of 35mm color images. The AHSGR Group Photos folder contains group portraits of the attendees of the 1975, 1978, and 1993 American Historical Society of the Germans from Russia. The Agricultural Photographs folder contains images of agricultural scenes taken at German Russian colonies. They are black and white. Also present within this folder is one sheet of 35 mm negatives of several of the images. The Exteriors Folder contains three photographs and one photocopy of exterior shots taken in various unnoted locations. The five folders of images taken in various sites in Kutschurgan, Ukraine consist of exterior shots and photos of individuals and buildings taken by Peter Goldade in March 1997. The Kutschurgan photos are all 35 mm color images. The [Our European Trip](#) folder contains photographs taken of Mr. and Mrs. Philipps vacation to Europe in 1994. These were used for the book of the same name. Also included within this folder are several picture postcards that were featured in the book. The Portraits folder features photographs of individuals and groups. Some of the subjects are Waldemar Heim, Simon and Elizabeth Heim, a group portrait of students of the Speier School in 1942, and a 1985 portrait of John Philipps. Also contained within this collection is one albumin print of Leo Tolstoy and Vladimir Chertkov in Tolstoy’s study, c. 1905. The Travel Book folder contains images that were used in a book of travel images, for which there is no information regarding title.

## SEPARATION RECORD

John Philipps also donated several books, which are located in the GRHC library. The collection numbers are: 2001.06, 2003.14, and 2004.09. A listing of the catalogued Philipps books can be found here:

<http://library.ndsu.edu/tools/dspace/load/?file=/repository/bitstream/handle/10365/19391/Philipps%20books%20%28for%20DSpace%29.pdf?sequence=4>

## BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
1/1	Finding aid, detailed inventory, and initial inventory

### AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS SERIES

1/2	Autobiographical materials
1/3	Oral history transcript

### CORRESPONDENCE SERIES

1/4	1980, 1981, 1984
1/5	1988 – 1990
1/6	1991 – 1992
1/7	1993
1/8	1994
1/9	1995
1/10	1996
1/11	1997
1/12	1998
1/13	1999
1/14	2000 – 2002
1/15	2004 – 2006
1/16	2008 – 2009
1/17	Undated

### MANUSCRIPT SERIES

1/18	<i>“Askania Nova der Naturschutzpark”</i>
1/19	Captions
1/20	<u><i>Die deutschen Bauern am Schwarzen Meer</i></u>
1/21	<u><i>Die Wolga Kolonien</i></u>

1/22 "German Villages in the Ukraine: A Key to the Microfilm"  
1/23 Our European Trip from May 31<sup>st</sup> Till July 5<sup>th</sup> 1994  
1/24 Speyer im Beresaner Tal der Südukraine: 1809/1810 – Marz 1944

### SUBJECT SERIES

2/1 Book leaves  
2/2 Booklets  
2/3 Ephemera  
2/4 Famine materials  
2/5 Maps  
2/6 Periodical clippings

### 2 PUBLICATIONS SERIES

1. Die deutschen Bauern am Schwarzen Meer
2. Our European Trip from May 31<sup>st</sup> Till July 5<sup>th</sup> 1994
3. Die tragische Odyssee der Rußlanddeutschen
4. Krasna District of Nikolayev Region
5. Mass Executions in Odessa, 1931-1938
6. Philipps – Chronik
7. Speyer
8. Stalin's Genocide
9. Stalin's Genocide
10. Volk auf dem Weg

### PHOTOGRAPH SERIES

3/1 AHSGR group photos (6)  
3/2 Agriculture (12)  
3/3 Exteriors (4)  
3/4 Kutschurgan, Elasse (9)  
3/5 Kutschurgan, Kandel (6)  
3/6 Kutschurgan, Landau (9)  
3/7 Kutschurgan, Mannheim (9)  
3/8 Kutschurgan, Selz (15)  
3/9 Our European Trip from May 31<sup>st</sup> Till July 5<sup>th</sup> 1994 (35)  
3/10 Portraits (6)  
3/11 Tolstoy, Leo (1)  
3/12 Travel book (14)  
3/13 35mm (10)  
3/14 Photocopies (2)