Overview of the Adolf Kurtz papers

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Collection Summary
Title: Adolf Kurtz papers
Dates: 1927-1971
Collection Number: 2011C33
Creator: Kurtz, Adolf, 1891-1975
Collection Size: 2 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box (2 linear feet)
Repository: Hoover Institution Archives
Stanford, California 94305-6010
Abstract: Letters, certificates, registers of German evangelical church records, and photographs, relating to German evangelical opposition to Nazism, and to refugee relief work.
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives
Languages: German
Access
The collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.
Publication Rights
For copyright status, please contact the Hoover Institution Archives.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Adolf Kurtz papers, [Box number], Hoover Institution Archives.
Acquisition Information
Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 2011.
Accruals
Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog Socrates at http://library.stanford.edu/webcat . Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in Socrates is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.
Biographical Note
Adolf Kurtz, a Protestant evangelical pastor in Germany, following Hitler's ascent to power in 1933, resisted the government's efforts to control religious life in Germany. In that his wife was born a Jew, he organized a relief agency to help Christians of Jewish heritage. Along with other Protestant churchmen, including Martin Niemoeller, Karl Barth, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, he founded the Confessional Church, an evangelical group that resisted the Nazification of the German churches. Most leaders of this movement were arrested; some died in concentration camps. Kurtz was interrogated several times, had his school for Jewish Christian children closed, and was nearly deported to Dachau; but he and his wife managed to survive the war in Berlin.
After the war, in 1948, Pastor Kurtz was invited by the British military authorities in Berlin to come to England to visit German prisoner-of-war camps. He soon discovered and took over a refugee congregation of German worshippers in Oxford where he remained until his death in 1975. Besides ministering to his parishioners' spiritual needs, Adolf Kurtz helped collect funds in Germany to rebuild Coventry, especially its cathedral, which was destroyed during a November 1940 Luftwaffe raid. Kurtz was present, along with many other German representatives, on March 23, 1955, when the queen presided over the laying of the new foundation for the new cathedral.
Scope and Content of Collection
The original accession consists of letters, certificates, registers of German evangelical church records, and photographs, relating to German evangelical opposition to Nazism, and to refugee relief work. This group of materials is mostly associated with Pastor Kurtz's later life in Oxford.
An increment received in 2011 consists of many original personal documents, mostly from the pastor's earlier years in Berlin. Among these are Kurtz's theological degrees, ordination diploma, marriage certificate, notifications from the Gestapo, Zonal Travel Permit for Occupied Germany, and so forth. The materials include the pastor's vita and other biographical information, as well as the papers of Eva Borchardt Kurtz, his wife.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Anti-Nazi work.
Germany--Religion.
Refugees.
International relief.

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