

Editors' note

The following text is a transcription and annotated German-English translation of the first of three journals of letters held in the Hocken Collections (Dunedin, New Zealand) as part of the Kennedy Family: Bielschowsky Papers (MS1493). The letters were written by Marianne Bielschowsky née Angermann (1904 – 1977), a German biochemist resident in Dunedin from 1948 until her death. They were addressed to Marianne's parents in Germany and record her experiences following her move to Spain in December 1935; the period covered by the letters is 22nd December 1935 - 14th July 1936. The letters are not originals but copies. Two quite different hands can be distinguished (letters from 22nd Dec. 1935 until 22nd March 1936 written by hand 1, letters 25th March 1936 until 14th July 1936 written by hand 2). The first copyist is almost certainly Marianne's mother, Clara Clementine Charlotte Angermann née Beutler (1881 – 1958), while the second is probably her father, Konrad Theodor Konstantin Angermann (1874 – 1946).

With the consent of the Hocken Library the editors have decided to present the manuscript in two parts: as a transcription and annotated translation. We felt the transcription using a standardised Latin alphabet to be necessary because the text was written in the old German script (*deutsche Schrift* or *Kurrentschrift*) which fewer and fewer native speakers of German are now able to decipher.¹ The translation, of course, opens up the text to anyone unable to read German. Detailed annotations and an introduction have been added to provide background on Marianne Angermann and some historical context to the events she describes. By and large, the English translation has retained the original informal punctuation of the letters as well as the relaxed diction one would expect in personal correspondence.

For the German transcription we have decided to reproduce the text as it was written, that is to say with all its mistakes, errors, peculiar spellings and other idiosyncrasies. These are partly due to changes in spelling conventions and grammatical rules and regulations over time. In order to mark these clearly and comprehensively almost every page would have had to contain a number of corrections indicated by “[sic!].” We have refrained from doing so for the sake of readability but we assure the reader that we are indeed aware of all these inconsistencies.

The following is a list – by no means exhaustive - of a number of irregularities in spelling:

- Terrasse is spelled most of the time Terasse
- kaputt is always spelled kaput
- gibt (es gibt) is almost always spelled giebt

¹ As Friedrich Beck notes, the lack of proficiency of young scholars in reading older manuscripts has had serious consequences for research in German language archives: “Für die Nachkriegsgenerationen ist es irritierend [...] daß Studenten und junge Wissenschaftler die in Archiven des deutschen Sprachgebiets überlieferten Quellenzeugnisse der Neuzeit nur noch in schwindendem Maße und mit Hilfe lesen und für ihre Forschungen mit Schwierigkeit nutzen können.” (Beck, 255) In the context of Marianne Angermann's anti-fascist views this rupture in legibility represents an historical irony. It was the Nazis who chose to break with these specifically German forms of script out of a desire to disseminate their propaganda more efficiently throughout the occupied territories in World War Two. In 1941, Gothic typefaces were denounced as *Judenlettern* and exchanged for Antiqua in printed publications, while *deutsche Schrift* was abandoned in schools in favour of a new *Normalschrift*. (Beck, 252)

- bloß is always spelled *blos*
- Apostrophes - as in *gebts Gott, wenns, obs* - are always omitted
- Offizier is always spelled *Officier*
- Oktober and Dezember are always spelled *October, December*
- bißchen is almost always spelled *bischen*
- (ihr) seid is always spelled *seit*
- Peseten is spelled *Peseten*
- Apparaturen is spelled *Aperaturen*
- vormittags, abends, mittags etc. are mostly spelled with capitals: *Vormittags, Abends, Mittags* etc

Only when a misspelling might affect comprehension has a correction been inserted in the text e.g. in the Madrid street name *Recoltos* [!, recte: *Recoletos*]

We would like to thank Dr Jean Kennedy, presently of Australian National University, for her prescience some years ago in lodging Marianne and Franz Bielschowsky's papers with the Hocken Collections in Dunedin. The staff at the Hocken Library are also deserving of our thanks for their professionalism and friendly assistance. Our fellow OGS editor, Associate Professor Cecilia Novero, kindly interrupted her busy conference schedule while in Madrid in 2019 to take some of the photos that feature in this publication and in the next two annotated journals (which will appear at a later date). While still our Head of Department, Associate Professor Paola Voci provided especially valuable support to this project for which we are very grateful. Finally, we are indebted to Emer. Prof. Hansgerd Delbrück (Victoria University of Wellington) who, very willingly and with good humour, helped to decipher numerous instances of almost illegible script.

A.O
P.B.

Aufsatz, um den Handel, den sein Briefe seiner Um-
 gebung aufzuheben - dort, wo er lebt und in der Schrift?
 Was um ein Pöänoum? Prof. Hier geht's um den Hand-
 ...

Hand 1. Journal 1. First entry. December 31, 1935.

Mittwoch. 14. IV. 36.
 Um mich weißt es sich auf gar keinen Fall umsonst. Es ist alles
 absolut richtig. Und arbeiten, um zu sehen, was man machen will
 noch irgendwelchen Umfragen. Nichts Laides haben auch nur

Hand 2. Journal 1. Letter of 14 April, 1936.