

# A Report on the Holdings of the Martin-Heidegger-Archiv der Stadt Meßkirch

*Ian Alexander Moore*

In May 2016 I spent one week at the Meßkirch Castle in Meßkirch, Germany conducting research in the Martin-Heidegger-Archiv as a Martin Heidegger Fellow. Since no catalogue or synopsis of the holdings exists in or outside the archive, I have, in this report, summarized some of the different types of materials available to researchers, highlighting several noteworthy items along the way.

Hundreds of volumes from the room in Fritz Heidegger's house where Martin Heidegger would work can be found in the archive. Most of these belonged to Fritz, although some were gifts from Martin, as can be gleaned from Martin's inscriptions in the volumes as well as from his correspondence with his brother.<sup>1</sup> Many of these volumes, especially those devoted to theology, church history, or Martin's philosophy, contain extensive marginalia by Fritz. Not only do these marginal notes reveal Fritz's brilliant mind and wit; they also often shed light on Martin's own thought and life. Of particular significance in this regard are Fritz's annotations of Walter Biemel's biography, *Martin Heidegger in Selbstzeugnissen und Bilddokumenten*,<sup>2</sup> which variously corroborate, supplement, and challenge Biemel's claims.

Many of these books also contain dedications to Fritz or to Martin from significant people in Martin's life, such as Jean Beaufret, Max Müller, Sophie Dorothee von Podewils, and Bernhard Welte. In one of the issues of the *Philosophisches Jahrbuch*, edited by Max Müller and Michael Schmaus, in Fritz's collection, there is even an unpublished letter from Müller to Martin Heidegger.<sup>3</sup> An especially important document

in this collection is a long letter to Martin from William Richardson, which served as the basis for Heidegger's acclaimed preface to Richardson's *Heidegger: Through Phenomenology to Thought*.<sup>4</sup> The letter can be found in the library's copy of Richardson's book, sent "with the author's compliments." Both the letter and the preface contain underlining and some marginal marks; while they may come from Fritz, it seems more likely that they were made by Martin as he was composing the preface and after he had received the published version of it.

There does not appear to be much new from Martin Heidegger himself in the archives. One exciting exception to this is his 1946 copy of Georg Trakl's poetry.<sup>5</sup> In addition to underlining and marks in the margins of the supplementary material of the volume, there are several markings in Trakl's poem "Gesang des Abgeschiedenen," and Heidegger comments on "Nachtergebung" and "Grodok." There is also a typescript of Heidegger's correspondence with the then-mayor of Meßkirch, Siegfried Schüle; typescripts of two unpublished letters Heidegger wrote to Lev Shestov in 1929 (which suggest Heidegger was planning on lecturing in Paris and writing an article on Husserl) and one letter he wrote to the sculptor Bernhard Heiliger; and photocopies of Heidegger's marginalia to the following texts: a review of *Vom Wesen des Grundes* by Otto Friedrich Bollnow,<sup>6</sup> a review of *Kant und das Problem der Metaphysik* by Rudolf Odebrecht,<sup>7</sup> a page of Kant's *Grundlegung zur Metaphysik der Sitten*,<sup>8</sup> and the second version of Hölderlin's "Griechenland," among others. In the archive, one can also find two bound typescripts by Fritz Heidegger of Martin's Winter Semester 1936–37 and Summer Semester 1937 lecture courses on Nietzsche.<sup>9</sup>

Those working on Martin Heidegger's relation to Augustine might be interested to know that, in 1954, he gave his nephew Heinrich Heidegger the volumes of the Latin Migne edition in honor of the first mass his nephew held as a priest.<sup>10</sup> Some of these volumes are available at the archives, as are three volumes by the Tübingen theologian Johannes von Kuhn, which Heidegger gave to his brother in 1944.<sup>11</sup>

Lastly, I must mention the numerous recordings and videos housed at the archives. These include over one and a half hours of tapes that served as the basis for the notorious *Spiegel* interview, the original and

slightly different version of Heidegger's 1955 "Gelassenheit" speech, and many interviews with Heidegger's family members and students (including Elfride, Jörg, Hermann, and Heinrich Heidegger, as well as Walter Biemel, Käte Bröcker-Oltmanns, and Rainer Marten). Perhaps the most beautiful item in the collection is a film Jörg made of his parents in Todtnauberg and at their cabin.

Alongside the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach and the Universitätsarchiv Freiburg, the Martin-Heidegger-Archiv der Stadt Meßkirch should be considered one of the most important sites for anyone wishing to conduct archival research on Heidegger.

First published in French in *Bulletin heidéggerien* 8 (2018): 4–6.

#### NOTES

- 1 Fritz and Martin Heidegger's extensive correspondence, which can be found in the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach, is now open to researchers without permission from the Heidegger estate. A comparatively short selection of their correspondence can be found in *Heidegger und der Antisemitismus: Positionen im Widerstreit*, eds. Walter Homolka and Arnulf Heidegger (Freiburg: Herder, 2016).
- 2 Reinbek: Rowohlt, 1973.
- 3 *Philosophisches Jahrbuch* 69, no. 2 (1962).
- 4 The Hague: M. Nijhoff, 1962.
- 5 Georg Trakl, *Die Dichtungen. Gesamtausgabe. Mit einem Anhang: Zeugnisse und Erinnerungen* (Zürich: Arche, 1946).
- 6 *Deutsche Literaturzeitung* 51 (1930): columns 1879–87. Cf. GA 73.1: 445 and GA 96: 216–18.
- 7 *Blätter für Deutsche Philosophie* 5, no. 1 (1931–1932): 132–35. Cf. "Zu Odebrecht und Cassirers Kritik," in GA 3: 297–303.
- 8 Edited by Karl Vorländer, 6th ed. (Leipzig: Felix Meiner, 1925).
- 9 Published as GA 43 and GA 44.

- 10 Heinrich Heidegger quotes from a letter that Martin sent to him, which is also available in the archives: “Ich selbst bekam zu meiner Primiz die lateinische Ausgabe von Augustinus, ‘wohl wissend,’ wie er [Martin Heidegger] schrieb, ‘daß Du in der nächsten Zeit der praktischen Lehrjahre (nicht) schon den Augustinus studierst. Aber später wird Dir eine regelmäßige Lesung seiner Predigten und Kommentare viel Bereicherung und Anregung schenken und Du wirst erfahren, daß hier ein unerschöpflicher Quell fließt.” “For my first mass, I myself received [from Martin Heidegger] the Latin edition of Augustine, ‘knowing well,’ as he wrote, ‘that in the coming years of your practical apprenticeship, you will (not) be studying Augustine. But later, regularly reading his sermons and commentaries will provide you with much enrichment and stimulation, and you will experience that there is an inexhaustible source flowing here.” Heinrich Heidegger and Pierfrancesco Stagi, *Martin Heidegger: Ein Privatporträt zwischen Politik und Religion* (Meßkirch: Gmeiner, 2012), 128–29 (Heinrich Heidegger’s interpolation of “(nicht)”). Cf. “Tischrede bei der Primizfeier des Neffen Heinrich Heidegger (Pfungstsonntag 1954)” (GA 16: 488–90); a recording of Heidegger reading a somewhat different version this text is available in the archives.
- 11 *Die christliche Lehre von der göttlichen Gnade. Erster und allgemeiner Theil: Die ursprüngliche Gnade und die damit zusammenhängenden Untersuchungen über den Begriff und das Wesen der Gnade überhaupt, mit besonderer Beziehung auf die Scholastik und deren neueste Umdeutung* (Tübingen: H. Haupp, 1868); *Einleitung in die katholische Dogmatik*, 2nd ed., Vol. 1, Part 1 of Kuhn, *Katholische Dogmatik* (Tübingen: H. Laupp, 1859); *Die christliche Lehre von der göttlichen Dreieinigkeit* (Tübingen: H. Laupp, 1857). These volumes bear Heidegger’s own signature on the title pages in his old, thick script of the 1910s, suggesting that, before he gave them to his brother, he had himself made use of them. On Heidegger’s relation to the Tübingen school of theology, see Johannes Schaber, OSB, “Der Theologiestudent Martin Heidegger und sein Dogmatikprofessor Carl Braig,” *Freiburger Diözesanarchiv* 125 (2005): 329–47.