

MORAVIAN MUSIC FOUNDATION

Finding aid for

Theodor Liley Clemens Collection

Date range: 1870-1932

Bulk dates: 1880-1925

Finding Aid created by Nola Reed Knouse, April 10, 2019

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Summary Information:

Creator: Moravian Music Foundation, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Extent: 2 boxes, 2.8 linear feet

Abstract: The Theodore Liley Clemens Collection includes manuscript and printed music by English Moravian composer Theodor Liley Clemens (1858-1933), who served in the West Indies from 1886 until his retirement in 1921, with the exception of a disability leave 1917-1919. Most of his compositions were written for the congregations he served as pastor, where he also trained the choir.

Call number: Clemens – Moravian Music Foundation, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Language: The material is in English. One-third of the works have no linguistic content.

Access and Use:

Acquisition Information: These materials are in the custody of the Moravian Music Foundation, Winston-Salem, NC

Access Restrictions: The record group is open to research.

Copyright: Copyright is with the Moravian Music Foundation

Cite as: [item], Clemens [number], Moravian Music Foundation.

Background Information:

History: Theodor Liley Clemens (1858-1933) was born on December 8, 1858, in Baildon, Yorkshire, England, and was the son of a Moravian minister. He was ordained in 1886 and was sent to Spring Gardens on Antigua. Shortly after his marriage to Mary Mercer in 1888, he was called to the Moriah Congregation on Tobago, where he served until 1917. During his twenty-eight years on Tobago, he gained the respect and affection of his people and had a significant positive effect on the moral tone of the community. Clemens had a great love and talent for music and trained a fine choir. Since his church could not afford to buy music from England, he wrote many hymns, anthems, and organ pieces for his congregation. In his spare time he also composed nearly 100 secular pieces. Several of his compositions were printed in England during his lifetime. His health forced him to take a disability leave from 1917-1919, but he returned to serve on Trinidad. He retired in 1921 and returned to England, where he died at Eydon on July 23, 1933.

Scope and Content:

Clemens' compositions include hymns, anthems, piano and organ pieces, and songs. Much of his sacred music was written for use in his own congregations, where he trained his own choirs. Much of his music was also published in England. Most of the collection is in manuscript form; the vast majority of the material is collected into bound volumes or manuscript books. Published music is found primarily in "Original Compositions" and the "Portfolio".

The collection includes the following:

Clemens Box 1

- Diversa for Piano Solo and Otherwise: 40 manuscript pieces, composed 1877-1932; mostly secular piano works; also hymns and pieces for violin and piano, and cello and piano.
- Manuscript Book: 1870s to 1920s. 60 secular pieces, piano works, also vocal rounds and two pieces for violin and piano. close to 300 hymns.
- Original Compositions for the Organ: 44 manuscript pieces, 1895-1922; non-liturgical preludes and voluntaries; some hymn preludes.
- Original Compositions: 18 printed pieces, 1879-1885; vocal music (solo songs, sacred choral music) and piano pieces.
- Musical Portfolio and loose compositions: late 1880s-1931; 27 works, almost all published. Piano compositions and studies, songs, anthems, carols, hymns, litany.

Clemens Box 2

- Additional separate compositions
- Miscellaneous
- Correspondence: including letters from Edward Bairstow, T. Tertius Noble, John Stainer, and Walford Davies.
- Obituaries

- Duplicate copies
- Contents of Maynard gift
- Contents of packet sent to MMF by M. L. Clemens

Searchable Terms:

Title:

- Clemens Collection

Corporate Names:

- Moravian Music Foundation

Subjects:

- Christmas music
- Choruses, Sacred (Mixed voices)
- Music copybooks
- Organ music
- Piano music
- Sacred songs (High voice)
- Sacred songs (Low voice)
- Songs with piano

Related Materials:

Researchers interested in this archive may also wish to consult the following resources:

The Music of the Moravian Church in America, edited by Nola Reed Knouse. Rochester, New York, The University of Rochester Press, © 2008.

GemeinKat, online catalog of the Moravian Music Foundation.

<https://moravianmusic.on.worldcat.org/discovery>

Search for the collection by title: ti=Clemens Collection.

Other materials in the Archives and Foundation holdings may relate to the topics in this archive. See the archivist for further research assistance.