

Correspondence between the Dutch and Prussian Mennonite Congregations 1600 – 1800

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The purpose of this project is to make good quality colour images of the original Dutch and German language correspondence together with English translations available to researchers.

By the 1600s persecution of Anabaptists in the Netherlands had stopped and there was essentially no more immigration from the Netherlands to the region known as Prussia. There was, however, some movement back and forth, mainly of Mennonite merchants and businessmen. In addition, there were those who travelled to the Netherlands in order to be baptized into one of the Dutch mother churches and returned soon after.

By the 1700s the Dutch Mennonites had become quite wealthy relative to their Prussian brethren. At the same time, the Prussian Mennonites were suffering from the devastations of several wars and frequent large-scale flooding of the Vistula River. The Prussians frequently turned to their Dutch brethren for financial aid. Although the majority of the correspondence is related to aid requested by the Prussian Mennonites, there are also letters requesting advice on church matters. The correspondence related to this is covered in several hundred letters found in the Amsterdam archives in the collection “*Archief van de Doopsgezinde Gemeenten*”.

This is an open-ended project which will depend on funding and the availabilities of the translator and editor/organizer who both have other commitments. The total collection contains about 2,300 letters, of which about 400 are related to this project. It is expected that this project will take several years to locate, collect, translate, and post all of the relevant correspondence.

More information may be obtained from Glenn Penner at gpenner@ouguelp.ca .

An [example](#) taken from [another project](#).