

The Protestant Parsonage Archives

Merseburg pastor August Angermann (1867–1948) created the *Protestant Parsonage Archives* in 1925 with the intention of documenting the Protestant parsonage’s impacts on culture, scholarship and politics in the German-speaking world. Six years later, the collection already comprised more than 1,300 items (paintings, drawings, photographs, books, letters, manuscripts, insignia, coins, medals, etc.) displayed in three rooms of Wittenberg Palace as of November 1932.

The collection was closed during World War II. After the war’s end, the *Protestant Parsonage Archives’* holdings were brought at Bishop of Thuringia Dr. Moritz Mitzenheim’s prompting to Eisenach where they were stored at a church facility, “Haus Hainstein”, until 1956.

The holdings were transferred to the Lutherhaus Eisenach where visitors have been able to view them in a permanent exhibition since 1956. The Lutherhaus opened its redesigned and updated exhibition “A Trip through the History of the Protestant Parsonage” on the museum’s upper floor in 1996. The storage conditions at the historic Lutherhaus proved to be increasingly problematic for the collection’s holdings in terms of space and climate, though.

The *Archives’* holdings have therefore been stored in a storage facility at the newly built Landeskirchenarchiv Eisenach, where they are accessible for study, since 2014. That same year, the “Verband evangelischer Pfarrerinnen und Pfarrer in Deutschland e.V.” officially donated the *Protestant Parsonage Archives’* holdings to the newly established Stiftung Lutherhaus Eisenach. They have constituted the basis of the museum’s collection ever since.