

start of using Silesian money, that is, of plundering the Breslau diocese” (Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, *Arnold Janssen*, p. 268).

Peace

The “Nysa Newspaper” published another article which brought about peace. The author “also criticized the high pressure manner in which some outside ecclesiastical institutions collected funds in Silesia. The language and tone was as sharp as bishop’s own statement.” The author like the bishop and Fr. Arnold expects “real support from the Africa Society” and then he comes to the defense of the new mission house: “When the mission seminary at Nysa is opened, it will not be a foreign or alien seminary, but a seminary for the training of German Catholic missionaries for the German colonies ... We hope ... the seminary will soon open its doors, and that it will prove to be a great blessing for Nysa, for the Breslau diocese, for the whole province of Silesia and the Fatherland as a whole” (*ibid.*, p. 270). Surprisingly, by the order of the bishop, this article was reprinted word for word and without comment in the “Silesian People’s Newspaper”. This second article in the Nysa newspaper had taken “the sting out of the controversy”, for as the bishop wrote to the author, it had his full approval”, (Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p. 445). There could now be peace.

JUNE 1892

June 4: Appointment of an Apostolic Pro-Prefect

Fr. Arnold’s candidate for Apostolic Prefect seemed to the Prefect of the Propaganda to be too young for the office, so on this day Fr. John Schäfer was appointed Apostolic Pro Prefect of Togo. As his companions Fr. Arnold appointed Fr. Matthias Dier and Brothers John Hopfer, Norbert Nienhaus, Venantius Beckert (Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p. 636).

June 5: South Shantung /China

In Sining Bishop Anzer dedicated the Apostolic Vicariate of South Shantung to the Holy Spirit. For this dedication he used a picture which showed the Holy Spirit as a human person. Pope Leo XIII had given him orally the special permission to have the Holy Spirit painted as a human person. In the prayer of dedication the Bishop asked the Holy Spirit that he may receive the whole mission as His chosen vineyard; that He bind the mission to Him with the bonds of eternal love, that He may protect it as the apple of His eye; that He overshadow it with the wings of His grace and that he may accept all missionaries, Christians, Catechumens and those who were not yet baptized (in: *Kleiner Herz-Jesu-Bote* [Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart], 20, February 1893).



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The Arnoldus Family Story

MARCH 1892

The planned mission house in Nysa, Silesia /Poland

Just a reminder!

On December 2, 1891 Prince Bishop Kopp of Breslau had given Fr. Arnold permission for the foundation of a mission house in his diocese. On December 12, Fr. Arnold asked the Prince Bishop to allow him to make a collection in the churches of the diocese for the new mission house and also write a recommendation of the new house to the Africa Association in Cologne.

On December 14 the Bishop rejected the collection and told him to appeal to the Africa Association in Cologne “for you have a right to the 100,000 Marks the German bishops have set aside for the founding of a mission seminary in Germany. You should follow up this matter in every possible way” (Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, *Arnold Janssen*, Manila, 1975, p. 265).

March 12, Fr. Arnold’s disappointment

In a letter of March 12, Fr. Arnold expressed to the Prince Bishop his great disappointment about being told that “I was forbidden to say in Silesia how the house would be of use to the country; in this respect instead of helping me Your Lordship has created a tremendous obstacle. I cannot think of anything larger or worse. Faced with all these difficulties, may the Lord God allow all the more blessings to emerge from the intended work. Furthermore, because of this I am shouldering a very heavy cross. I am supposed to bring it into being, provide the money and I do not have it; and when I make an effort to acquire it I am gagged; a collection will not be approved, a recommendation not given, so I cannot see how I can proceed” (Jos. Alt, transl. Frank Mansfield, Jacqueline Mulberge, *Journey in Faith*, Nettetal 2002, p. 443).

MARCH/APRIL 1892

On March 29 Fr. Arnold travelled to Berlin to attend personally to the foundation of the mission house in Nysa. In Berlin he first met with Dr. Kayser, the head of the colonial office, who sent the new minister of culture a letter of recommendation. In his own letter to the minister Fr. Arnold asked for an audience to discuss matters of the new mission house and explained the steps which had been taken before. On April 2 Fr. Arnold went to the ministry of culture and met with the official responsible

for matters concerning the new mission house. He told Fr. Arnold to go ahead with buying the property in Nysa, if he had the approval of the Prince Bishop (*ibid.*, p.442-443).

April 2

Fr. Arnold wrote to Prince Bishop Kopp about his visit to the ministry of culture. Since the government official had given the oral permission for the founding of the mission house, “he had given the order for the completion of the purchase” (*ibid.*, p. 442, footnote 231). He then “asked the bishop to write a letter to the German bishops requesting them to donate to the Nysa project the 100,000 Marks they had received from the Africa Society. In Silesia he had already found some generous benefactors and felt sure that more would volunteer to lend a helping hand so that ‘the institute, founded under your Excellency’s gracious protection, may soon boast of genuine progress’ (Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, *Arnold Janssen*, Manila, p. 265).

April 3

Shortly before leaving Berlin for Steyl, Fr. Arnold informed the minister of culture in a letter that at the minister’s office he had been told to go ahead with the purchase of the property if the Bishop had given his permission. Since the Bishop had already done so, he had given the order for the completion of the purchase (Alt, transl. Frank Mansfield, Jacqueline Mulberge, *Journey in Faith*, p. 442, footnote 231).

April 12: Establishment of the Apostolic Prefecture of Togo

On April 12 the decree was signed in Rome separating Togo from the Apostolic Prefecture of Dahome and at the same time establishing the Apostolic Prefecture of Togo which was entrusted to the Steyl Missionaries. The decree also determined the borders of the new prefecture (German translation of the decree in *Kleiner Herz-Jesu-Bote* [Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart], 19, No. 8, May 1892, p. 64).

April 16: Purchase of the property in Nysa

On this day the property in Nysa, the so called “sheep farm” was bought in the presence of a notary. Its size was 30 ha (Hermann auf der Heide, *Die Missionsgesellschaft von Steyl* [The Mission Society of Steyl], Steyl 1900, p. 184).

April 20: First SVD in Nysa

On this day the architect for the whole SVD, Fr. Beckert, and four brothers moved into the estate in Nysa “in order to prepare for the new building.” However, their reception into the diocese was most unfriendly. Prince Bishop Kopp had no time to receive them. “At the auxiliary bishop’s place he [Fr. Beckert] had to swallow accusations and prejudices for a quarter of an hour before the bishop eventually wished the undertaking success.” One of the leading priests of the diocese said: “How can such a mission house be of use to us. It will cost a pile of money and will not achieve very much.” However, finally he said he would be happy if the enterprise succeeded successfully. It seems that the direct and indirect attacks in the Silesian popular press against the new mission house were “probably inspired, if not written by him” (Jos. Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p. 444).

MAY 1892: CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE NEW MISSION HOUSE IN NYSA / APOSTOLIC PREFECTURE OF TOGO

May 2: Decree of the Prince Bishop

On May 2 Prince Bishop Kopp issued a decree regarding church collections in the diocese of Breslau: “Almost daily, some outside religious and their friends take up collections in churches and homes in our diocese without due authorization of the bishop. The needs of our diocese are so obvious and great that I earnestly appeal to my devoted people to be mindful first of our own diocesan requirements. We need churches, we need some 500 priests, we need qualified personnel for our religious instruction program in the diaspora communities. Therefore I ordain as follows: First, that without my written permission or the approval of the vicar general, pastors may not authorize collections to be taken up in their churches. Second, that every official collection or permission for a collection be announced from the pulpit. Third, that pastors alert their congregations to unauthorized solicitors and report them to the bishop for possible ecclesiastical censure” (Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, *Arnold Janssen*, Manila, p. 266).

May 9: Togo

In Steyl Fr. Arnold receives from Rome the decree about the establishment of the Apostolic Prefecture Togo and its being entrusted to the Steyl missionaries.

May 10: Attack on the new mission house by the Silesian People’s Newspaper

On May 10 the Silesian People’s Newspaper published a commentary on the decree in words which were inspired by the bishop or perhaps even written by him and with which Steyl was attacked directly: The foundation itself was to be welcomed. “But the authorities in Breslau had certainly not thought of allowing a new collecting depot to be opened at the expense of the local diocese as now seems to be the case. [...] Does the mission house founded in Silesia also have a right to the support of the Africa Association [in Cologne] or will it be dependent on the exploitation of the Silesians?” (Alt, *Journey in Faith*, p. 444). “We address our inquiry to Cologne and Steyl and request a prompt reply. Then the Breslau diocese will be able to take a clear stand regarding the Steyl foundation in Nysa” (Bornemann, transl. John Vogelgesang, *Arnold Janssen*, Manila, p. 267).

The “battle front” is clear

Against Fr. Arnold’s wish, his friend the newspaper editor Franz Huch published on May 12 in the “Nysa newspaper” an article against the commentary in the “Silesian People’s Newspaper”. However, he made a few mistakes. Against Huch’s article two days later a sharp reply appeared in the “Silesian people’s newspaper” which was pretty surely written by the bishop himself and in which he said: “We expect absolutely nothing for our diocese from the pastoral activities of the seminary. We need priests, diocesan priests, not religious.” Then he accused Fr. Arnold “of having begun the new foundation without having brought along adequate support from the West [West Germany - Nysa was in Eastern Germany] – the 100,000 Marks for instance, of the Africa Society. It is obvious, he said, that the General had thought from the