

Issues on Ernst Posner Papers in NARA, from the viewpoint of a Japanese archivist



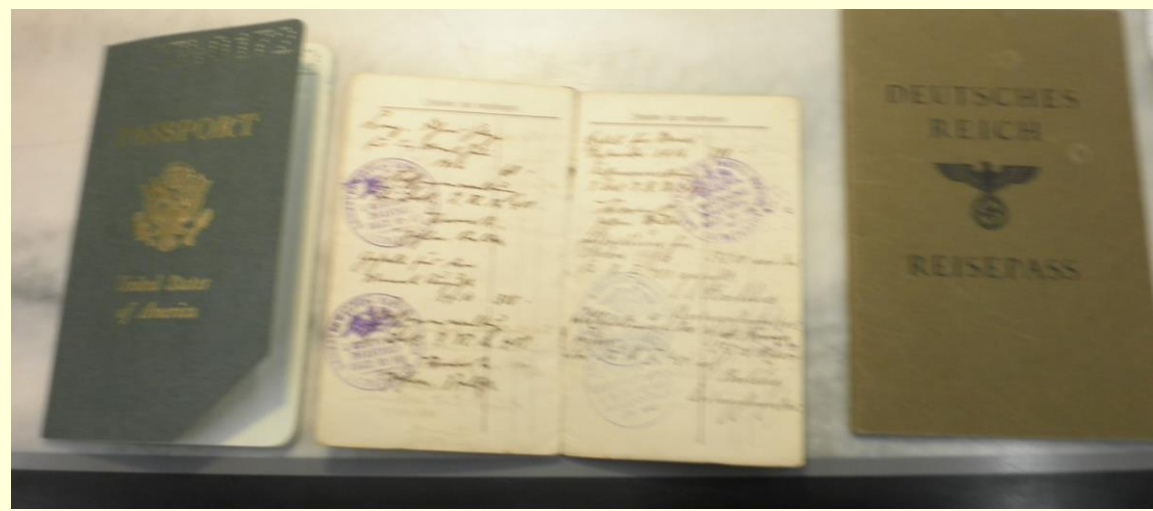
NARA Archives II
(Child care center)

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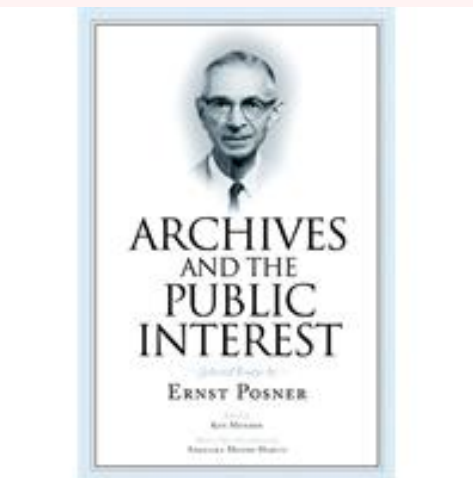
Introduction

On my first visit to the National Archives and Records Administration at College Park, Maryland in 2014, I asked to show me Ernst Posner Papers. For me, a “researcher” of ancient Greek archives, Ernst Posner is the author of *Archives in the Ancient World*. When I heard the existence of the papers, I wonder why the national archives holds such personal papers. Posner papers is one of the more than 700 donated materials which are received by NARA under a deed of gift and preserved because of the direct relation to Federal records. As I learned his brief biography, I felt the power of his archival materials in the reading room. From the view point of a new professional in Japan, I would like to discuss the following issues.

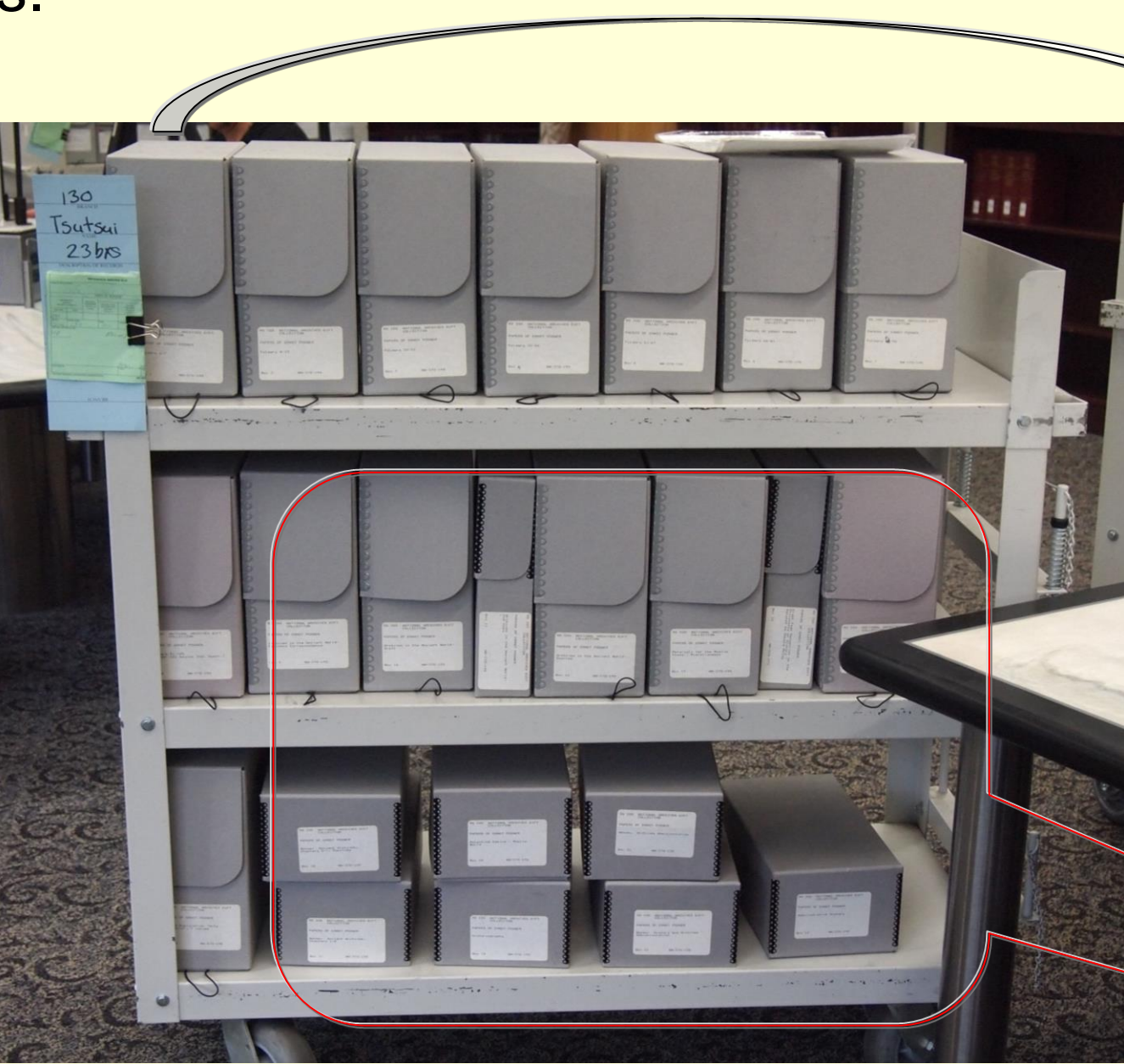


Ernst Maximilian Posner's brief biography

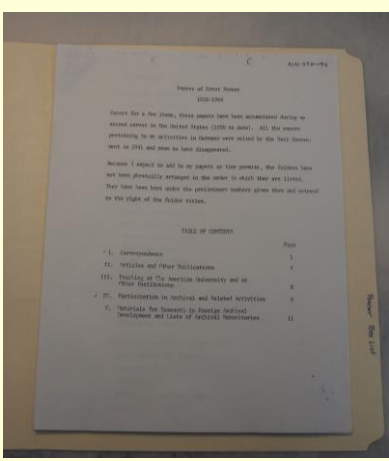
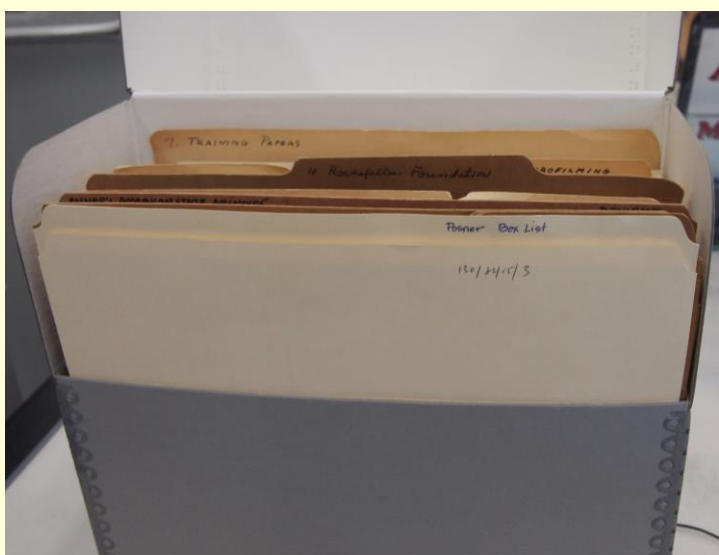
Aug 9, 1892 born in Berlin, Germany
prosperous Prussian Jewish Christian home
1910 Graduated from gymnasium and enter univ.
1911-12 Military service
1914-1918 WWI, awarded (braveness and injury)
Feb. 1920 Received Doctorate from Berlin University
1920-1938 engaged in the Prussian State Archives
Spring 1938 Visiting USA for two months
Nov. 1938 arrested and imprisoned by NAZI
escaped to US and lost his assets
1939 teaching at American University
1940-1945 assistant professor of American University
1943 the American Commission for the Protection and
Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in Europe
1944 “the Posner Affair” vs Senator McKellar
1945-61 professor of American University
1955-56 President of SAA
1957-58 stay in Rome
1961 Retired from American University
1962 served for UNESCO/ICA
1967 Celebrate his 75th birthday and
Publish *Archives and the public interest*
1972 Publish *Archives in the Ancient World*
1973 Oral history project
Apr. 18. 1980 passed away
1983 First awarded SAA
Ernst Posner Award
2009 German Federal Archives
named the new building after him



"Ernst-Posner-Bau"



NN-370-190 Posner Papers



No more WARS !
Ernst Posner had to quit his career at his 40's.
He tried to save archives in war-area.
Even though he worked for the US archives
eagerly, he was suspected and attacked.

Comparison with situation in Japan

National Archives of Japan, established in 1971, has around 52 regular staff. When Posner surveyed the archives in Japan in 1945, it did not exist. After enactment of Public Records and Archives Management Act in 2009, it struggles with weak legal and financial support as well as difficulty of human resources.
Personal papers acquisition through donation is limited to politicians (former Prime Ministers) even after the law acted.. In spite of archival tradition from ancient times, so many records and archives were lost, not only by air attack but also the Japanese officials' order of destruction. The importance of public records and archives is hardly recognized among people.

Discussion

What happened during and just after the World War II? Archives may tell us. Keeping records and cataloguing are significant to access records. We also recognize the importance of oral history projects. Learning the history and fundamentals of our profession might bring us peace.
“Personal archives “ should be also discussed.

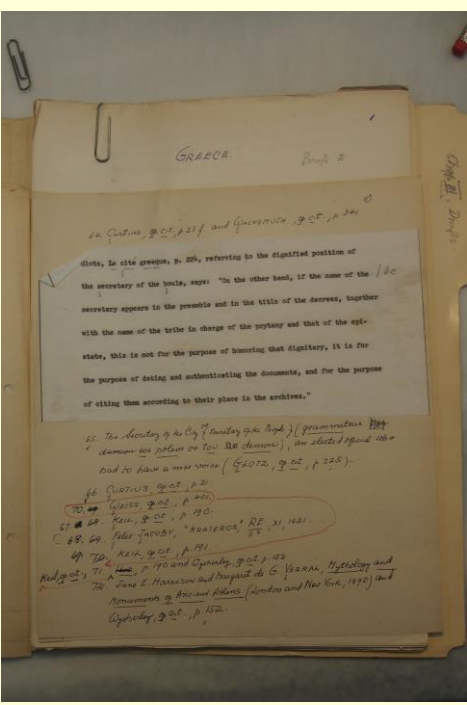
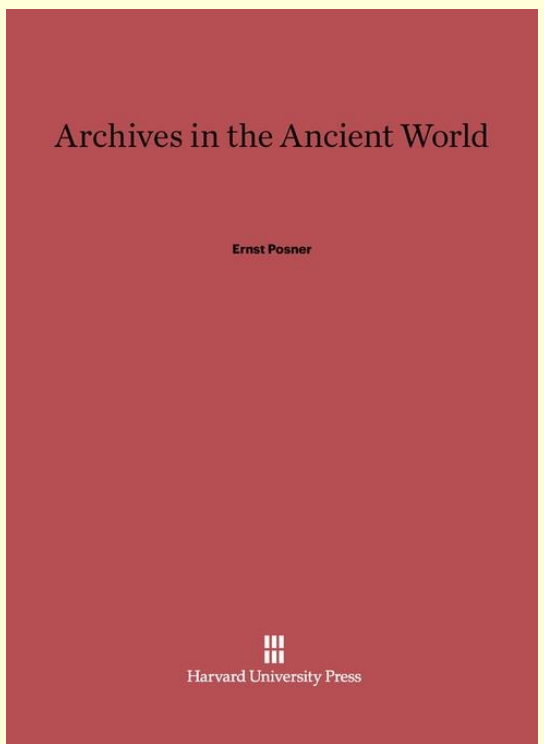
Acknowledgments:: I am grateful to archivists of NARA Archives II

His self-writing box list from Box1
TABLE OF CONTENTS not physically arranged

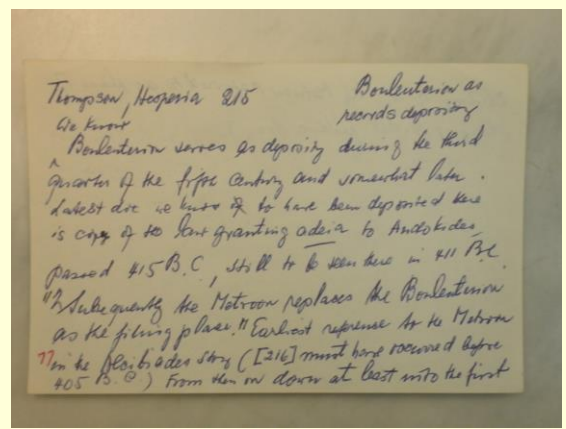
Correspondence
Articles and Other Publications
Teaching at The American University and at Other Institution
Participation in Archival and Related Activities
Materials for Research in Foreign Archival
Development and Lists of Archival Repositories

NARA Catalog describes it as 4 series #18514920.

Drafts and notecards for *Archives in the Ancient World*



Note on Bouleuterion



Friendship learned from correspondence

- Solon Justus Buck, Second Archivist of US
- Dr. Johannes Papritz, Director of the Marburg Archives School
- Dr. Wolfgang Mommsen, President of the German Federal Archives,
- Frank B Evans
- Eugen Anderson
- and so on.

