University of Oklahoma Libraries Western History Collections

The Carlisle Barracks Collection

Carlisle Barracks Collection. Papers, n.d. 2 items.

Collector. Hand-printed, bound manuscripts (n.d.) in the Ethiopian/Amharic language, brought to the United States from Africa during World War II and believed to be a regional religious text.

Note: The exact origin of these two items is unknown, but it is the opinion of the donor (Dr. Richard J. Sommer, Archivist-Historian, Department of the Army, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania) that they were brought to the United States by U.S. Army medical officer John Glenwood Knauer, who served in North Africa during World War II. Knauer in turn donated the volumes to the Carlisle Barracks, who donated them to the Western History Collections in belief that the volumes were written in an American Indian language. Only after the volumes arrived and the University of Oklahoma was the language determined to be Ethiopian.