Chapter 1

The Early Years

Heinrich Friedrich Rudolf Strothmann (Figure 1.1) was born on 4 September 1877 in Lengerich, in North Rhine-Westphalia, into a Lutheran family.1 His parents, the tenant farmer2 Johann Heinrich Strothmann (b. 19 May 1839, d. 15 September 1917)3 and Marie Elisabeth Strothmann (née Stapenhorst, b. 25 October 1843, d. 23 January 1884),4 got married in 1868,5 and the couple had eight children:

1 See the birth certificate issued by Standesamt Stadt Lengerich (no. 149/1877), which reads: “Lengerich am 7. September 1877. Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschien heute, der Persönlichkeit nach bekannt, der Colon Johann Heinrich Strothmann wohnhaft zu Lengerich Bauerschaft Wechte, evangelischer Religion, und zeigte an, daß von der Marie Elisabeth Strothmann gebor. Stapenhorst, seine Ehefrau evangelischer Religion, wohnhaft bei ihm zu Lengerich Bauernschaft Wechte in seiner Wohnung, am vierten September des Jahres tausend acht hundert siebzehn … ein Kind männlichen Geschlechts geboren worden sei, welches den Vornamen Heinrich Friedrich Rudolf erhalten habe. Vorgelesen, genehmigt und unterschrieben Strothmann. Der Standesbeamte.”
2 For this type of tenant farming, see Klaus-Peter Johne, “Von der Kolonenwirtschaft zum Kolonat.” The Strothmanns are attested as tenant farmers in Lengerich Wechte since the fifteenth century; see Wolfgang Leesch, Schatzungs- und sonstige Höferegister, passim. However, in the marriage certificate of Rudolf and Marga Strothmann, Stadtarchiv Weißenfels, Reg.-Nr. 171/1913, Johann Heinrich Strothmann’s profession is given as “Hofbesitzer.”
3 Johann Friedrich was a son of Hermann Friedrich Strothmann and Katharina Elisabeth Strothmann née Kohnhorst. See the death certificate issued by Standesamt Stadt Lengerich (no. 214/1917); “Lengerich Gestorbene 1901–1938 (Standesamti),” 97. See also letter Theodora “Thea” Strothmann to Rudolf Strothmann (4 June 1917), Strothmann family archive, SFA-D-StrothmannThea, in which Thea reports to Rudolf about their father’s condition.
4 Marie Elisabeth was the daughter of Heinrich Rudolph Stapenhorst and Regina Maria Stapenhorst née Hafermeyer. See Landeskirchliches Archiv Lengerich (accessed via archion.de on 30 December 2020 and 14 September 2021) [henceforth Landeskirchliches Archiv Lengerich]: Taufen 1932–53: 1843 no. 178; here her name is given as Maria Elisabeth; both variants, Maria and Marie, can be found in later archival sources.
5 See Landeskirchliches Archiv Lengerich: Trauungen 1863–74.
besides Rudolf, the sixth child of Johann and Marie, these were Heinrich Rudolph (b. 22 March 1869),6 Friederike Marie

6 See Landeskirchliches Archiv Lengerich: Taufen 1854–69: 1869 no. 65.
Karoline (b. 12 December 1870, d. 1935 in Münster in Westfalen),7 Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm (b. 7 April 1873, d. 1942),8 Heinrich Wilhelm Friedrich “Fritz” (b. 30 August 1874, d. 26 January 1948 in Wuppertal),9 Marie Elise Lisette (b. 19 April

7 See Landeskirchliches Archiv Lengerich: Taufen 1870–1890: 1871 no. 3. Marie married the teacher Julius Bauer (b. 23 February 1871 in Wellinghofen, Kreis Hörde, d. 15 November 1950 in Bad Salzuflen) on 15 November 1897; see the marriage certificate issued by Standesamt Stadt Lengerich (no. 65/1897).

8 See Landeskirchliches Archiv Lengerich: Taufen 1870–190: 1873 no. 65. Wilhelm Strothmann married Theodora “Thea” Kölling (b. 12 January 1883, d. 1931) in April 1906; see Landeskirchliches Archiv der Evang. Kirche, Westfalen: Kirchenkreis Dortmund West: Marten (accessed via archion.de on 30 December 2020): Taufen, Trauungen, Beerdigungen, Konfirmationen 1906–08: Getraute im Jahre 1906, p. 4. At the time of their marriage, Wilhelm already served as a pastor in Marten. During World War I, Wilhelm wrote a Kriegschronik, a detailed description of the implications of the war on children and their formation; see “Kirche und Zeit—Kirchengeschichte Dortmund,” accessed 13 September 2021, https://kirche-und-zeit.de/2015/12/19/schueler-in-kriegsjahren. Wilhelm and Thea had a son, Werner Strothmann (b. 1907, d. 1996), who, like his father and his uncle Rudolf, was trained as a Lutheran theologian and served as a pastor between 1934 and 1962. Both father and son studied at Tübingen University; see Universitätsarchiv Tübingen UAT 40/225.141 (for Wilhelm) and UAT 364/27727 (for Werner). Before moving to Tübingen, Werner Strothmann spent two terms at Giessen, where he was also introduced into Orientalia by his uncle Rudolf Strothmann. During his time in Tübingen (May 1927 through May 1929), Werner attended Enno Littmann’s (b. 1875, d. 1958) classes on Arabic and Ethiopic, and he also studied Syriac and Turkish. Rudolf Strothmann recommended him to Littmann in his letter of 20 April 1927, Nachlass Littmann, Enno, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Handschriftenabteilung (Nachl. 245): “Sehr geehrter Herr Littmann, der angekündigte Schüler, Theologe im 3. Semester, gedenkt pünktlich zu Semesterbeginn bei Ihnen anzutreten. Dem Ibn Chaldun wird er, so denke ich, folgen können; er arbeitete im letzten Winterkolleg Tabari, tafsir zu Sūre 1 durch, sowie die Qaṣīden aus [Theodor] Nöldeke’s Delectus [veterum carminum arabicorum, Berlin: H. Reuther, 1890]. Den übrigen Delectus, einzelne historische Text- und Qur’anteile, ließ ich ihn lesen nach Art der “Privatlektüre” von Schulpforta, die ich helfend kontrollierte. Syrisch hatte er noch nicht mitgenommen, da ich ihm geraten hatte; zumal er im Hebräischen die übliche Unsicherheit mitbrachte von seiner Schule, hielt ich es für geboten, erst einmal sich zu beschränken. Da Sie aber im Syrischen für Fortgeschrittene lesen, habe ich ihn zu Ende des Semesters noch in die Grammatik eingeführt, und er hat noch durch [Arthur] Ungnad’schen Clavis [linguarum semiticarum] in den Ferien sich etwas weiter eingearbeitet. Er mag es also bei Ihnen versuchen … Der Studentus scheint für Orientalia recht interessiert; schlimm aber ist seine Aussprache; … Ich bitte von seiner Aussprache keine Rückschlüsse auf Gießen zu machen; meine Bemühungen hatten erst sehr langsam und recht wenig Erfolg. Bemerken muss ich, dass er ein Neffe von mir ist und meinen Namen trägt. Er ist aber in keiner Weise von mir bei der Studiendauer beeinflusst, sondern hat sich ganz freiwilzig zur Theologie entschieden und ist innerhalb derselben selbständig seinen Neigungen nachgegangen und hat, soviel ich weiss, hauptsächlich beim Alttestamentler Hans Schmidt [b. 1877, d. 1933] gehört.” From 1958 onward, Werner Strothmann embarked on an academic career focusing on Syriac church history. See Hubert Kaufhold, “Strothmann, Werner”; Gabriel Rabo, “Die Publikationen von Professor Dr. Werner Strothmann (1907–1996).”

9 See Landeskirchliches Archiv Lengerich: Taufen 1870–90: 1874 no. 158; death certificate issued by Standesamt Wuppertal (no. 127/1948). On 30 September 1913, Friedrich Strothmann married Johanna Elisabeth “Henny” Kiehl (b. 9 March 1883 in Herford, Westphalia),
1876, d. 14 March 1960 in Lengerich),\textsuperscript{10} Henriette Emilie (b. 25 March 1880, d. 26 November 1968 in Lengerich;\textsuperscript{11} she was Rudolf’s “Lieblingsschwester”\textsuperscript{12}), and Heinrich Friedrich Gustav (b. 8 July 1883, d. 7 February 1964 in Lengerich).\textsuperscript{13} All eight siblings were still alive when their mother passed away on

daughter of Christian Kiehl, a merchant in Herford, and Johanna Kiehl (née Schierbaum), in Blumenau, Brazil; see “Wedding announcement card, Friedrich Strothmann with Henny Strothmann (née Kiehl),” Strothmann family archive, SFA-B-16. Friedrich was trained as a teacher in Osnabrück, where he passed the first (“erste Lehrerprüfung”) and second exam (“zweite Lehrerprüfung”) in 1895 and 1898, respectively. He spent the next six years in Hannover, and between 1907 and 1913 he directed the Neue Deutsche Schule zu Blumenau (Escola Nova Alemã de Blumenau) in Brazil. See Renata Odebrecht, “Neue Deutsche Schule”; João Klug, “Escola Teuto-Catarinense,” passim; Rosinéte Gaertner, “A Matemática Escolar em Blumenau (SC),” passim. In 1913 Friedrich Strothmann was appointed the first director of the Evangelical Seminary for Teacher Training (“Deutsches Evangelisches Lehrerseminar”) of the Lutheran church in Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Cruz, Brazil, a position he held until 1925, after which he returned to Germany. Beginning April 1926, he served as rector of Städtische Evangelische Volksschule an der Südstraße in Wuppertal Elberfeld. For his formation and professional career in Germany, see Bibliothek für Bildungsgeschichtliche Forschung des DIPF, Gutachterstelle des BIL - Preußische Volksschullehrerkartei, Regierungsbezirk Düsseldorf, GUT LEHRER (Personenunterlagen von Lehrkräften), 85896; “Personal=Karte für Lehrer [Heinrich Wilhelm Friedrich Strothmann].” For his time in Brazil, see F[r]iedrich Strothmann, “Geschichte des Deutschen Evangelischen Lehrerseminars für Rio Grande do Sul”; Friedrich Strothmann, “Deutsche Bildungsarbeit in Brasilien”; Friedrich Strothmann, “Deutsche Lehrerbildung im Staate Rio Grande do Sul”; Ferdinand Schröder, Brasilien und Wittenberg, 241; Derti Jost Gomes, “Seminário Evangélico de Formação de Professores,” passim; P. Fräger, “Zur Geschichte des Seminars,” 3; Frederik Schulze, Auswanderung als nationalistisches Projekt, passim.

\textsuperscript{10} See Landeskirchliches Archiv Lengerich: Taufen 1870–90: 1876 no. 82; birth certificate issued by Standesamt Stadt Lengerich (no. 69/1876) and death certificate issued by Standesamt Stadt Lengerich (no. 93/1960). Lisette married Friedrich Wilhelm Bäumker “genannt Kuck” (b. 17 April 1863) on 25 May 1899. The couple had one daughter, Elise Sophie Henriette (b. 23 February 1902), who was married on 6 July 1942; see the marriage certificate issued by Standesamt Stadt Lengerich (no. 26/1899) and Landeskirchliches Archiv Lengerich: Trauungen 1852–1901, no. 24/1899.

\textsuperscript{11} See Landeskirchliches Archiv Lengerich: Taufen 1870–90: 1880 no. 68; birth certificate issued by Standesamt Stadt Lengerich (no. 46/1880); death certificate issued by Standesamt Stadt Lengerich (no. 380/1968). Emilie married the farmer Heinrich Friedrich Schwie (b. 4 August 1873, d. 1938) on 3 November 1910. The couple had one daughter, Karoline Elisabeth Hedwig (b. 9 October 1911); see the marriage certificate issued by Standesamt Stadt Lengerich (no. 71/1910).

\textsuperscript{12} See letter Rudolf Strothmann to Marga Lorenz (26 September 1913), Strothmann family archive, SFA-E-StrothmannMarga. Rudolf was one of the two witnesses when Emilie married Heinrich Schwie on 3 November 1910. See the marriage certificate issued by Standesamt Stadt Lengerich (no. 71/1910).

\textsuperscript{13} See Landeskirchliches Archiv Lengerich: Taufen 1870–90: 1883 no. 133; birth certificate issued by Standesamt Stadt Lengerich (no. 122/1883); death certificate issued by Standesamt Stadt Lengerich (no. 40/1964). Gustav married Elisabeth “Lisbeth” Günemann (b. 1 December 1888, d. 9 June 1978 in Lengerich) on 17 May 1913. The couple had one daughter, Else Margarethe (b. 27 June 1920), who was married on 8 July 1952; see the marriage certificate issued by Standesamt Stadt Lengerich (no. 23/1913). Gustav later inherited his father’s farm in Lengerich Wechte.
23 January 1884, at the age of forty. The widow, Johann Heinrich, subsequently married Sophie née Lagemann.

On 6 October 1913, Rudolf Strothmann (Figure 1.2) married Hermine Kornelia Elsbet Margarete “Marga” née Lorenz (b. 5 April 1891 in Erfurt, d. 1975), the fourth child of the Protestant theologian Ottomar Albert Hugo Lorenz (b. 25 January 1855 in Wettin, d. 1 May 1928 in Weißenfels) and Rosalie Louise “Rose” Lorenz, née von Voß (d. 27 November 1896 in Weißenfels; Figure 1.3). Marga’s family had moved in 1896 from Erfurt to Weißenfels, where Marga grew up and also attended the Höhere Mädchenschule zu Weißenfels. Marga had six siblings: Minna Amalia Hedwig (b. 29 July 1885), Agnes Rosa Elisabeth (b. 15 November 1886), Frieda Wilhelmina Augusta (b. 6 February 1888, d. 1890), Hildegard Agnes Martha “Hilde” (b. 8 October 1889), and Gotthilf Ar...
thur Ottomar (b. 26 November 1895, d. 1922). In addition, Marga had a half-sister, Gertrud Asta Rose (b. 21 April 1911, d. 2 May 1993), who was born to Ottomar’s third wife, Sophie Lorenz née Oelze (b. 18 February 1872, and still alive in 1932).

Rudolf and Marga Strothmann had three sons (Figure 1.4): Günther (b. 24 August 1914, d. 17 June 1979), who later became a medical doctor; Hans Ruprecht (b. 15 August 1916, d. 2 May 1928). Birth certificate, Stadtarchiv Erfurt, Haupt-Register Nr. 2385/1895.

24 See birth certificate, Standesamt Weißenfels, Register-Nr. 288/1911, and death certificate, Standesamt Staßfurt, Sterberegister-Nr. 213/1993. See also Landeskirchenarchiv Magdeburg, Personalakte Ottomar Lorenz for his marriage with Sophie Oelze and a copy of Rose’s birth certificate. On 2 September 1933 Rose married the treasurer and choirmaster Hermann Walter Unger, with whom she moved to Staßfurt, where the couple spent their entire lives. See marriage certificate, Standesamt Weißenfels, Heiratsregister-Nr. 219/1933.

25 Günther Strothmann’s curriculum vitae is included in his doctoral dissertation, submitted in 1938 to the Faculty of Medicine of Hamburg University; see Strothmann, “Ein Fall von Osteogenesis imperfecta,” 15: “Ich, Günther Strothmann, wurde geboren am 24. August 1914 in Pforta bei Naumburg/Saale als Sohn des Studienrats Dr. Rudolf Strothmann und seiner Ehefrau Margarete, geb. Lorenz. Von Ostern 1920 bis 1923 besuchte ich die Volksschule meines Heimatortes, von Ostern 1923 bis Herbst 1923 das Domgymnasium zu Naumburg. Im Herbst 1923 bekam mein Vater einen Ruf als ord. Prof. für Orientalische Sprachen an die Universität Gießen. Hier besuchte ich vom Herbst 1923 bis Herbst 1927 das humanistische Gymnasium. Im Herbst 1927 übersiedelte unsere Familie nach Hamburg, wo ich auf die Gelehrtenschule des Johanneums kam. Hier besuchte ich vom Herbst 1923 bis Herbst 1927 das humanistische Gymnasium. Im Herbst 1927 übersiedelte unsere Familie nach Hamburg, wo ich auf die Gelehrtenschule des Johanneums kam. Hier bestand ich Ostern 1932 das Abitur. Nach Studiensemestern in Hamburg, München, Hamburg machte ich im Oktober 1933 das Vorprüfung in Hamburg, nach zwei Semestern das Physikum in Freiburg. Nach Ableistung meiner Arbeitsdienstpflicht in den Sommerferien 1933 diente ich vom November 1933 bis Oktober 1935 bei der 17./I.R. Lübeck in Schwerin. Im Wintersemester 1935/36 nahm ich mein Studium in Hamburg wieder auf, wo ich mich im Herbst 1936 zum Staatsexamen meldete.” The doctoral dissertation, as well as other documents relating to Günther Strothmann’s childhood and education, notably Günther’s Zeugnisbuch, which was issued by the Gelehrtenschule des Johanneums and covers the period between fall 1927 and the end of 1931, and a certificate of his confirmation on 10 March 1929 in St. Johannis Kirche zu Eppendorf, are kept in the Strothmann family archive. For the Johanneum, accessed 15 March 2021, see https://www.johanneum-hamburg.de; for the church, accessed 15 March 2021, see https://www.st-johannis-eppendorf.de. For Günther Strothmann’s enrolment at Hamburg University from 24 April through 15 August 1932, see also “Günther Strothmann,” Matrikelportal online, accessed 20 April 2021, https://www.matrikelportal.uni-hamburg.de/receive/matrikelhh_matrikel_00028656; for his enrolment from 5 November 1933 onward, accessed 20 April 2021, see https://www.matrikelportal.uni-hamburg.de/receive/matrikelhh_matrikel_00030935. For his study attestation issued by Freiburg University on 25 August 1934, see Albert-Ludwigs-
20 March 2007; Figures 1.5 and 1.6); 26 and Peter Jürgen (b. 23 May 1919, d. 22 October 1992; Figure 1.7). 27 Ruprecht and Peter were both trained as lawyers, 28 and Peter also showed some interest in Islamica, as suggested by his 1950 doctoral
Figure 1.2 Rudolf Strothmann, summer 1929.
Strothmann family archive, photographic material, 2021.C-0030.
Figure 1.3 Rudolf and Marga Strothmann, 25 August 1929.
Strothmann family archive, photographic material, 2021.C-0038.
Biographical Sketch

Figure 1.4 Ruprecht, Peter, and Günther Strothmann, ca. 1930.
Strothmann family archive, photographic material, 2021.C-0077.

thesis, “Das Strafrecht der vorislamischen und islamischen Araber,” although there is nothing to suggest that he had any knowledge of Arabic—the dissertation is based exclusively on primary sources in translation and secondary literature. Later, Peter joined the German foreign service. Ruprecht

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29 “Das Strafrecht der vorislamischen und der islamischen Araber,” accessed 21 April 2021, https://katalogplus.sub.uni-hamburg.de/vufind/Record/046099484?rank=1.
30 From 1955 to 1958 Peter Strothmann served at the German consulate in New York, and from 1958 to 1961 he was assigned to the legal department of the German foreign ministry in Bonn. From 1961 to 1968 he served at the German embassy in The Hague. From 1968 to 1976 he was head of the criminal law unit (Strafrechtsreferat) within the legal department of the Foreign Office. His last post before retirement was that of consul general of the Federal Republic of Germany in Antwerp, 1976 to 1984. Peter Strothmann passed away on 22 October 1992 in Bonn. For Peter Strothmann’s term as consul at the German consulate in New York beginning on 30 September 1955, see Foreign Consular Offices in the United States, April 1, 1956, 20. The consul general at the time was Adolph Reifferscheidt (b. 1904, d. 1963); see Foreign Consular Offices in the United States, April 1, 1956, 20. As head of the criminal law unit from 1968, Strothmann was also in charge of the Legal Protection Office (Zentrale Rechtsschutzstelle [ZRS]), whose former head, Hans Gawlik (b. 1904, d. after 1968), retired in 1968. The ZRS provided legal support for German citizens who were wanted by non-German courts, being either charged with or convicted of Nazi and war crimes. In his capacity as head of the ZRS, Strothmann was
worked as a lawyer in Hamburg from 28 January 1949 until 31 January 1988, and his law firm was located at Mittelweg 31 in the Rotherbaum district of Hamburg (Figure 1.8). When involved in the case of the former Herbert Kappler (b. 1907, d. 1978), chief of the German Security Police and Security Service in Rome during World War II and responsible for the Ardeatine massacre, who was sentenced in 1948 to life imprisonment in Italy, where he remained until he escaped in 1977. See Felix Bohr, *Die Kriegsverbrecherlobby*, passim.
Rudolf Strothmann passed away on 15 May 1960, all three of his sons were married, and he had eight grandchildren (Figure 1.9). Marga passed away on 25 October 1975, and she was buried next to Rudolf at the Ohlsdorf Cemetery in Hamburg.

31 See the death notice for Rudolf Strothmann (Universitätsarchiv der Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg i. Br., Bestand: C 100–Nachlass Constantin von Dietze). Günther married Ingeborg (née Rüting) in August 1941, Ruprecht married Cläre (née Schlienkamp) in April 1950, and Peter married Rita (née Maretzy, b. 24 April 1923, d. 18 November 2017). Günther and Ingeborg (“Inge”) had four children, Jürgen (b. 1942), Norbert (b. 1946, d. 2010), Renate (b. 1947), and Gabriele (b. 1953). Ruprecht and Cläre had one daughter, Irene (b. 1953). Peter and Rita had three children, York Detlef (b. 1950), Petra (b. 1955), and Andrea (b. 1957); see also the death notice for Rita Strothmann, published on 25 November 2017 in General-Anzeiger Bonn.

32 See Hansestadt Hamburg, Standesämter, Generalregister Sterbefälle Ste-Sty (Jan. 1972–Dez. 1977 Blatt 10239. See also the death notice for Marga Strothmann in Hamburger Abendblatt 253 (30 October 1975), p. 15.

33 The locations of the two graves, which are no longer preserved, were K12–37 (Rudolf) and K12–36 (Marga). For the cemetery, see “Der Friedhof Ohlsdorf,” accessed 15 June 2021, https://www.friedhof-hamburg.de/die-friedhoefe/ohlsdorf.
Rudolf Strothmann received his early education in his hometown of Lengerich Wechte (“Volksschule”) and then in Tecklenburg (“Rektoratsschule”) and Osnabrück (“Gymnasium”), and he eventually attended the Gymnasium Arnoldinum in Steinfurt. Tecklenburg, Osnabrück, and Steinfurt all lie in the vicinity of Lengerich. The Arnoldinum was a humanist gymnasium, with Latin and Greek as the primary languages, though Strothmann also studied English and French during his high school years. On 7 July 1897 Strothmann received his high school certificate (“Zeugnis der Reife”) from the Arnoldinum. Strothmann’s attachment to the Arnoldinum is sug-

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34 Now known as the Graf-Adolf-Gymnasium, accessed 9 December 2020, https://www.graf-adolf-gymnasium.de/wordpress/startseite/geschichte-des-gag.
35 For Strothmann’s early education, see also Hunsche, “Lengericher Experte für schiitische Glaubensrichtung im Iran” (the account is to be treated with some caution).
36 For a brief history of the Arnoldinum, see “Geschichte der Schule,” accessed 27 November 2020, https://www.arnoldinum.de/index.php/schulprofil/geschichte-d-schule.
37 Promotionsakte Rudolf Strothmann, Universitätsarchiv Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (IIAHW), Rep. 21, Nr. 633, “Gesuch des Oberlehrers u. Pastors Rudolf Strothmann um Zulassung zur Promotion,” Anlage 2, “Zeugnis der Reife” (7 July 1897).
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Figure 1.8 Rudolf and Marga Strothmann, 26 April 1942, with Günther and Inge, Peter, and Ruprecht and Cläre, and an unknown person. Strothmann family archive, photographic material, 2021.C-0040.

gested by his later dedication of *Ismailitischer Kommentar zum Koran*, published between 1944 and 1955, to his former school.\(^{38}\)

Like his older brother Wilhelm,\(^ {39}\) Rudolf Strothmann decided to embark on a career as a theologian—\(^ {40}\) as was typical at the time, his future plans are already mentioned in his high school certificate. On 25 October 1897 Rudolf enrolled at the University of Halle-Wittenberg, where he spent four terms, from winter term 1897/98 through summer term 1899. His study program was that of a typical student of Protestant theology,\(^ {41}\) and his teachers included Georg Beer (b. 1865, d.

\(^{38}\) See the dedication in the last fascicle of the publication: “Dem Gymnasium Arnoldinum zu Burgsteinfurt.”

\(^{39}\) See 5n8.

\(^{40}\) See letter Friedrich Große-Dresselhaus to Strothmann (30 July 1936), Strothmann family archive, SFA-D-Dresselhaus: “Mit meinem Vater zusammen habe ich Ihren Herrn Vater auch gelegentlich kennengelernt, das war bei den Vorbereitungen zur Kaiserfeier in Tecklenburg im Jahre 1907. Ich erinnere mich, dass er uns damals von zwei Söhnen gesagt hat, die Theologie studierten.”

\(^{41}\) For a characteristic study plan for Protestant theology during this period, see e.g., “Plan des akademischen Studiums für evangelische Theologen.”
1946), Willibald Beyschlag (b. 1823, d. 1900), Erich Haupt (b. 1841, d. 1910), Ferdinand Heuckenkamp (b. 1862, d. 1938), Martin Kähler (b. 1835, d. 1912), Emil Kautzsch (b. 1841, d. 1910), Friedrich Loofs (b. 1858, d. 1928), Max Reischle (b. 1858, d. 1905), Wilhelm Rothstein (b. 1853, d. 1925), Carl Steuernagel (b. 1869, d. 1958), and Goswin Karl Uphues (b. 1841, d. 1916). With the exception of Uphues, who taught philosophy, and Heuckenkamp, with whom Strothmann studied Italian, all of his teachers were Protestant theologians. While in Halle, Strothmann also began to study Hebrew with Steuernagel, a dedicated teacher of Hebrew grammar and, for more than

42 For all of these individuals, see “Catalogus Professorum Helensis,” accessed 27 November 2020, https://www.catalogus-professorum-halensis.de.
two decades (1903–28), editor of the *Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins*, the organ of the German Society for the Exploration of Palestine, which Strothmann later (in 1913) joined. Although there is no indication that Strothmann learned Arabic during his sojourn in Halle, two of his university teachers, namely, Wilhelm Rothstein and Georg Beer, had received a thorough training in Arabic and may have sparked his interest in the language and in Islamic culture and history. Rothstein had earned his PhD in 1877 in Bonn with a dissertation titled “De chronographo arabe anonymo qui codice Berolinensi Sprengeriana tricesimo continetur,” and Beer, who was also an accomplished Hebraist, had submitted a doctoral dissertation to Leipzig University (1888) on the logic section of al-Ghazâlî’s (d. 505 AH [1111]) *Maqâṣid al-falâsifat*. Some of Strothmann’s teachers in Halle had also taught his two-years-older contemporary, Enno Littmann (b. 1875, d. 1958), who spent six terms in Halle (fall 1895 through 1898) and who provides a vivid description of Halle’s faculty in his autobiographical account:

Professor Kähler erinnerte in seiner Art sehr an Professor [August Hermann] Cremer [b. 1834, d. 1903] in Greifswald, und zu ihm konnte ich kein rechtes inneres Verhältnis gewinnen, obwohl er mir imponierte und die Hallischen Studenten der Theologie in großer Zahl seine Vorlesungen besuchten. ... In der Theologie interessierte mich vor allem das Alte Testament, das durch den vortrefflichen Lehrer E. Kautzsch und den gründlichen, aber etwas trockenen W. Rothstein vertreten war; dazu kam dann der junge Privatdozent Steuernagel, dessen Unterricht im Hebräischen bei den Studenten sehr beliebt war. Im alttestamentlichen Seminar von Kautzsch wurde ich Senior und hatte als solcher die Einlieferung der Seminar-Arbeiten zu überwachen. Für eine meiner Seminar-Arbeiten erhielt ich eine kleine Prämie, die ich zu

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43 See Chapter 4. In addition to *Hebräische Grammatik: Mit Paradigmen, Literatur, Übungsstücken und Wörterverzeichnis* (first published in 1903 and repeatedly reprinted), Steuernagel published *Methodische Anleitung zum Hebräischen Sprachunterricht (im Anschluss an des Verfassers Hebräische Grammatik)* in 1905. For an appreciation of his scholarship, see the obituary by Martin Noth, “Carl Steuernagel.”

44 Georg Beer, ed., *Al-Gazzâlî’s Makâṣid al-falâsifât*, part 1. The dissertation is dedicated to Friedrich Dieterici (b. 1821, d. 1903), Beer’s principal teacher in Berlin. For an assessment of Beer’s scholarly oeuvre, with further references, accessed 2 July 2022, see “Beer, Georg Gottfried,” https://kulturstiftung.org/biographien/beer-georg-gottfried-2.
einer kurzen Ferienreise verwandte. Im Hause Kautzsch durfte ich auch verkehren, nahm gern an den offenen Abenden teil, an denen ich auch einige Vorträge zu halten hatte, und wurde mit zweiern der sechs Söhne näher bekannt, dem älteren Rudolf, der Privatdozent der Kunstgeschichte war, und dem jüngeren Karl, der Theologie studierte.45

Littmann was also one of the founding members of the Akademische Orientalische Gesellschaft in Halle, which may have still been active when Strothmann came to Halle. Though Strothmann was never a member, he may have participated in some of the society’s activities.46

Strothmann spent the academic year 1899/1900 in Bonn, where he continued his formation as a theologian.47 In addition, he began to delve into Oriental studies, attending some of the courses given by Eugen Prym (b. 1843, d. 1913), namely, “Syrisches Recht,” “Syrische Schriftsteller,” and “Orientalisches Seminar.”48 Strothmann’s engagement with both Syriac and Hebrew must have been continuous and intensive, as he became an accomplished Hebraist and Syriacist. This is evident, for example, from his later curriculum at Gießen University, where he taught from the winter term of 1923/24,
succeeding Paul E. Kahle (b. 1875, d. 1964),\textsuperscript{49} until the summer term of 1927.\textsuperscript{50} At that time Strothmann was appointed to Hamburg University as the successor of Hellmut Ritter (b. 1892, d. 1971), who had been condemned to imprisonment on the basis of §175 of the German penal code in October 1925 and fired from his position on 31 March 1926.\textsuperscript{51} Strothmann held the chair in Semitic languages and literatures for two decades, until his retirement in 1947.\textsuperscript{52} His curriculum at Hamburg also encompassed Himyarite inscriptions.\textsuperscript{53}

\textsuperscript{49} On Paul E. Kahle, see Sabine Schmidtke, \textit{German Orientalism in Times of Turmoil}.

\textsuperscript{50} See \textit{Vorlesungsverzeichnis der Hessischen Ludwigs-Universität zu Giessen}, where the following courses taught by Strothmann are listed for Hebrew: “Einführung in die wissenschaftliche Grammatik des Hebräischen” (summer term 1924), “Hebräisch: Syntax und Lektüre unpunktierter Texte” (winter term 1924/25), “Hebräisch: Syntax und Lektüre des Tractat Schabath” (summer term 1925), “Hebräisch: Fortsetzung der Syntax und Lektüre des Traktats Joma” (winter term 1925/26), “Hebräisch: Traktat Joma” (summer term 1926), “Hebräisch: Kosch ha-schana” (winter term 1926/27). For Syriac, the following courses are listed: “Syrisch: kursorische Lektüre leichterer Texte” and “Syrisch für Fortgeschrittene: Lektüre zur Geschichte der orientalischen Klöster” (summer term 1924), “Syrisch I: Anfängerkursus” and “Syrisch II: Thomas von Marga” (winter term 1924/25), “Syrisch I: Anfängertexte” and “Syrisch II: Vita des Mar Augen” (summer term 1925), “Syrisch I: Leichtere Texte” and “Syrisch II: Mao Jabalah ed. Bedjan” (winter term 1925/26), “Syrisch I: Einführung” and “Syrisch: Isaak von Ninive. De perfectione religiosa” (summer term 1926), and “Syrisch: Liturgische Texte” (winter term 1926/27)—and this in addition to regular courses on Arabic language and literature and the history and culture of Islamic civilization. In addition, Strothmann taught Persian during the summer term of 1926 (“Einführung in das Neupersische”). For Strothmann’s time in Gießen, see also Ewald Wagner, “Das Seminar.”

\textsuperscript{51} See Josef van Ess, \textit{Im Halbschatten}, 36–43.

\textsuperscript{52} “Strothmann, Rudolf,” \textit{Hamburger Professorinnen- und Professorenkatalog}. accessed 8 December, 2020, https://www.hppk.uni-hamburg.de/resolve/id/cph_person_00000279. See also letter Strothmann to Kahle (18 January 1946), Universität degli studi di Torino, Biblioteca di Orientalistica, Fondo Paul Kahle, COR_2241 (the source of all Kahle correspondence cited in this study, except where otherwise noted): “Die John Rylands hatte mir noch die ersten beiden Bände der Woodbroke Studies geschenkt. Hätte ich nur mehr davon, da mich zur Zeit auch Syrisch und Karschuni stark beschäftigt. … Einstweilen lese, lese, lese ich alle verfügbaren Texte: arabisch, syrisch, mandäisch, hebräisch, aramäisch usw.” Strothmann refers here to Alphonse Mingana’s (b. 1878, d. 1937) \textit{Woodbrooke Studies: Christian Documents in Syriac, Arabic, and Garshuni}. The entire series comprises seven fascicles, published between 1927 and 1934. The contents of volumes 1 and 2 are as follows: Vol. 1. Barsalibi’s treatise against the Melchites. Genuine and apocryphal works of Ignatius of Antioch. A Jeremiah apocryphon. A new life of John the Baptist. Some uncanonical Psalms. Vol. 2. Timothy’s apology for Christianity. The lament of the Virgin. The martyrdom of Pilate.

\textsuperscript{53} See letter Strothmann to Kahle (28 December 1937): “Sehr schade ist, dass [Eugen] Mittwoch (b. 1876, d. 1942) sämtliche himjaritischen Steine der Rathjens-Sammlung im voraus mit Beschlag belegt hat! Wir hätten hier sonst sehr gute Bearbeiter dafür, wie ich denn auch an den Steinen selbst ein Kolleg halte.” For the dispersed Carl Rathjens collections, see Hakin Raffat, “Die Südarabien-Sammlung Rathjens.” See also Strothmann, \textit{Mein schönstes orientalisches Semester}, passim, which testifies to his engagement with Himyarite inscriptions during his sojourn in Yemen in the spring of 1930.
Beyond Prym, the majority of Strothmann’s teachers in Bonn were theologians, though Strothmann also continued to pursue his interests in philosophy and the study of religion: Wilhelm Bender (b. 1845, d. 1901), Eduard Bratke (b. 1861, d. 1906), Joseph Geyser (b. 1869, d. 1948), Eduard Grafe (b. 1855, d. 1922), Arnold Meyer (b. 1861, d. 1934), Eugen Sachsse (b. 1839, d. 1917), Carl Schaarschmidt (b. 1822, d. 1908), Friedrich Sieffert (b. 1843, d. 1911), and Alfred Wiedemann (b. 1856, d. 1936).

The final attestation of studies issued by Bonn University is dated 14 September 1900. Strothmann spent the academic year 1901/2 at the Predigerseminar zu Soest. In the autumn of 1902 he moved to Münster, not far from Lengerich, Strothmann’s birthplace, where he served as a teacher of religion for Lutheran pupils in the high schools of Münster (“Religionslehrer für die evangelischen Schüler der städtischen höheren Lehreanstalten von Münster”) until Easter 1904, after which he held appointments as assistant teacher (“Hilfslehrer,” from 1904) and later senior teacher (“Oberlehrer,” from 1 April

54 “Geschichte der griechischen Philosophie,” summer term 1900; for this and the courses listed in the following notes, see Promotionsakte Rudolf Strothmann, UAHW, Rep. 21, Nr. 633, “Abgangszeugnis der Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelm-Universität zu Bonn” (14 September 1900), as well as the relevant entries in the Verzeichnis der Vorlesungen for winter term 1899/90 and summer term 1900.
55 “Kirchengeschichtliche Übung,” winter term 1899/1900.
56 “Geschichte der neueren Philosophie seit Bako und Kartesius,” summer term 1900.
57 “Neutestamentliches Seminar,” summer term 1900.
58 “Römerbrief,” summer term 1900.
59 “Praktische Theologie I. Teil (Grundlegung, Katechetik, Liturgik)” and “Katechetisches Seminar,” winter term 1899/1900, and “Praktische Theologie II. Teil” and “Homiletisches Seminar,” summer term 1900.
60 “Ursprung und Entwicklungs geschichte der Religion,” winter term 1899/1900.
61 “Christliche Ethik” and “Systematisch-theologisches Seminar,” winter term 1899/1900, and “Dogmatik,” summer term 1900.
62 “Ägypten und das Alte Testament,” winter term 1899/1900.
63 For this institution, see Peter Stoll, “Die Geschichte des Predigerseminars”; Ulrich Rottschäfer, ed., 100 Jahre Predigerseminar in Westfalen.
1905) at the Schillergymnasium in Münster. It was also in Münster that he passed all exams qualifying him as pastor and teacher on 8 May 1901 (“erste theologische Prüfung”), 23 September 1903 (“zweite theologische Prüfung”), 30 January 1904 (“Prüfung für das Lehramt an höheren Schulen”), and 1 April 1904 (“Zeugnis der Anstellungsfähigkeit”). He was ordained pastor on 9 October 1907 in Magdeburg. During his years in Münster, Strothmann continued to attend courses at the local Königliche Universität. Although Semitic languages were not taught there at the time, it is likely that Strothmann attended the reading classes in Hebrew and Aramaic that were offered by the Catholic theologian and orientalist Winand Fell (b. 1837, d. 1908), a former student of Heinrich Leberecht Fleischer (b. 1801, d. 1888). From 1 October 1907 until 1923,
Strothmann filled the double position of a senior teacher (initially “Oberlehrer” and then, from July 1916 onward, “Studienrat” or high school teacher, with the rank of Professor) and a deacon (“zweiter Geistlicher” or “Diakon”) at the prestigious boarding school of Schulpforta ([Königliche] Landesschule Pforta) in Saxony-Anhalt, which was famed for its classical education and was the alma mater of such luminaries as the philosophers Johann Gottlieb Fichte (b. 1762, d. 1814), Friedrich Nietzsche (b. 1844, d. 1900), the Egyptologist Karl Richard Lepsius (b. 1810, d. 1884), and the historian Leopold von Ranke (b. 1795, d. 1886).