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# Berlin Wall Fragment

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# Berlin Wall Fragment

Collection Number SC 42  
Blume Library Special Collections

StMU

Saint Mary's University of San Antonio  
One Camino Santa Maria  
San Antonio TX 78228-8530 USA  
Phone: 210-436-3011  
[www.stmarytx.edu](http://www.stmarytx.edu)

## Descriptive Summary

Donor: Father Franz Schorp, SM; Donor number: 2016.7  
Extent: 1 item  
Inclusive Dates: circa 1989-1992  
Language:  
Format: lithic object

Finding Aids:

Alternative Forms:

Restrictions:

**Description:** This object is a chunk of gray concrete 5 inches long x 3 ½ inches high x 3 inches deep with one flat side on which is written in black felt tip marker: "Extracted from the Berlin Wall by CMSGT Bob Taylor." Under the inscription is the signature of *Bob Taylor*. No date is included.

**Provenance:** CMSGT Bob Taylor gave the fragment to Father Franz Schorp, SM who was his teacher at Saint Mary's University during the 1990s. Fr. Schorp gave the fragment to the Blume Library Special Collections on September 13, 2016.

**Biographical Note:** At the time he acquired the fragment CMSGT Bob Taylor was a member of the United States Army in Germany. Later as a student at St. Mary's University he gave the fragment of the Wall to his teacher Fr. Franz Schorp.

**Institutional History:** The Berlin Wall (German: *Berliner mauer*) was a physical barrier that divided the city of Berlin from 1961 to 1989. It was built by the German Democratic Republic (Communist "East Germany") to cut off West Berlin (under Allied occupation) from the rest of East Germany. West Berlin had become a means of escaping from East Germany by simply crossing a street. The wall stopped that access to asylum. In 1989 radical political changes in the Soviet Bloc led to the East German government announcing on November 9, 1989 that all of its citizens could visit West Berlin and West Germany. Crowds of East Germans climbed onto the Wall joined by West Germans on the other side in a celebratory atmosphere. Over the next few weeks, euphoric people and souvenir hunters chipped away parts of the Wall. The actual demolition of the Wall began in the summer of 1990 and was completed by 1992. Formal reunification of Germany was concluded on October 3, 1990.

**Subject Headings:** Berlin Wall, Berlin Germany, 1961-1876; Military

**Location:** V10 Box