

Recent Acquisitions In The Center for MB Studies

Al Reimer, *My Harp is Turned to Mourning*. (Hyperion Press, 1985). A historical novel set in the Russian Mennonite colonies during 1905-1924.

Wesley Berg, *From Russia With Music*. (Hyperion Press, 1985). A study of the Russian Mennonite choral singing tradition from 1870-1920 and its introduction to the United States and Canada from 1870-1960.

Gerald Peters, *The Diary of Anna Berg*. (CMBC Publications, 1985). This diary, covering the years 1916-1924, recalls the experience of a young woman during the Russian revolutions and her later emigration to Canada.

Dick Thiessen, *Beyond Those Mountains*. (Kindred Press, 1985). The story of a family's journey out of Russia, through China and Paraguay into Canada.

Judy Schroeder Tomlonson, *Mennonite Quilts and Pieces*. (Good Books, 1985). A pictorial view of quilting by Kansas Mennonites. Contains several examples of Mennonite Brethren-made quilts.

Rachel T. Pellman, *Amish Quilt Patterns*. (Good Books, 1984). Need some new ideas for quilt designs? This book gives complete patterns for 40 traditional Amish quilt designs.

New Genealogies in the Center:

Peter F. Rempel Genealogy

The Family of Abram P. Martens

Family Record: Heinrich Schroeder and Maria Keller

The Center has also recently acquired microfilm copies of the *Hillsboro Journal* and *Vorwaerts* for the years 1908-1920. We plan to purchase additional volumes in the future.

The Center for MB Studies is open Monday-Friday, 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-5:00. Some materials may be used by special arrangement on evenings and weekends.

Current Projects In The Archives

1. Congregational data project: For the past several months, we have been gathering statistical data on all Pacific District Conference congregations. Information includes membership and average attendance figures, lists of ministers, financial data, and bibliographies of research material available for further study. The Pacific District has nearly been completed, at which time we will begin on one of the other districts. The finished product will be available to researchers in the Center.
 2. We continue to process Missions/Services archival material. The records from South Texas, Oklahoma, Japan and Europe have all been recently completed.
 3. The records of the California Mennonite Disaster Service have also been processed in the last few weeks and are now available to interested persons.
-

Society Sponsors Low German Film Showing

On March 2 approximately 125 persons gathered at the Immanuel High School auditorium in Reedley to view Dave Dueck's Low German film, "Koop enn Bua en Dietschland." The film, based on Arnold Dyck's humorous novel of the same title, was well-received by those in attendance. Dueck expressed his pleasure with the positive response of Society members and encouraged the Society to sponsor more Low German events in the future. For those interested in other Low German writing by Arnold Dyck, his complete works may be found in the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies in Fresno.

Mennonite Film Available For Home Viewing

Dueck Films of Winnipeg has recently released in video cassette format the well-known film, "And When They Shall Ask." The Historical Society has purchased a copy of the video in VHS format, which is available for check-out to Historical Society members for a two-week period at no charge. Direct inquiries to Kevin Enns-Rempel, Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies, 4824 E. Butler, Fresno, CA 93727-5097, ph. (209) 251-7194 ext. 1055.

Europe Tour Planned

Fresno Pacific College is sponsoring a European tour this May that may be of interest to the membership of the Society. The tour will combine visiting some of the important sites of early Anabaptist and Mennonite history with many of the cultural and historic places of general European interest. Mennonite stops will include Amsterdam and Friesland in Holland; the Palatinate in West Germany; Zurich, Basel and the Emmental valley in Switzerland and Ghent in Belgium. Additional cities include Cologne, Munich, Paris and Brussels. The tour leader is Dr. Paul Toews, professor of History and also Director of the Center for MB Studies. Some additional space is still available. Contact the Alumni office at the College if you are interested.

Colonists, cont'd

study of the church records in Harvey, North Dakota, and Lodi, California, would undoubtedly add other names to the list. Indeed, since new families are continually joining virtually every Mennonite Brethren church, new names are also entering the records.

It is almost certain that a century from now, there will be a host of new names which many will label as "Mennonite" names. We have seen how the German "Colonists" from Russia have left their imprint upon the family composition of the Mennonite Brethren Church. It is just as likely that a present-day family or two with "colonial" roots in this country will leave the same mark upon the Mennonite Brethren Church of the future!