

# Voices from the Vault

Issue 13

November 2010

## Zinzendorf's Personal Bible Discovered

Interesting discoveries can still be made at the Moravian Archives. While recently going through our (uncataloged) Bible collection, one particularly interesting copy was discovered. It is an eighteenth-



century German Bible. There is nothing unusual about that, but my interest was sparked for two reasons. First, this Bible was printed in 1724 in Büdingen, a small German town near the Moravian center of Herrnhag. In later years, many Moravian publications were printed in Büdingen. The other reason was the frontispiece—the print opposite the title page (see p. 2) by Moravian artist Christoph Heinrich Müller (1705-1751). Müller engraved a depiction of Jesus's Supper at Emmaus at Zinzendorf's request, who incorporated the print as frontispiece to the publication of his own translation of the New Testament. Since Zinzendorf's NT was printed in 1739, I was curious to find the same frontispiece in the Büdingen Bible, printed fifteen years earlier.

Once I examined the 1724 Bible a bit closer, I found a



great number of manuscript markings. The handwriting was unmistakably Zinzendorf's (1700-1760), leader of the Moravian Church! On the end paper in the front of the Bible there are calculations and a table with the names of thirteen nations in the Hebrew Bible, all written with Zinzendorf's typical red pencil. There are also the words "noch 60 exquisite Spr[üch]e]" (another

*continued on p. 2*

## Special points of interest:

- Archives' youngest volunteer
- Spangenberg prints for sale
- word from the President of the Archives' Board
- Archives' email list gets upgraded
- archaeology at Moravian site of Gnadenhütten



## Art Contest Reception

An artists' reception announcing the winners of our art contest was held Tuesday evening, September 21st at the Archives. More than 60 attendees feasted on shrimp, cheese and Richard Groman's sugar cake at the event generously sponsored by Nazareth Veterinary Center and Vaughn Terrinoni, Esq. Lanie Graf, assistant archivist, spoke

briefly on Zinzendorf's idea of Christian countenance before prizes were conferred by Mike Long of Long Funeral Home, sponsor of the contest, to the following winners:

- 1st prize (\$100.00): Sandra Corpora, Bethlehem, PA, *Mary Ann*
- 2nd prize (\$50.00): Heather Reinert, Bethlehem, PA, *Elizabeth Blum*

- 3rd prize (\$25.00): Emily Bross, Nazareth, PA, *Anticipation*

We received 25 entries for the contest, which now fill the small gallery and will be on display through December 31st. We were very pleased with the quality and variety of the entries received—they really brought Zinzendorf's message to life! Thanks to all who participated and supported our event!



*Mary Ann*, oil on canvas by Sandra Corpora

# Zinzendorf's Personal Bible (cont.)

60 exquisite verses) with a list of various books of the Bible.

This last remark was especially interesting in combination with the fact that throughout the Old Testament numerous verses are numbered and underlined in red. When we add the 305 numbered verses with the comment on the end paper regarding the "60 exquisite verses" we have a total of 365. Did Zinzendorf perhaps use these verses to compile the Daily Texts? With the help of the Unity Archives in Herrnhut all the 1731-1761 Daily Texts editions, selected by Zinzendorf, were studied, but not a single year contained these 365 verses. Zinzendorf must have underlined and selected these texts for a purpose we have yet to discern.

In addition to the verses underlined in red, there are Old Testament texts underlined in black. All the Daily Texts of the 1747 edition correspond with those underlined in black in this Bible. Does that mean Zinzendorf used this particular Bible to compile that edition of the Daily Texts? There are also items underlined in green. What was the reason for that? Further study is required to gain a better understanding of the use of this Bible.

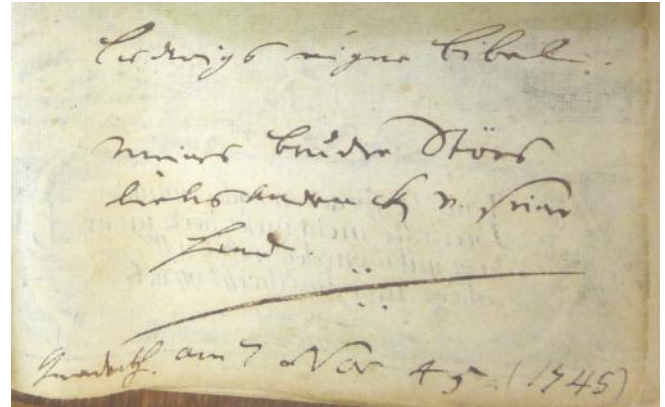
Another intriguing feature of this Bible is a rectangular cutout on the inside of the back cover, measuring 6.9 x 4.2 mm. Did Zinzendorf perhaps keep an image in the cutout? The border of the cutout is colored in red. Around this cutout there is another cutout—not as deep as the first one and only cutting through the end paper. It is slightly larger than the cutout through the board (8.3 x 5.5 mm) and could have served as a frame for the item originally kept in the deeper cutout.

In the front of the volume there is a handwritten entry

confirming this Bible was once owned by Zinzendorf. This entry, written in Zinzendorf's own hand, also tells us the name of the person who presented the Bible to Zinzendorf. It says: "Ludwigs eigne Bibel. Meines Bruder Störs liebes Andencken von seiner Hand. Gnadenth[al] am 7. Nov. 45" (Ludwig's own Bible. A dear memento of my Brother Stör. Gnadenthal, Nov. 7, 1745). Johann David Stöhr (1702-1774), a book binder, was the brother of the printer Johann Christoph Stöhr, with whom he owned a book shop in Büdingen. Johann David joined the Moravians in 1739 and became a "laborer" for the Moravian Church. During the 1740s Stöhr served in Neudietendorf, a Moravian community near Erfurt in Thuringia. During these years, Moravians referred to Neudietendorf as Gnadenthal. When Zinzendorf traveled through Neudietendorf in November of 1745, Stöhr gave him this Bible. It is likely that Stöhr bound the Bible himself, combining the frontispiece, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. Zinzendorf marked it as his personal Bible and must have used it intensively for a number of years. The worn-off gilt edge and the wear and tear of the leather binding seem to suggest heavy use.

There is a connection between the Stöhrs and Johann Friedrich Regelein, the printer of the Bible. Regelein's daughter married the printer Johann Christoph Stöhr, who continued Regelein's business.

How did this Bible arrive to the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem? Although the Unity Archives in Herrnhut seems to be a more logical place for items from the Zinzendorf family, many items were in fact handed down in the family for several generations. An important branch of Zinzen-



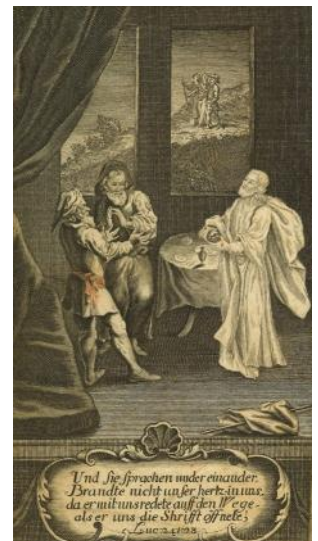
Zinzendorf's ownership mark (see text)

dorf's descendants ended up in America. It is quite possible that Zinzendorf's personal Bible came through the De Schweinitz family, descendants of Zinzendorf's daughter, Benigna. The addition of "1745" in the ownership mark seems to be added by Edmund De Schweinitz (1825-1887), Zinzendorf's great-great-grandson.

The discovery of Zinzendorf's personal Bible is extremely important. A more detailed examination of the notes and underlinings in the Bible will give us insight into how Zinzendorf used the Bible and how he compiled the Daily Texts.

But there is one more important aspect about this Bible. No record for this particular edition can be found on WorldCat, a combined online catalog of more than 71,000 libraries throughout the world! There are records for later editions (1732, 1740, 1747, 1753, 1760, 1765, and 1771) but none for the 1724 edition. Since the 1753 edition is marked as the fifth edition, the 1724 edition is most likely the first edition. The Moravian Archives is the only known institution in the world that owns a 1724 edition of this particular Bible.

Paul Peucker



Zinzendorf pasted this engraving into his Bible.



Numbered texts in the book of Isaiah

## Volunteer Profile: Kieran Madden

Kieran Madden is an eighth-grader at Moravian Academy who volunteered with us this summer to fulfill her CCD volunteer requirement for confirmation through St. Anne's Church in Bethlehem. Kieran loves history and social studies, and became acquainted with the Archives while doing research for a state history project in Mrs. Fessler's fourth-grade class at the Academy. She is not only our youngest researcher, but also our youngest volunteer to date.

It was a pleasure to work with Kieran. Within 25 volunteer hours, she completed a significant amount of work, including: the organization and re-housing of the Friedrich Agthe music collection, letters of James Peifer, Civil War soldier, and Tremont Terrace architectural drawings. She indexed the images in the Unity Archives calendars, finished re-shelving the Archives' library and started cataloging the Rau collection of glass slides. The Archives' staff was challenged to keep up with her!

Kieran has been on the Honor Roll at her school each trimester since the 6th grade. She plays many sports (including field hockey and swimming), but has also played flute for more than five years, and recently started piano lessons. She is involved with her school orchestra, chapel musicians and chorus. She also helps to coach younger kids through her swim club.

We're glad Kieran volunteered with us this summer, and hope she returns next year!



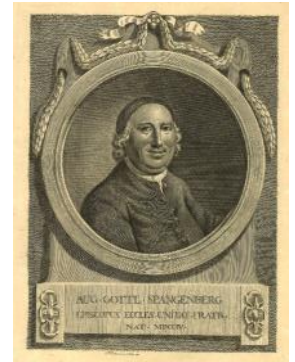
## Spangenberg Portraits for Sale

Are you looking for an original Christmas present? The Archives has a limited number of original 18th-century prints for sale. The prints show the portrait of Bishop August Gottlieb Spangenberg (1704-1792), longtime leader of the Moravian Church in America. The engraving dates from 1783

and was done by Moravian artist Johann Hermann Hammerich (1742-1801). Hammerich, who was a trained painter, joined the Moravians when he was 27 years old. He was ordained in 1782 and served in various congregations in Germany. The Unity Archives in Herrnhut has

several of his portraits of Moravian leaders.

The Spangenberg print comes in uncut condition (17¼ x 11"); the plate size is 10 ¾ x 8 ½. The print can be ordered for \$200 plus shipping from the Moravian Archives. For questions, call the Archives at 610-866-3255.



## A Word from the Archives' President

We all understand the role of the Moravian Archives as a repository for the history of our denomination. Our recognition of the need to maintain the history of our faith honors those who made it what it is today; furthermore, it honors God by the stewardship of recording and preserving the actions of our brothers and sisters in faith, throughout our past.

However, when the past comes alive through the actions of our Archives, new faith is born. A few recent events have brought our history and this inspirational faith alive in the present day. The recent discovery by Archives' director Paul Peucker of a Bible, used by Count Zinzendorf to select the Daily Texts, is

a cherished addition to the history of our church's early years. This discovery in our collection underscores the potential for one soul, filled with the Holy Spirit, to have an unending effect of the life of his church and our life with Christ. This is inspirational today and must be shared.

Another recent event at the Archives recognized the artwork submitted by local artists on the theme, *countenance*, one's facial expression, expressing the state of one's soul. Zinzendorf defined countenance as "the index of the inward state of a person" which "bespeaks one's mind, one's disposition, and the moral faculties of the soul." During the reception Lanie Graf, assistant archivist, elaborated

on Zinzendorf's idea, "the health of our countenance must always betray the inward happiness of our heart." And this inward happiness, true happiness, could only be gained by becoming a "voluntary slave, an absolute dependent" on Christ. In short, only by having Christ as the Head of every aspect of one's life, and cultivating an ongoing relationship with Christ—one that continually grows and does not remain static—can one achieve a true inner beauty and peace.

If we live our lives in the manner we learn from our ancestors of faith, the result will be great things in our lives and in the life of our church. Our history is not in "moth balls," it is alive.

*Michael A. Long, President*



## Newsletter from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem PA

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Support the Moravian Archives by becoming a Friend. Send your check to the address above or make an online donation: [moravianchurcharchives.org/support.php](http://moravianchurcharchives.org/support.php)

## Upcoming Events at the Archives

### “The Health of Thy Countenance”

Through December 31, 2010; exhibition at the Moravian Archives

### German-English Advent Singstunde

November 30, 2010, 7:00 pm at the Old Chapel (on the campus of Central Moravian Church, Church and Main Streets in Bethlehem)

### Friends' Day 2011

Lecture by Dr. Benjamin Carter (more information below)

March 20, 2011, 3:00 pm at the Archives

*All current and future Friends of the Moravian Archives are invited!*

### German-English Lenten Singstunde

March 22, 2011, 7:00 pm at the Old Chapel (on the campus of Central Moravian Church, Church and Main Streets in Bethlehem)

### German Script Course

June 6 - 17, 2011, in the reading room of the Archives. Please note that the Archives will be closed for research during this time.

For updates, visit [www.moravianchurcharchives.org/events.php](http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/events.php)

## News and Announcements

### Reception for Synod delegates

The Archives hosted an open house and “happy hour” on Friday, June 18, for delegates to the 2010 Provincial Synod held in Bethlehem. One-hundred Synod delegates enjoyed refreshments, met with staff and friends, and viewed the new exhibit in our gallery. It was a great opportunity for delegates to learn more about the Archives while socializing and taking a break from the hectic Synod schedule. A *vergnügt* time was had by all!

### Archaeology Lecture

The speaker at our upcoming Friends' Day (March 20, 2011) is Dr. Benjamin Carter (Muhlenberg College). Carter

will speak about the archaeological examination of the site of the Moravian mission in Gnadenhütten, Pennsylvania. Gnadenhütten was a settlement of American Indians until it was destroyed during an attack in November of 1755.

### Preservation Needs Assessment

The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) in Philadelphia conducted a preservation needs assessment at the Moravian Archives on July 12, 2010. Two consultants reviewed practices and policies at the Archives and formulated recommendations for the short term and the long term. One of our biggest needs is the installation of movable shelving in the manuscript vault, as well as hanging storage racks for

framed items. The assessment will also help us when applying for funding for the conservation of the records from the Eastern West Indies. These records are extremely fragile and cannot be used in many cases.

The Preservation Needs Assessment was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

### In Memoriam: Margaret Peters

On July 2, 2010, Margaret Peters passed away in Nazareth. She and her late husband, Walter Peters, were involved with many organizations of the Moravian Church in the Lehigh Valley. Both served on the Board of Directors of the Moravian Archives and have funded various projects, such as the translation of the

Bethlehem Diary and the purchase and restoration of paintings at the Archives. Walter and Margaret Peters left a generous bequest that will secure future programming of the Moravian Archives.

### Archives' Email List

The email list of the Moravian Archives switched to a new provider in September. This will make it possible to send higher quality and more reliable email messages to our subscribers. 870 subscribers currently receive our monthly electronic newsletter, *This Month in Moravian History*, as well as other regular notifications from the Archives. You can sign up by clicking the subscribe button on the homepage of our website.