On June 13th the Moravian Archives received a very important addition to its book collection: a Czech hymnal printed in 1576. This is now the oldest hymnal of the Unitas Fratrum in the Bethlehem Archives.

The book was donated to the Archives by Rev. John Livingston from Greenwood, SC. Rev. Livingston had received the book as a present from his colleague and friend, Milos Strupl. Strupl (1924-1984) was a Presbyterian minister and church historian who came to the USA from his native Czechoslovakia in 1947. Strupl had close ties with the Moravian Archives; he made many translations from the Czech language for the Archives and left a large part of his research material to the Archives.

The first hymn book of the Unitas Fratrum was published in 1505. The 1576 hymnal is a new edition of the 1561 hymn book, but it stands out because of its fine print work. The tunes are printed with the text; there are beautiful engravings on the title page and at the start of each chapter. The beginning capitals of a hymn (called initials) sometimes contain images as well, and all the text is surrounded by elaborately decorated borders. According to Daniel Crews in his recent book on the history of the early Unitas Fratrum, the 1576 hymn book “is considered one of the most beautiful examples of Czech books from the 16th century” (Faith, Love, Hope. A History of the Unitas Fratrum, Winston-Salem, 2008, 273).

The copy of the 1576 hymn book that the Archives received is in fair to good condition. Over the years some repairs have been done to individual pages and the binding seems to have been replaced in the early 19th century. In order to preserve this magnificent sample of the hymnody of the Unity the hymnal needs to be restored. Please help us to make this possible by sending us a donation (see p. 4).

Special points of interest:

- In Memoriam: Albert Frank
- Volunteering Opportunities
- “Moravian Vine” available as poster
- Journal of Moravian History issue 4 available
- Exhibit on early Moravian bookprinting at the Archives

Successful 2007 Friends’ Campaign

Last year’s annual campaign among the Friends of the Archives was very successful; a total of over $40,000 in gifts was received. These funds are extremely helpful in supporting the work of the Archives. Almost 20% of our annual budget comes from the annual Friends’ campaign. The largest portion from the Archives’ budget is for staff, which results in the implementation of the core mission of the Archives: organizing and preserving the collections, assisting researchers, education and outreach, exhibitions and publications. Another large item in the budget is the upkeep of our facility: building operating costs, utilities (including the two large climate-controlled vaults), and the computer system. The Moravian Archives is on a tight budget, and recent economic developments are a cause for concern. We trust that even under the current circumstances we can rely on the support of our Friends. Please continue your support, so that we can continue to preserve our history for the future!
Volunteer Profile: the Squairs

Our second “Volunteer Profile” highlights the work of Donald and Virginia Squair and the all-important work of our annual yard sale, which has netted more than $18,000 for the Archives over the past four years. The Archives uses this money to update our computer system, purchase office furniture and glass cases, install energy-efficient lighting - all the “extras” that make a huge difference in our daily operations, but not necessarily covered in our budget. A large portion of the proceeds went into the building renovation fund.

Don, an Archives’ board member, and Virginia have been involved in the yard sale since the very beginning, helping on a daily basis to sort and price items in addition to working the days of the sale and post-sale clean-up. They are the experienced “rocks” we depend on to keep everything for the sale running smoothly.

Both Don and Virginia have strong interests in Bethlehem history, being residents of West Bethlehem since 1963 when Don joined the young computer division of Bethlehem Steel. Both have served on the board of Historic Bethlehem Partnership: Don as past president and Virginia as secretary. Don currently serves on HBP’s Restoration and Property committee. With his engineering background, Don has developed a particular interest in the physical restoration of Bethlehem’s historic buildings, and has been involved in the restoration of Burnside Plantation, the J. S. Goundie House and the Colonial Industrial Quarter. Virginia worked on the first archaeological dig of the Industrial Quarter in 1966, and also helped to set up exhibits and work on HBP’s catalog of trades and crafts.

Don first became acquainted with the Archives after spending many hours researching the Moravian Waterworks in our reading room on behalf of HBP in the 1980s. Although not Moravians, the Squairs recognize the Archives as an “amazing resource” for Bethlehem history, as well as art, music and genealogy. Don and Virginia volunteer in order to support the preservation of the historic fabric of Bethlehem and to promote our history. They are impressed with the Archives’ exhibits, outreach programs, lectures, and presentations. The Archives is impressed with the Squairs’ dedication and willingness to help in any situation, and especially their true appreciation of the Archives’ relevance to local history. To us, that is priceless.

Moravian Vine: Order Your Copy Now

The Moravian Archives updated the 1784 “Moravian Vine” to reflect church growth in North America from 1735 to the present. It depicts Moravian congregations in America as leaves on a grapevine, stemming from Christ on the cross. The new Moravian Vine is based on the original template and depicts more than 320 congregations in all four North American provinces (Northern, Southern, Alaskan and Labrador). The date of organization is listed with each church, along with a closure date, where applicable.

The Vine poster (24’ x 36”) is a beautiful decoration for your home or church building.

The Moravian Vine can be ordered from the Archives for $10.00 + shipping.

In Memoriam: Albert Frank (1944-2008)

With great sadness we learned that Rev. Dr. Albert Frank passed away in Niesky, Germany, on February 4, 2008. Brother Frank served the Moravian Church as minister in the Eastern West Indies, in Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Br. Frank always had great interest in Moravian history. He was involved in the transfer of records from the Moravian Church in the Eastern West Indies to Bethlehem in 1968, he served on the Archives’ Board from 1991-1996, and he was assistant archivist from 1996-2001. In 1999 he spent three months among the staff of the Unity Archives in Herrnhut, Germany, where he met his second wife, Erdmute Enkelmann. Until his retirement in 2007 Br. Frank was assistant director of the Moravian Music Foundation, working from an office in the Bethlehem Archives. Br. Frank taught Moravian history at Moravian Theological Seminary and was president of the Moravian Historical Society from 1998 until 2004. After his retirement the Franks moved to Niesky, Germany, where Erdmute now serves as student minister. Albert had three sons and two daughters. His funeral took place in Herrnhut on March 14. In addition two memorial services were held in the U.S.: one in Dover, Ohio and one at Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem.
New Exhibit: Early Moravian Bookprinting

For our annual Friends' Day event on March 31st the Archives opened a new exhibit in our gallery accompanied by a lecture and reception celebrating the topic of Moravian printing in America. Lanie Graf, assistant archivist, and Phil Metzger, volunteer librarian, organized the exhibit, *Early Moravian Printing in America: From Franklin to Senseman*, which explores the first one hundred years of Moravian printing in America, and places Moravian printing in the wider context of the American printing tradition. Based on examples from the Archives’ vast library, the exhibit explains how a sophisticated communication network was essential to the growth of the church in the 18th century.

Complemented by interpretive panels designed by Heather Reinert, all aspects of this communication network are examined: the art of printing and bookbinding, the use of copyists, the sale of books, and the evolution of Moravian printing through the mid-nineteenth century. Moravian printers like Heinrich Müller and Johann Brandmüller are brought to life, and the relationship of Moravians with non-Moravian printers like Benjamin Franklin and Christoph Saur is examined. Highlights of the exhibit include the earliest Moravian printing in America: the Daily Texts from 1767 printed in Friedenstal (near Nazareth) by Johann Brandmüller, as well as Moravian texts printed by Franklin, Saur and Heinrich Müller of Philadelphia.

Visit our exhibit Monday through Friday, 8:00-4:30, or by special appointment for small groups. The exhibit is free of charge and will run through October 31st.

Summer Intern: Chris Voron

This summer the Archives welcomes Chris Voron as our student intern. In the fall Chris will be a senior at Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA, where he majors in history. He wanted to work at the Archives to gain work experience and to explore career options. Chris is an active horologist, that is, a person interested in the science and measurement of time. A member of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC), Chris is particularly interested in the repair of 19th- and 20th century clocks.

At the Archives, Chris’ first project involved organizing the voluminous correspondence of Paul de Schweinitz on behalf of the Society for Propagating the Gospel from 1898-1930. This important series documents more than three decades of work in various mission fields, including Alaska, Nicaragua, and Surinam. Chris is sorting, cataloging and rehousing the collection so that it can be accessible to researchers.

In addition, Chris helps at Archives’ events and is cataloging the records of the Moravian Preparatory School. In July Chris will help install the Archives’ exhibit on Moravian festive culture (see p. 4) at the Moravian Museum of Bethlehem, which opens on July 31st.

If you are interested in an internship at the Archives, or if you wish to volunteer, please let us know!

Spotlight: Moravian Paper

Recently, an interesting document was uncovered in the Archives: instructions on how to make “colored paper.” Decorated paste paper was a specialty of Moravian women in the Single Sisters’ houses. Moravian sisters in different places around the world made this Moravian paper in different colors and color combinations and sold it to local customers, such as bookbinders. So far, no description was known from Moravian sources, according to Gisela Reschke from Hamburg, Germany, who is an expert on Moravian paste papers, and who has published several studies on this subject. “This is truly a rarity,” Ms. Reschke replied when we notified her of our find; the 18th century page contains handwritten instructions for making paste paper and is titled “Einig Anmerkungen über bundes Papier zu machen” (Some Notes about Making Colored Paper).

A sample of different styles of Moravian paper can be found in the photo gallery section of our website.
Upcoming Events at the Archives

Early Moravian Printing in America: From Franklin to Senseman
Exhibit at the Archives, March 30 - October 31, 2008

Moravians and the City of God
Lecture by Paul Peucker, July 15, 2008, 7:00 pm at the Archives

“Moravian Festkultur”
exhibition at Moravian Museum, July 31 – September 21, 2008
“Tutt Talk” by Lanie Graf, Assistant Archivist, at the Luckenbach Mill,
459 Old York Road, Bethlehem, September 16, 2008 at noon
For more information, call Historic Bethlehem Partnership: 1-800-360-8687

Birthday Celebration Lovefeast for Christian Renatus, Count Zinzendorf
Reconstruction of an 18th-century birthday celebration for one of the Moravian
leaders, September 19, 2008, in the Saal of the Gemeinhaus (Church Street), to be
held in conjunction with the exhibit on Moravian Festkultur (see below).
For more information, call Historic Bethlehem Partnership: 1-800-360-8687

October 9-12, 2008
Conferences on Moravian history, music and culture (see below)

German-English Advent Singstunde
December 2, 2008, 7:00 at the Old Chapel (on the campus of Central Moravian
Church, Church and Main Streets in Bethlehem)

Support us by becoming a Friend of the Moravian Archives. Send your check to the address above or make an online donation: moravianchurcharchives.org/support.php.