

Voices from the Vault

Issue 9

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Records Online Project

Exciting things are happening on our website this fall: new functions are being added to the website in order to give our users greater access to the Archives' holdings. It is now possible to search the Archives' catalogs online. Thanks to a grant we received earlier this year it was possible to upgrade our software and add online search capacity to our website. The original search capacity on the Archives' website was limited to the content of the site; only terms that appeared on the website could be searched. The new search function allows users to access the catalogs themselves.

In the past few years cataloging the Archives' holdings has been our priority. Most progress has been made with the book holdings; currently over 4,200 titles have been cataloged. These titles can now be searched through our OPAC, the Online Public Access Catalog. A user-friendly interface lets you enter search words and the system will provide you with titles that match the criteria. Clicking on "details" opens a screen with a full description, including hyperlinked subject headings. A click on these subject headings will give you a list of titles on the same subject. In order to make your research easier, OPAC allows you to email the search results to yourself or to a friend.

Whereas the book holdings are accessible through our OPAC, the archival holdings are cataloged in a different system. This system will eventually cover all primary source materials in the Archives: manuscripts, images, and objects. Although only a portion of the total holdings have been cataloged so far, we think the time is right to offer access to these record groups. Fully inventoried are the church registers, the painting collection, the object collection, records of the Female Seminary in Bethlehem, of the American Indian missions, of the Moravian Church in the Eastern West Indies, and of the Bethlehem single sisters and single brothers. General descriptions are available for other record groups.

The archival holdings can be searched in two ways. A keyword search will generate results in all collections. But it is also possible to perform a systematic search. Although a systematic search will take a little bit more time, the advantage is that records are displayed in their context. For example: in order to find the 1870 ledger book of the Female Seminary in Bethlehem, you click your way through the navigation tree on the left hand side of the screen: educational institutions, Female Seminary, Bookkeeping, and finally, Ledgers. At that point, the individual



items are displayed on the right hand side of the screen. By clicking on "Ledger F: 1850-1881" the detailed description will be displayed. We will be glad to present the ledger to you during your next visit to our reading room! A systematic search is especially practical when you do not know the exact term used in the catalog entry, or if the search word is so general that it will generate too many results.

The online catalogs do not cover the entire holdings of the Moravian Archives. An estimated 25% of the books have now been cataloged and it will take many more years to fully catalog the archival holdings, but new information is being added to the system every day. So if you cannot find what you are looking for, return to our website at a later date or contact the Archives' staff.



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Volunteer Profile: Phil Metzger

This issue's "Volunteer Profile" is dedicated to Phil Metzger, recipient of the award for "Most Volunteer Hours" in 2007. As Phil recovers from an unfortunate accident suffered at the end of August, he continues to log many volunteer hours - even in his wheelchair! The archives' staff is amazed by Phil's dedication and commitment to his work here.

Phil grew up in Prairie Village, Kansas, and recalls being enamored with books from an early age. When Phil was thirteen his father began a private printing press which Phil now keeps in his basement and pursues as a hobby. Phil earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in German before receiving an MLS and a PhD in Library Science from the University of Texas - Austin. He spent eight years of active duty in the US Air Force and an additional twelve years as a reservist before retiring with the rank of Lieutenant

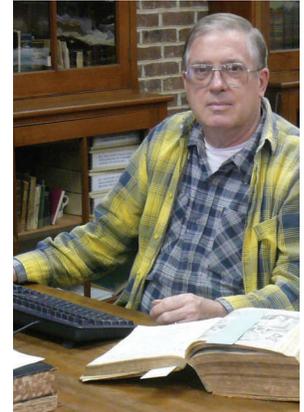
Colonel. In 1984 Phil joined the staff at Lehigh University as the Curator of Special Collections, a position he enjoyed for more than twenty years before retiring on December 31, 2005. Just two days later, Phil started volunteering at the Archives.

Phil's primary task has been to catalog our large collection of books. So far he has cataloged 4,200 titles on our archives' database, which is connected to WorldCat-a worldwide library database. Phil is amazed at the number of opportunities for "original cataloging" - that is, creating records for books that have not yet been documented in other libraries. These rare books bring to light the distinctive nature of our collection. Phil loves working at the Archives because "you never know what will turn up." Every day brings new discoveries, including twelve books printed before 1500 ("incunabula"). Because our collection is rela-

tively small, Phil "didn't expect to find one incunabulum here, much less twelve." Phil finds satisfaction in turning our library into a useful, accessible research collection.

As a confessed bibliophile, Phil collects books on the history of American book publishing and book selling. He also helped curate our current exhibit on the history of Moravian printing in America. Phil's other passion is music. He's learning the timpani, and plays percussion in the Lehigh University Philharmonic and an amateur pops orchestra. He also plays the flute and piccolo in the Lehigh University Concert Band. Phil works as a freelance writer on classical music for the Morning Call newspaper.

Phil's family includes his wife, Mardi, two daughters, five grandchildren, a cat, and two beloved rescue greyhounds, Bobo and Dazey.



Historic Birthday Party

On Friday, September 19, we celebrated the birthday of Christian Rhenatus, Count von Zinzendorf, with a historical re-enactment of a musical performance composed in his honor. The celebration was the culmination of the Archives' exhibit, "Moravian Festkultur," guest-curated by Lanie Graf in the *Saal* of the Bethlehem *Gemeinhaus*.

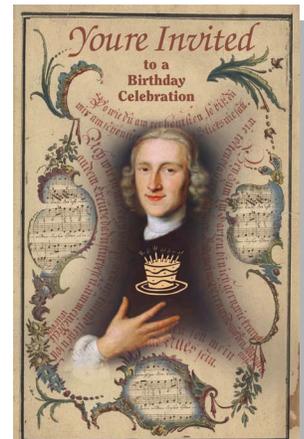
Over the course of the past year the Archives has worked closely with the staff of Historic Bethlehem Partnership and the Moravian Music Foundation to make this event possible. The result was the performance of a cantata that was originally composed and performed by the single brothers in Bethlehem in 1753 in honor of Christian

Rhenatus. The cantata was performed by an all-male choir supported by an assembled collegium musicum, which included a string quartet, Nola Reed Knouse on flute and Gwyneth Michel playing the continuo on loan from Bethlehem's Bach Choir; Andy Rutherford, playing English guitar, supported Brian Dishong during the solo pieces.

The event began as the choir sang their first hymn a capella while processing from the single brethren's house across the Central Church green. At the rear of the *Gemeinhaus* the assembled ticket holders formed two lines and followed the choir into the *Saal*, led by Andy Rutherford on English guitar. The choir joined the small

orchestra in the *Saal* seated before the elaborate birthday display centered around a portrait of Christian Rhenatus. In the decorated *Saal*, with the male choir singing in German accompanied by the orchestra, the audience felt truly transported to eighteenth-century Bethlehem!

The Archives was honored for this opportunity to "bring history to life." Judging from the popularity of the event, we hope to participate in future events that invoke the spirit of eighteenth-century Moravian life.



College Students Catalog Deeds

College students are a familiar sight at the Moravian Archives this semester. As part of the course in archival studies, taught at Moravian College by archivist Paul Peucker, students are processing a collection of property deeds. The deeds date from the 18th and 19th centuries; they cover properties that the Moravian Church owned (and sometimes still owns) in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ohio, North Carolina, and even in Georgia.

The earliest deed dates from 1731 and is for 5,000 acres of land, called the "Nazareth Tract," from the governors of

Pennsylvania to Laetitia Aubrey. Aubrey would later sell the land to William Allen, who sold it to George Whitefield. Whitefield eventually sold the Nazareth tract to the Moravians in 1741. Parts of the tract are still owned by the Moravian Church.

Most of the deeds are written on parchment, each one folded up as a small package. The students first carefully flattened the deeds and placed them in acid-free folders. Then, a short description for each deed was made and entered into the computer system. The final step is to make a general description of the entire collection and to



upload the entries into the online search system.

The deeds were transferred by the Moravian Congregation of Bethlehem (now Bethlehem Area Moravians) to the Archives in 1977, shortly after the current fire-proof and climate-controlled facility was completed. Before that, the Moravian Congregation held the deeds in several safe deposit boxes at a local bank.

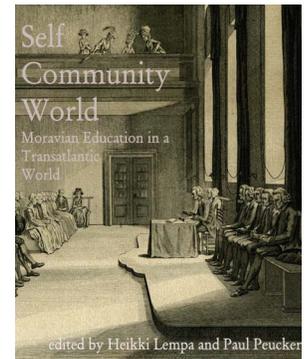
A museum-quality reproduction of the original 1741 deed for the Bethlehem land can now be ordered from the Archives.

New Book Coming out in 2009

A selection of the papers presented at the Moravian History Conference of 2006 will be published by Lehigh University Press in 2009. The book will be titled "Self, Community, World: Moravian Education in a Transatlantic World" and is being edited by Heikki Lempa (Moravian College) and Paul Peucker (Moravian Archives). The volume will contain the following essays: "Searching for Moravians in the Atlantic World" by Jon Sensbach; "Daniel Ernst Jablonski as

the Connection Between Comenius and Zinzendorf" by Alexander Schunka; "Lessing's Appeal to Reread Zinzendorf" by Julie Tomberlin Weber; "Anti-Intellectual Tendencies in Zinzendorf's Approach to Education" by Peter Vogt; "Evangelicalism and Enlightenment: Two Generations in the Okely Family" by Jonathan Yonan; "Speaking and Truth-Telling: Parrhesia in the Eighteenth-Century Moravian Church" by Katherine Faulk; "Moravian

Memoirs as a Source for the History of Education" by Pia Schmid; "Gender, Communal Narration and the Shaping of Eighteenth-Century Moravian Religious Thought" by Gisela Mettele; "Musical Improvisation in 18th-Century Moravian Communities" by Sarah Eyerly; "The Clavichord in Moravian Life" by Laurence Libin; "The Role of Art in Moravian Communities" by Paul Peucker; and "Moravian Education in an 18th-Century Context" by Heikki Lempa.



Moravian Conferences

Moravian scholars gathered at Moravian College in Bethlehem and at the Whitefield House in Nazareth from October 9-12 to attend various events on Moravian history and music: the eighth Bethlehem conference on Moravian music, the Moses Lecture in Moravian studies, the conference on Moravian history and culture, and the annual meeting of the Moravian Historical Society. For the first time, these events were all held on

the same weekend. Although the combination of the conferences resulted in parallel sessions where one had to choose from multiple lectures, people were generally satisfied with the great variety of topics and events. In total, 110 participants from the USA, Nicaragua, South Africa, England, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Australia attended the events. Two of the sessions took place in the 1741 Saal (chapel)

in the *Gemeinhaus*. "It is so inspiring to actually meet and discuss Moravian history in the space where these people worshiped," remarked one of the conference participants. One evening the choirs of Moravian College and Central Moravian Church performed Moravian music from four centuries. Some of the pieces included a serpent, an unusual musical instrument related to the modern tuba and euphonium.

Newsletter from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem PA

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

Upcoming Events at the Archives

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)

Annual Volunteer Party

January 21, 2009, 6:00 pm at the Archives

Friends Day 2009: "The Archivists' Pick"

Join the archivist and the assistant archivist for their presentation of their favorite items from the Archives' collections.

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

March 15, 2009, 3:00 pm at the Archives

Fifth Annual Archives Sale

May 1 and 2, 2009. We need items to sell and volunteers to help!

News and Announcements

Translations in eLibrary

A new resource was added to the Archives' website: texts in a downloadable format. The first electronic book or "eBook" on our site is a translation of the Book of Ceremonies (Zeremonienbüchlein), a detailed description of Moravian liturgical practice and organization by David Cranz. The book was published in 1757 together with sixteen beautiful engravings. Although a French translation came out simultaneously with the German original, an English translation was never produced. This omission has now been remedied by Rev. Roy Ledbetter in St. Louis, Missouri, who volunteered to translate the German original.

The Book of Ceremonies is the first title in our e-library. The Moravian Archives in Winston-

Salem, NC, already has eight e-books on its website, mostly texts from the ancient Unity (moravianarchives.org).

The next title to be added to our e-library is the Summarischer Unterricht, a general description of the Moravian Church in question-and-answer form from 1755.

Journal of Moravian History

The 5th issue of the Journal of Moravian History, published by the Archives and the Moravian Historical Society, will be available around Christmas! Friends of the Archives can subscribe at a reduced rate. Visit our website for a list of contents. Subscribe now!

Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers who can help us scan docu-

ments, prepare mailings, index memoirs, and help us with data entry.

Our annual volunteer party will be held on January 21, 2009.

Moravian Vine

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.

Latest News

The Archives sends out email announcements about all upcoming events. You can sign up and you will also receive our popular free monthly history newsletter: *This Month in Moravian History*. Click the links on moravianchurcharchives.org/thismonth.php

Online Shop

This fall the Moravian Archives will launch its online bookshop. The link to the shop will be added to our website in time for Christmas.