

Voices from the Vault

Issue 22 July 2015

Reading Room Renovation Project Finished

The renovations to our reading room and offices have been completed. This was the final phase of a three-year renovation project to increase capacity, access, and outreach of the Moravian Archives in order to better serve the community.

During phase 1 (2013) we doubled the storage capacity of our manuscript vault; during phase 2 (2014) we updated our exhibition space with museum-quality lighting. This last phase includes a complete overhaul of the 1977 reading room, as well as the expansion of the workspaces for staff and volunteers. The Moravian Archives is now better



equipped to assist the public in the reading room, to host school and college classes, to offer pub-

lic programming, and to provide ample workspace for community volunteers.

Special points of interest:

- Moravian Archives receives second NEH grant
- Lehigh University students work on Christian's Spring summer project
- Assistant Archivist Tom McCullough visits Herrnhut archives
- New logo for the Moravian Archives
- Exhibit on Jan Hus



New NEH Grant for Moravian Archives

In March 2015, the Archives received its second prestigious grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The grant award of \$37,982 is to fund a planning project for the conservation and digitization of approximately 120 linear feet of records from Moravian churches in the Eastern West Indies. The grant project will serve to improve accessibility to the Eastern West Indies Collection, of which a majority of records are in extremely poor condition from long-term exposure to a tropical environment and damage from water, insects, and fire. Beginning in late June, a team of historians

and conservators will assess individual items in the collection in order to prioritize the material according to its humanities values. This assessment will provide written guidelines for prioritization of treatments and digitization as well as a foundation for securing future grants to carry out the recommendations. The "Eastern West Indies Planning Project" is the first step towards the goal of making these unique materials fully accessible to researchers worldwide. In 2012, the Moravian Archives received its first grant from the NEH to install movable shelving in the main vault. The NEH, created in 1965

as an independent federal agency, supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the United States. \$22.8 million was awarded to 232 humanities projects in the second round of NEH grants this fiscal year.

Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this article, do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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New Book on the Sifting Time

At the end of the 1740s, the Moravians experienced a crisis soon labeled the Sifting Time. As leaders attempted to lead the church away from the abuses of the crisis, they also tried to erase the memory of this controversial and embarrassing period. Archival records were systematically destroyed, and official histories of the church only dealt with this period in general terms. It is not surprising that the Sifting Time became both a taboo and an enigma in Moravian historiography.

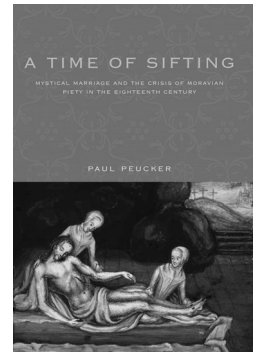
In *A Time of Sifting*, Paul Peucker provides the first book-length, in-

depth look at the Sifting Time and argues that it did not consist of an extreme form of blood-and-wounds devotion, as is often assumed. Rather, the Sifting Time occurred when Moravians began to believe that the union with Christ could be experienced not only during marital intercourse but during extramarital sex as well. Peucker shows how these events were the logical consequence of Moravian teachings from previous years. As the nature of the crisis became evident, church leaders urged the members to revert to their earlier devotion of the blood

and wounds of Christ. By returning to this earlier phase, Moravians lost their dynamic character and became more conservative. It was at this moment that the radical-Pietist Moravians of the first half of the eighteenth century reinvented themselves as a noncontroversial evangelical denomination.

264 pages | 6 x 9 in. | hardcover | 10 illustrations | ISBN 978-0-271-06643-1

Available for purchase from the Moravian Archives for the reduced price of \$63.70



**Available at the
Moravian
Archives for
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Transcribathon

On April 15, Archives staff members Paul and Tom participated in a three-hour online "Transcribathon," in which they were tasked with transcribing German script documents. Meanwhile, they were connected by online chat and webcam to scholars at various Pennsylvania institutions. Other participants included Lehigh University, Bucknell University, Lafayette College, Moravian College, Muhlenberg

College, the University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Pittsburgh. Using a program called JuxtaEditions, Paul transcribed a letter from August Gottlieb Spangenberg. Tom began transcribing a travel diary by Matthaeus Hehl. Both Paul and Tom also collaborated and transcribed research materials for Archives' board member, Dr. Katherine Faull, professor at Bucknell

University. This experiment was initiated by members of Keystone Digital Humanities, a program seeking to foster digital humanities collaboration in Pennsylvania. The Moravian Archives plans to use JuxtaEditions for a new transcription project which will allow researchers and former German script students to contribute transcriptions through a webpage where images of documents are hosted.

A Word from the Archives' President

The last of the planned capital improvements which have occurred as a result of the Moving History Campaign are complete by the time you receive this newsletter. Many thanks are due, especially to our director and head archivist, Paul, and to the Moravian Archives staff, to Jeffrey Long, project manager and to the Friends of the Archives and other contributors who made this possible.

I especially want to thank the Archives' board who, along with Paul and Jeff, have researched, evaluated, budgeted, and overseen a significant expansion of our archival capacity and improvement in func-

tionality of the offices and reading room.

We recently welcomed new board members, Scott Gordon, Marian Shatto, and Thomas Bross. They serve in addition to board members Rose Nehring, Kevin Kelleher, David Parker, Donald Squair, Katherine Faull, Alice Mosebach (secretary), Karl Butz (treasurer), and Diane Shaw (vice president). We at the Archives benefit from an abundance of talent and expertise from these thoughtful volunteers.

One of the people who has seen the development implementation and fruition of this and previous campaigns is Ralph Schwarz. Ralph has recently been recognized by the

Archives' Board with emeritus status to our board. I am pleased to enjoy Ralph's expertise, insightful input, and years of dedication to the Archives and its mission.

As in all things, we endeavor to discern God's will for the management of our charge as Archives' board members. As we plan for many years of archival and research needs, we pray for a future filled with Moravian history yet to be revealed and recorded.

Michael A. Long, President



Michael Long

Christian's Spring Summer Project

On May 27, five Lehigh University students attended a daylong German script workshop held by assistant archivist Tom McCullough. These students will spend 10 weeks this summer working with a variety of German-language primary sources from the former Moravian community of "Christiansbrunn" (or

Christian's Spring, southwest of Nazareth) as part of a summer 2015 Mountaintop project at Lehigh University. Under the mentorship of Archives' board member and Lehigh University Chair of English, Dr. Scott Gordon, the students will work as a team to analyze a variety of primary source documents, in-

cluding maps, membership catalogs, memoirs, surveys, and letters. Midway through the summer, the students themselves will devise a digital platform with which to present their findings about the individuals who lived at Christiansbrunn and the many activities in which they engaged.



Jan Hus Exhibit

Six hundred years ago Jan Hus, priest and professor in Prague, was burned at the stake in Constance, Germany. His martyr death caused a wave of protest throughout Prague and Bohemia. Among his followers were the founders of the Unity of Brethren in Kunvald in 1457/58, the predecessor of the

Moravian Church. The Moravian Archives, under the leadership of former archives assistant Zack Biro and current assistant Donnie Wieand, has put together an exhibit which examines the life and work of Jan Hus and shows valuable copies of his work from the collections of the Moravian Archives.



Tom Visits Herrnhut Archives

While the Archives was closed for renovations this spring, I had the opportunity to spend four weeks in Germany! This was my first trip to Europe, and it was truly an *Entdeckungsreise* (trip of new discoveries). I spent these weeks working in the reading room of the Moravian Archives in Herrnhut. It was such a fun and challenging experience to communicate in German all day; in the long run my German speaking has improved immensely. Attending services in the Moravian Church in Herrnhut was a special experience. I also witnessed the consecration of Jill and Peter Vogt as presbyters. I attended Wednesday devotions in the Vogtshof, the Provincial office where the Daily Texts are selected each year. So much of life was experienced in German that communicating in English seemed new to me upon returning home!

I have a new appreciation for soft pretzels, potato salad, bratwurst with mustard (and beer). My host, Herrnhut reference archivist Olaf Nippe, could not have been more

helpful during the entire experience. He not only housed me and fed me delicious meals, but he was so kind in organizing weekend and nighttime excursions to cities like Dresden, Weimar, Bautzen, Naumburg, Gera, Görlitz, and Erfurt. Because Olaf knew so much about each city and town, it was like having a professional tour guide by my side in each location! We also visited the small Moravian community of Kleinwelka, where I had an opportunity to tour the church, congregational archives, and remaining eighteenth-century buildings where the single sisters and single brothers once lived. I visited Prague and enjoyed some Ancient Unity history by visiting the Bethlehem Chapel, where the Czech reformer Jan Hus had served as rector and preacher. I was impressed that I could order my meal in Prague in German, and moreover, by the ability of Europeans to communicate in several languages. Twice while paying at gift shops I was asked if I was from the Netherlands, which I'm sure

would make Paul Peucker proud that I seemed to have developed a Dutch German accent.

The staff at the Herrnhut Archives was very friendly. I helped Claudia Mai translate the website and archives newsletter into English. While assisting researchers, I also had an opportunity to catalog records from Native American missions (in German, which was a tough exercise!). Archives' director Rüdiger Kröger took me on interesting tours of two additional museums in Herrnhut. All the while, I was able to do some research on the development of Moravian memoirs, which will be featured in the next *Journal of Moravian History*. The trip allowed me to appreciate and understand Moravian history in a more global context. I am now well acquainted with the wonderful archival collection in Herrnhut, and a number of families in the community. I am so thankful to the Archives on both sides of the pond who made this life-changing experience possible.

Tom McCullough



Newsletter from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem PA

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Upcoming Events

John Cennick: Man on a Mission

Lecture by Paul Holdsworth
July 1, 2015, 5:00 pm at the Moravian Archives

Free Summer Sundays

Free admission at the Whitefield House Museum in Nazareth, July 5–August 30, 2015

German Script Course

July 7-17, 2015
The reading room is closed to the public during the course

Summer Soiree

August 25, 2015, 5:00–7:00 pm, at the Moravian Archives
A special event for the Friends of the Moravian Archives

Genealogy Workshop

October 16, 2015, 9:00–1:00 pm, at the Moravian Archives
Registration fee \$75.00; call 610.866.3255 to reserve

News and Announcements

Genealogy Workshop

For anyone interested in learning how to do family research at the Moravian Archives, we offer a Genealogy Workshop on October 16 from 9:00 am—1:00 pm. Assistant archivist Tom McCullough will discuss a variety of genealogical resources available at the Moravian Archives. Register now online or by calling 610.866.3255. Registration fee: \$75.00.

Finishing Touches

During the past few weeks, the Moravian Archives has asked Friends of the Archives to help put the finishing touches on our newly renovated facility. Friends have stepped forward and made wonderful donations for an informational display in the entrance area, new doormats, collaborative transcription software, a vacuum

cleaner, and a POS system. There are still a few remaining items on our wishlist: data loggers to monitor conditions in the storage vaults (\$500); door signs and name tags (\$300); coffee cups (\$300); and a color printer (\$300). You can make your gift for the item of your choice by sending a check to the address above.

Archives Shop

Like the reading room, our Archives Shop has been redone as well. In our shop you will find new items such as writing pads, magnets, publications, and images. When you order from our website during July and August you will receive 10% off by entering coupon code 1184 (online only, until August 31, 2015).

Second German Script Course

Because of the high number of registrations for our German Script Course, the Moravian Archives is offering two classes this year: one in June and another in July. The course has been taught annually since 1971. Once before, in 2009, two classes were offered because of great demand.

New logo

The Moravian Archives has a new logo! Bethlehem graphic designer Heather Reinert developed the new logo, reflecting the three arched windows that are so typical of our 1977 facility.

Free Summer Sundays

Starting July 5th and running through August 30th, the Moravian Historical Society offers their popular "Free Summer Sundays" every Sunday from 11 - 4pm. Families will enjoy free admission to the 1740/1743 Whitefield House museum. Special programming includes colonial games and crafts for youth. Donations are appreciated.



MORAVIAN ARCHIVES
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