

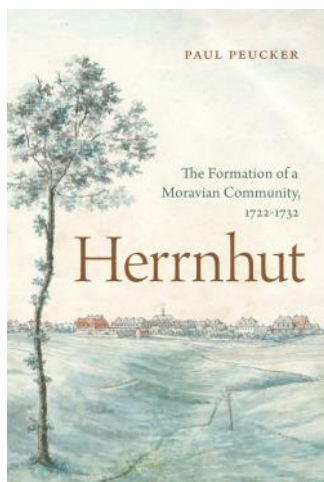
Voices from the Vault

Issue 36 June 2022

300th Anniversary of Herrnhut: 1722—2022



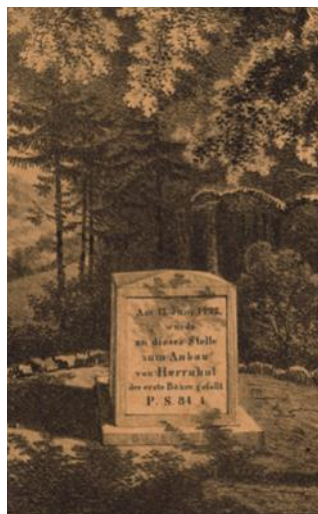
Three hundred years ago three refugee families from Moravia began the construction of a town on the lands of Count Zinzendorf. This was the beginning of Herrnhut, a religious community that quickly became the center of the modern Moravian Church. This year, Moravians around the world are commemorating the 300th anniversary of Herrnhut. For this occasion, Moravian archivist Paul Peucker has published a new book: *Herrnhut: The Formation of a Moravian Community, 1722-1732*. This book takes a new look at the origins of the Moravian Church and will



demonstrate how this community was able to survive despite the existing regulations against new religious groups in early modern Germany. The book was published by Penn State University Press as part of the series, Pietist, Moravian, and Anabaptist Studies, edited by Dr. Craig Atwood, director of the Center of Moravian Studies at Moravian Theological Seminary. The first print run of the German translation that already became available in September of last year quickly sold out.

For this book, Peucker analyzed hundreds of letters, diaries, and other documents in archives in Germany and the United States. Contrary to what many have previously thought, the idea to renew the extinct Unity of Brethren did not originate with the Protestant refugees from Moravia. The book unmasks Zinzendorf as the inventor of the renewed Moravian Church who successfully kept the Herrnhut community outside of the state church. The book as well as the German translation are available for a reduced price through the

gift shop of the Moravian Archives:
moravianhistorystore.com.



The Moravian Archives is also offering a three-part webinar on the origins of Herrnhut. The webinar takes an in-depth look at the beginnings of the Herrnhut community by analyzing a series of relevant texts from the period. The webinar takes place on June 21, 28, and July 5, 2022. More details (including registration) can be found on our website: moravianchurcharchives.org/events

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MORAVIAN ARCHIVES
BETHLEHEM

Moravian Archives Library: A Growing Legacy

As early as 1751 Moravians in Bethlehem established a library for the congregation. In recent years, significance and accessibility of this collection has greatly increased. Today, the Moravian Archives continues to grow the library, created by church elders more than 270 years ago.

In 2006, Phil Metzger, retired Special Collections Librarian from Lehigh University, began to catalog our library. That same year the Archives joined WorldCat, a worldwide online catalog that allows the global community to search book titles.

In 2007, we created our own classification system, reflecting the typical topics in a Moravian library. MAB also purchased library

cataloging software Mandarin, allowing online access to the library catalog. Only two years later, in April of 2009 librarian volunteers Phil Metzger and June Griffiths marked 5,000 titles cataloged. They found that 30% of our books were not available on WorldCat. Given that over 71,000 libraries contribute to WorldCat, the additions made by Phil and June hold great significance.

In 2010, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) awarded a grant for cataloging the Congregational Library. The goal of the project was to recreate this library as it would have appeared in 1850. In the spring of 2012, more than 10,000 titles had been cataloged. In 2013, conservation

and custom housing of library materials began through the efforts of volunteers Dee Collins and Rosi McIlwain.

Two important collections are our incunabula and the Malin Collection. Our holdings of 12 incunabula is very impressive; often we are one of the very few institutions to have a copy. For example, MAB is one of only 22 institutions globally to hold a copy of *Consolatio peccatorum, seu Processus Belial* printed in 1481.

William Gunn Malin (1801-1887) was a devoted book collector of titles on the Moravians. Malin compiled a collection of the rarest books on the history of the Ancient Unity and the Renewed Moravian Church. Having no family to inherit

his books other arrangements were necessary. In February of 1882, Malin gifted his library to the Moravian Church.

In 2019 MAB celebrated 20,000 titles cataloged. In 2020 the library collection had grown so large that space began to become a concern. Weeding took place that year to remove excessive duplicate copies. MAB has one of the most extensive collections of Moravian publications in the world. Our library began at a little over 1,200 titles; today, it comprises over 21,000 titles. We look forward to celebrating our next milestone as we continue to add new titles to our collection.

From the Collection: the William Berry Atlas

It is so large that it cannot be placed on the bookshelves with the other books: our copy of the William Berry Atlas. This atlas is so rare that WorldCat only lists six libraries in the world with similar copies. And when it is offered for sale, prices vary between \$15,000 and \$275,000 – based on condition and the number of individual maps. The Moravian Archives is proud to own a copy; in fact, it has been in our collection since 1754.

William Berry was a bookseller, geographer, and engraver in London who lived from 1639 to 1718. Berry was known for the quality of his work. He is especially known for the set of maps he published between 1680 and 1689 that he copied and amended after the work of French mapmaker Nicolas Sanson (1600-1667). Customers were able to buy a single map or a set of maps. That way customers were able to customize their atlases.

The Bethlehem copy of the Berry Atlas contains thirty-three maps by

Berry and four additional maps by other mapmakers. One of these other maps contains clues that enable us to understand the origins of our copy. On the reverse of this map with the date 1742 we find the name of "Mr. Cossart." This was undoubtedly Henry Frédéric Cossart (1714-1763), a Moravian of Huguenot descent. Cossart had traveled extensively on behalf of the Moravians. After his involvement in negotiations with British Parliament in 1749 we find him in London where he managed many affairs for the church such as organizing shipments for the Moravians in Pennsylvania. Cossart must have purchased a set of Berry maps and combined them with the four other maps into an atlas. By then, Berry was no longer alive and perhaps Cossart was able to acquire the maps for a good price.

In March of 1754 Cossart shipped the atlas on the Moravian ship *The Irene* to Bethlehem where it arrived the next month. The atlas was part of a large shipment of books for the



library of the Bethlehem congregation that was first organized in 1751. Today, the Congregational Library that is still nearly complete, is one of the oldest libraries in the country. Moravian leader August Gottlieb Spangenberg, who traveled on the same ship as the books, wrote a memo to then archivist/librarian Matthaues Hehl: "If you could please make a catalog of all maps in our library in Bethlehem, we can

request any missing maps from Br. Cossart. He has many duplicates in the library of the Unity [in London]." (June 26, 1754).

Not only is our copy of the Berry Atlas a valuable item in our collection, its provenance is well documented. For almost 270 years this atlas has been in the collection of the Moravian Archives.

Volunteer Spotlight: Louise Arnold

Louise Arnold has volunteered at the MAB for over five years. In the past, Louise managed a nursery school as well as an independent sewing business before transitioning to a career in legal work. Following retirement and after seeing a call for volunteers in the local newspaper, Louise began volunteering with us as a Moravian Roots indexer in January of 2017.

Indexers enter information from church registers of Moravian congregations into a computer database. Louise has indexed an impressive eighteen registers: two handwritten in English, and sixteen handwritten in German! Louise studied German from the third grade through college and had grown up with her grandparents speaking Pennsylvania Dutch. Moravian Church registers, however, typically feature an old German script called *Kurrentschrift*, which is no longer

used or easily read by native German speakers. "I had to learn the German script, which wasn't too difficult to do," explained Louise. "It's just a matter of learning the meaning of each letter like you do with a cryptogram." However, like fellow Roots volunteer Richard Miller, Louise conceded that the shift from one pastor to the next requires some adjustment for the indexer. "Everyone writes differently. You get used to each pastors' idiosyncrasies after a couple of pages," she explained, adding with a laugh, "And then you have pastors who write in half English, half German, which is *interesting*."

Other entertainment for Louise has come from the sense of feeling like a first-hand participant in the story of a congregation or its members. "Especially with the smaller congregations," said Louise, "when you finish [indexing] the register you feel like you know everyone in the congregation, because you've basically been



following people through from the time they were baptized to the time they passed away." Emphasizing this, Louise recalled an incredible story about having indexed the baptism of an infant girl in a New York City register and later indexing her marriage decades later in a Wisconsin register. Being an avid reader and admirer of history, Louise enjoys these personal stories as well as bits of world history in entries, such as references to the American Civil War or Spanish flu.

Several years ago, Louise became ill with cancer but continued her

volunteer work whenever possible. For her, the Roots project was a welcome distraction, "because it didn't have anything to do with getting cancer treatment," she said, stressing that it has also been a pleasure to work with a friendly staff here at the MAB. In addition to her volunteer service at the Archives, Louise is heavily involved with the Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley, currently serving as its board president. We congratulate and express our gratitude to Louise on five years at the MAB!

MAB works with State and University Library in Dresden

In December of 2021 we began digitizing a selection of records concerning Moravian mission work among Native Americans at the request of the Saxon State and University Library (SLUB) in Dresden, Germany. SLUB is both the library of Saxony and the library of the Dresden Technical Uni-

versity. Its collection includes a wide range of historically significant books and manuscripts as well as extensive digitized materials, which will soon feature some the records maintained by the Moravian Archives. SLUB's interest in our records stems from the fact that Moravian Church leadership in Saxony oversaw mission activities

here in North America. In partnership with SLUB, we have digitized many 18th century materials, including three books by David Zeisberger on the language of the Onondaga people, one of the initial five tribes that formed the Iroquois Confederacy. The Onondaga people's traditional homeland is in and around present-day Onondaga

County, NY. Additionally, a number of manuscript diaries kept by Moravian missionaries working or traveling throughout northeastern North America have been digitized. We are excited about our continued partnership with SLUB to enhance preservation and accessibility of historical materials from our collections.

F.P. Stocker Collection

Rev. Frederick Paul (F.P.) Stocker (1899-1992) served the Moravian Church for over three decades in many capacities: as pastor in New York City, Indianapolis, and Bethlehem (College Hill) and, from 1936 until 1956, as president of the Eastern District Executive Board. In 1946 he was also elected to

serve as president of the Provincial Elders' Conference, serving in both capacities until 1956. He was once again elected PEC president in 1961 and served until his retirement in 1966. Stocker oversaw and promoted the expansion of the Moravian Church throughout North America.

The Moravian Archives is current-

ly processing the materials from his three decades of service. Rehousing is processing archivist Kaitlin Trainor's first priority as items have been stored in acidic boxes and folders since their transfer in 1967. The fact that Stocker served as PEC and ED president at the same time presents challenges to the organization of the records.

The archival principle of provenance or *respect des fonds* dictates that records of different origins be kept separate to preserve their context. In this case, records from different organizations are mixed and cannot be separated. But, despite (or because of) these challenges, Trainor is excited for the task ahead.

Newsletter from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem PA

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Upcoming Events

Herrnhut 1722 – A Fresh Look at the Origins of the Moravian Church Webinar Series

June 21, June 28, July 5, 2022
Register online www.moravianchurcharchives.org/events

Summer Soiree

August 16, 2022 (Outdoors)
Food & Drink by: Local Food Truck, Christmas City Spirits,
Warm Sugar Bakery

German Script 2023

June 5—June 16, 2023
Registration opens August 1, 2022

Moravian Archives Closed

Monday, July 4, 2022
July 18 – 29, 2022 (script course)
Monday, September 5, 2022
October 10 – 18, 2022 (see below)

For the most accurate and up to date listing of archives lectures, events, and closures please visit our website www.moravianchurcharchives.org/events



New Items at the History Store!

News and Announcements

NEW ACQUISITIONS

When Moravian pastor Edmund de Schweinitz turned fifty years old in 1875, his congregation in Bethlehem made sure he had a memorable day. As early as 4:30 am, the Trombone Choir played in front of the parsonage on Church Street. Throughout the day many visitors came and at 10:30 pm the church choir "gave me a delightful serenade". Two days later, a delegation from the church boards came to present de Schweinitz with a gift on behalf of the congregation: a gold watch "made to order, and engraved with significant devices." There was also a present for Mrs. de Schweinitz: "a plated coffee and tea set, with a large and heavy waiter, appropriately engraved."

Recently, this silver waiter or tray was donated to the Moravian Archives. Two collectors of silver in Philadelphia decided to donate the tray to the Moravian Archives: "We feel we are returning Mrs. de Schweinitz' beautiful tray to its home among the Moravians."

STAFF TO VISIT HERRNHUT

The Moravian Archives staff will be visiting Herrnhut, Germany, October 10th - 18th. Originally scheduled for 2020 and postponed due to the pandemic, this week-long conference will gather archivists from the various Moravian Provinces to discuss and learn from one another to help further our common goal of preserving the history of the Moravian Church.

Staff will be participating in and leading meetings and workshops to share our collective archival knowledge with our international colleagues.

MORAVIAN HISTORY STORE

The Moravian History Store is stocked with brand new items! New to our shelves this Spring are home goods including wooden measuring cups and spoons, napkin sets in three designs, and colorful ceramic mugs with convenient tea bags holders. Writing a letter? We have a wide range of stationery including newly designed greeting cards with Moravian or Bethlehem stars. We also carry Moravian and Bethlehem star notepads, perfect for jotting down notes.

SCHOENBRUNN 250

On May 3, Historic Schoenbrunn Village in New Philadelphia, Ohio, celebrated its 250th anniversary. Known as Welhik Thuppeck ("Beautiful Spring") in the Delaware language, Schoenbrunn had first been organized as a mission by Delaware Moravians and David Zeisberger on May 3, 1772. As part of the anniversary festivities, MAB archivist and director Dr. Paul Peucker presented in the afternoon on the excavation and rediscovery of the village in the 1920s, and assistant archivist Tom McCullough presented on Schoenbrunn records preserved in the MAB. The day ended with a delicious meal in the fellowship hall of Schoenbrunn Community Moravian Church.