

Mennonite Historical Society  
of  
British Columbia  
*December 1996*

## NEWSLETTER

### **Dear Members and Friends,**

The Society has concluded another successful year and the Directors send thanks to all members for their generosity. You are the Society. It will only function with your continued support.

### **Heritage Lectures**

The Heritage Lectures continue to be one of our most successful programs. In 1996 we sponsored four lectures.

Dr. Harvey Dyck - The Zaporoshje Project  
Dr. Abraham Friesen - Persecution of Anabaptists  
Dr. Walter Klaassen - Reformation History  
Dr. Ted Regehr - Mennonites in Canada Vol. 3

### **Annual Banquet**

Our Annual Fund Raising Banquet was attended by a near capacity crowd of of 260. We raised almost \$5,000, net of expenses, from donations, plus another \$560 from book sales.

The highlights of the evening were two 'Kernlieder' sung by Wilmer Neufeld and the lecture by Dr. T.D. Regehr. Dr. Regehr spoke on his recently published book, Mennonites in Canada, Volume 3, wherein he traces the history of the Mennonite community in Canada from 1930 to 1970. This was a period of fundamental change in the lives of our people when they migrated, figuratively speaking, from the country to the city.

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## **New Location**

About mid-year 1997 the Society will move its functions, including the archives, to new quarters on the second floor of the Clearbrook Community Center. This location will be more convenient, and more accessible to members and friends, and we hope that many more will visit the archives.

## **The Archives**

During the past six months 36 individuals used our archives for research. Some were one-time visits, but many returned week after week to pursue their research.

a. General Research - 15 persons

They researched a variety of topics ranging from Old German Songs and Prussian Church Buildings, through Rundschau Articles and Conference of Mennonites files, to the King Road MB Church, BCMYO and Camp Squeah.

b. Family Research - 19 persons

c. Oral History - 1 person

d. CO Forestry & Medical Corps in Russia - 1 person

New Acquisitions this summer include the following:

a. Family Histories - Peter P. Unger [Yarrow]  
Reimer family album

b. Jacob A. Loewen Collection - 62 cartons of personal files, papers and books, all indexed.

c. Gnadenthal - 21 books [for sale] on the history of this village.

d. Microfilms and periodicals - A part of the John B. Toews collection.

The Archives are available to anyone interested in researching any aspect of Mennonite history. Help to locate appropriate material is available during regular office hours.

## Membership

All persons who gave a donation at the Annual Banquet will be entered as members and remain on our mailing list for 1997. We must also remind all those unable to attend the banquet of our need for your continued support. Our basic operating budget is about \$25,000 per year. In 1997 we will have the additional cost of moving to new quarters and the second installment of our commitment to the Zaporoshje Project. Our only source of revenue is the generosity of our membership. We strongly believe that preservation of our heritage is an integral part of our faith, and ask that you join us in this endeavour.

## Holiday Hours

The Archives will be closed from December 23rd to January 3rd.

## Book Sales

A number of books pertaining to Mennonite history are available for sale at the Archives. Two items on the list warrant special mention.

### 1. Menno Simons - Places, Portraits and Progeny.

This is not a standard historical text. It is a beautiful volume containing copies of paintings, photographs, drawings, and maps, as well as text, that illustrate the life and times of Menno Simons, his faith, and his followers. Many illustrations are in full colour.

This volume will be an attractive centerpiece for any parlour coffee table or office reception room.

### 2. Mennonites in Canada - 3 volume boxed set

These three volumes record the history of our people in Canada from 1786 to 1970. The first two volumes were written By Frank Epp, the last by Ted Regehr. They include not only the story of our people in words, but also a wealth of statistical data. Every Mennonite home library should contain this set to preserve the essence of our faith and community for future generations. Volume 3 is available seperately for those that already own the first two volumes.

Either or all of these volumes would make marvelous Christmas gifts.

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**Books for sale in the Archives:****PRICE LIST**

Dass die Heiden Miterben seien	Author - Hans J. Wiens.....	\$ 5.00
Diary of Anna Baerg	Editor - Gerald Peters.....	\$ 5.00
Die Altkolonier-Mennoniten in Mexiko	Author - Walter Schmiedehaus...\$	5.00
Erste Mennoniten Doerfer Russlands	Author - N. J. Kroeker.....	\$20.00
First Mennonite Villages in Russia	Author - N. J. Kroeker .....	\$20.00
Footprints of Compassion	Editor - Helen Grace Lescheid.....	\$ 7.00
Gnadenthal	Editor - Elisabeth Peters.....	\$10.00
Immer Weiter Nach Osten	Author - Abram J. Loewen.....	\$ 2.00
Menno Simons	Authors Piet Visser and Mary Sprunger.....	\$40.00
Mennonites in Canada - Volume II	Author - Frank H. Epp.....	\$12.00
Mennonites in Canada - Volume III	Author - Ted D. Regehr.....	\$29.95
Mennonites in Canada - Boxed Set	Authors Frank H. Epp and T.D. Regehr.....	\$69.95
My Harp Is Turned To Mourning	Author - Al Reimer.....	\$10.00
Never, Never Give Up!	Author - John V. Friesen.....	\$ 5.00
No Permanent City	Author - Harry Loewen.....	\$10.00
Our Adopted Mother	Author - Anna Rose Goertaen.....	\$ 7.00
Selected Documents	Author- John B. Toews.....	\$15.00
Siberian Diary	Author - Aron P. Toews.....	\$ 5.00
Waffen der Wehrlosen	Author - Hans Rempel.....	\$ 5.00

In closing, we wish you one and all a joyous celebration of the birth of Christ, and a happy and prosperous New Year.

**The Directors**