



# Young Center

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College

Spring 2009 **News**

## Bittinger Research Collection donated

**The books will help future generations of scholars, pastors, and teachers to deepen knowledge of the Brethren tradition.**

The Young Center makes more new gains in this year as we receive a generous gift from Dr. Emmert and Mrs. Esther Bittinger. Bittinger is donating several of his valuable rare books to the Young Center, and making a few additional ones available for acquisition. The seventy books, most in German from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, include several volumes by Brethren writers and the Ephrata Press. Bibles and hymnals are also among the collection. These volumes will enlarge the research resources at the Young Center in addition to the Durnbaugh Research Collection. They reflect Bittinger's lifelong passion for Brethren history and his prodigious writing on the topic.

Some of the books are of special interest for research. The Young Center is acquiring a copy of the 1745 edition of *Guldene Aepffel in Silbern Schalen*

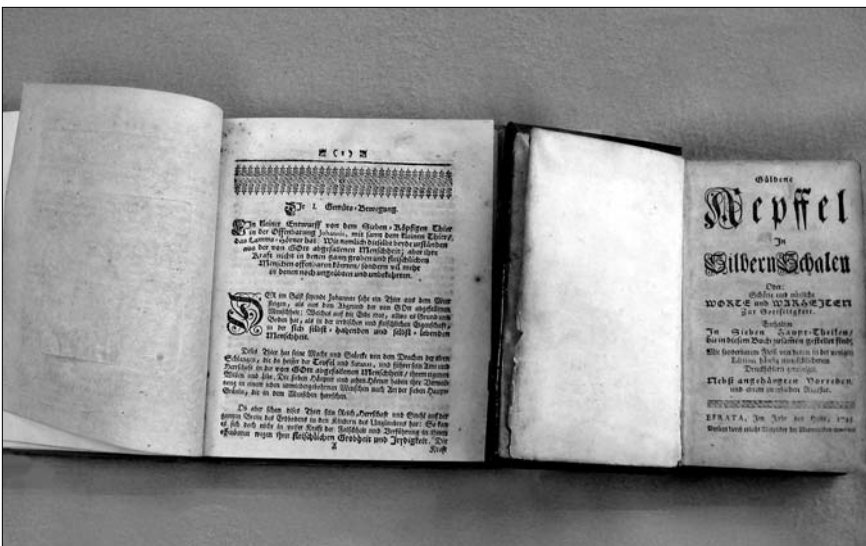
(*Schalen* (Golden Apples in Silver Bowls), an anonymous collection of Mennonite martyr stories, letters, and prayers. This book helped to shape the devotional life and teachings of Mennonites and Brethren in Pennsylvania. The collection includes a copy of theosophical letters by Conrad Beissel, the founder of the Ephrata Community, and other valuable resources.

Emmert Bittinger is a retired professor emeritus of sociology from Bridgewater College in Virginia, where he and Esther live. Their daughter, Marian, is an alumna of Elizabethtown College, as is her son, Jordan Bowman. With this gift, the Bittingers acknowledge the role that Elizabethtown College has played for their family. Their generosity is an honor to the Young Center and its dedication to the study of Anabaptist and Pietist groups, including the Church of the Brethren.

Bittinger is also an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren and has served the church pastorally as well as in scholarship. The gift of his books will help future generations of scholars, pastors, and teachers to deepen knowledge of the Brethren tradition.

The collection will be known as the Emmert and Esther Bittinger Research Collection and will be housed at the Young Center. During this winter and spring, some of the books will be on display in the lobby. Others will rotate on display in coming months and years.

On Thursday, February 26, following Bittinger's lecture at the Young Center, we will host a reception for Emmert and Esther Bittinger in gratitude for their gift. Please join us for the lecture and the opportunity to honor and thank the Bittingers for their generosity and commitment to Brethren scholarship. ■



Two of the books in the Emmert and Esther Bittinger Research Collection. On the left is Conrad Beissel's *Deliciae Ephratenses Pars II*, the 1773 reprint of the theosophical epistles first published at Ephrata in 1745. On the right is *Guldene Aepffel in Silbern Schalen*, an anonymous collection of Swiss and Dutch Anabaptist martyr stories, letters and prayers, published at Ephrata in 1745. This book was influential for many Mennonites, Amish, and Brethren in Pennsylvania in the eighteenth century.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jeff Bach

With a new year comes a new start into journeys of possibilities. As the fall semester finished in December, I finished teaching a course on communal societies in the U.S. The students and I studied groups such as the Hutterites, whose communal tradition is almost 500 years old, and the Peace Mission of Father Divine, whose life and work in the twentieth century challenged racial and economic barriers. Some communal groups lasted a short time, others for centuries. I was impressed again by how all of them started with strong hopes for different possibilities for their future. Part of what makes the Young Center a

wonderful place to work is the chance to study and teach about groups in the Anabaptist and Pietist traditions, both past and present, whose hope made new futures possible.

Those studies will continue this semester through the scholars who will join us. Andy Borella from Italy will pursue research on the Amish. Pat Gibble, from the Elizabethtown College faculty, will continue her work on early Pennsylvania German women. James Lowry, the Durnbaugh Lecturer at our spring banquet, will talk about how Dutch Mennonites helped Swiss and German Mennonites flee from repression and

persecution. In May, William Klassen will talk about his new biography on the Anabaptist Pilgram Marpeck. Also, Hedda Durnbaugh will lead a workshop on what makes a good hymn. In scholarship and in our programs, this semester offers a chance to hear about possibilities that were new in their day. They can also bring some new insights in our own time.

In a time of both uncertainty and possibility as this new year opens, I hope you'll join us at the Young Center to hear from the past and the present, from everyday people and from scholars. Together we can look forward to what new possibilities and hopes we may find. ■

# Visiting scholars enrich life at the Young Center

*Kreider Fellow and Doctoral Fellow pursue diverse research interests*

Patricia Gibble is serving as the Kreider Fellow for Spring 2009. An Elizabethtown College adjunct professor, Gibble teaches in the sociology and anthropology department and is a member of the Women and Gender Studies faculty. She also has a contract archaeology company through which she conducts digs of prehistoric and historic sites in Lebanon and Lancaster counties. She received a Ph.D. in anthropology from American University.

While at the Young Center, Gibble is writing about the lives of eighteenth century farm women, a manuscript that incorporates her four years of archaeological work at the Alexander Schaeffer Farmstead in Lebanon County. "My

research at the Young Center, using their historical and secondary materials, informs an expanded understanding of the economic contributions by eighteenth century German-speaking women to colonial farm economies and the social heritage of early America," Gibble says. She is also using archival material housed at Historic Schaefferstown for information about women's contributions to eighteenth century German/Swiss society.

Gibble will present a lecture about her research, the first Kreider Lecture, on April 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Andy Borella of Milan, Italy, is the doctoral fellow in residence at the Young Center this semester. Borella is in his second year of doctoral studies in anthropological sciences at the University of Turin, where his subject is the anthropology of religion, specifically Christianity in the United States. His dissertation will concern the rites of passage in Lancaster County's Amish community.

Borella is using the Young Center's collection of Amish periodicals for his research, and experts Donald B. Kraybill and Steve Scott are providing scholarly

consultation to assist him in his study of Old Order Amish cultural patterns.


*(continued on p. 3)*



Pat Gibble



Andy Borella



**Young Center**  
Spring 2009 **News**

- DIRECTOR  
Jeff Bach, Ph.D.
- SENIOR FELLOW  
Donald B. Kraybill, Ph.D.
- RESEARCH STAFF  
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- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
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*Young Center News* is published twice each year for those interested in the work and events of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Please direct correspondence to the address below.

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The Young Center enjoys hosting visitors! A group of about forty retired Brethren ministers and their spouses from Atlantic Northeast District met for lunch and a program at the Young Center on August 20. Jeff Bach gave an illustrated lecture on the beginnings of the Brethren mission in China. This presentation coincided with the new exhibit, “No Greater Love,” which relates the story of Brethren mission and service in China. The audience engaged in lively discussion, since several of those present had known personally some of the Brethren missionaries in China.

Eleven members of Quakertown Church of the Brethren visited the Young Center on October 12 (left photo). They had been studying church history in a class in their congregation and came to learn more about the Brethren and the Anabaptist movement. During their visit, Jeff Bach explained the exhibits on hymnody and the Brethren mission in China.

Nicholas J. Kersten, historian and archivist for the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society at Janesville, Wisconsin, spent a day at the Young Center on October 15 (right photo). Kersten was visiting sites with collections of materials related to the German Seventh Day Baptists and the Ephrata and Snow Hill communities, from which the German Seventh Day Baptists developed. Among the items at the Young Center is a good copy of *Martyrs Mirror* printed by the Ephrata Press in 1748. Kersten and Center director Bach discussed various collections of Ephrata-related materials, including those at the archives of the Seventh Day Baptist Historical Society in Wisconsin.

## Scholars *(continued)*

The Young Center is an ideal place to pursue his research, Borella says, not only because of its large collection of relevant materials and its scholars, but also because of its location. “Staying in the area where the communities that I am studying live is fundamental for an anthropologist,” Borella continues. “I hope to attend their worship services and school lessons, and have the chance to visit them on their farms or in their workplaces.”

Borella will present a lecture about his doctoral work on April 23 at 7:00 p.m.

The Young Center invites applications and nominations for Center Fellows and Doctoral Fellows. Visit the Center’s web site, [www.etown.edu/youngctr](http://www.etown.edu/youngctr), for more information on the Fellows program. ■

## Kraybill and Bach book projects

Senior Fellow Donald B. Kraybill has recently completed a working draft of *Concise Encyclopedia of Amish, Brethren, Hutterites, and Mennonites*. The single volume work gives brief, accurate information on the history, religious beliefs, and social practices of these four North American Anabaptist families. It also includes entries on each country in North America as well as the countries from which the groups originated. A directory of groups follows the main entry section; the directory contains descriptions and population figures for every group with more than 300 members and/or three congregations.

Kraybill, who has a sabbatical from teaching during the 2008-09 academic year, has been working hard to finish this

comprehensive project. The manuscript is currently being reviewed by the advisory council. Keep watching for notice of a publication date.

Young Center director Jeff Bach collaborated with Steven Longenecker, professor of history at Bridgewater College, in editing a collection of essays in honor of the Brethren 300th anniversary, titled *Lines, Places, and Heritage: Essays Commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the Church of the Brethren*. Bach’s essay on a seal used by the Germantown Brethren congregation appears in the book, which was released last July by Penobscot Press. The book also includes an essay by Ted Long, president of Elizabethtown College, on collaboration between church and college. ■

# James W. Lowry to give 2009 Durnbaugh Lectures

Author, researcher, and transcriber James Lowry will present the 2009 Durnbaugh Lectures. Lowry is the author of *Hans Landis, Swiss Anabaptist Martyr in Seventeenth Century Documents*, *The Martyrs' Mirror Made Plain: A Study Guide and Further Studies*, and *In the Whale's Belly and Other Martyr Stories*, as well as numerous scholarly articles. His most recent book, *Documents of Brotherly Love: Dutch Mennonite Aid to Swiss Anabaptists 1635-1709* (Ohio Amish Library, 2007), is a collection of transcriptions and translations of 82 doc-

uments related to religious persecution and aid to refugees, carefully annotated and introduced in their historical context in Switzerland, Alsace, and the Palatinate. It will serve as the theme for this year's Durnbaugh lectures.

Established in 1993 to commemorate the scholarship of Donald and Hedda Durnbaugh, this endowed lecture series brings a noted scholar of Anabaptist or Pietist studies to campus annually. This year's lectures will be held on March 26 and 27. In both, Lowry will discuss his work translating archival records related

to aid given to Swiss and German Mennonite refugees prior to their migration to America. The Thursday lecture will follow the Young Center banquet in the Susquehanna Room. The Friday seminar will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Young Center.

Lowry received a B.A. from Kent State University and an M.A. in Classics from University of Chicago. ■

## Scott honored for service to college

On December 23, research and administrative associate Stephen Scott was honored by Elizabethtown College for ten years of full-time service to the college. Scott actually began working at the Young Center in February 1997 and became a full-time employee in 1998. His cheerful presence, encyclopedic knowledge of Plain groups in the U.S. and Canada, and diligent research have been invaluable to the Young Center. Some people might chuckle to learn that Scott is actually the most capable person on staff with audio-visual equipment. The author of a number of books, he also gives speeches and presentations throughout the region to interpret the Plain groups of the Anabaptist and Pietist traditions. The Young Center staff joins the college in congratulating Steve Scott on this milestone, and looks forward to many more years with him. ■

## Center director speaks at Mennonite seminary and at marker dedication

Young Center director Jeff Bach visited Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana, on October 2 and 3, during a commemoration the seminary held in honor of the 300th anniversary of the Brethren. Some AMBS students, faculty, and staff are Brethren and, throughout history, the Brethren have often interacted with the Mennonites.

Bach spoke at the noon forum on October 2, giving a brief overview of the Brethren and their current statistics. He also offered comments about the Anabaptist movement and the Pietist movement to set the Brethren in context. That afternoon, Bach and AMBS academic dean Rebecca Slough gave a joint presentation comparing characteristics and styles of Mennonites and Brethren. Slough taught at Bethany Theological Seminary, the Church of the Brethren seminary in Richmond, Indiana, from 1994 to 1999, prior to going to AMBS. At the event's closing worship service on October 3, Bach delivered a brief homily on treasuring the past from a Brethren perspective.

The celebration gave Mennonite students, faculty, and staff a closer view of the Brethren, who are theologically similar to Mennonites, and who also have a large population in northern Indiana. The occasion allowed for meaningful dialogue between Mennonite scholars and the

Brethren delegation invited to participate.

Several days earlier, on September 21, Bach gave the keynote address at the dedication of a historical marker placed by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission at the Germantown Church of the Brethren in Philadelphia. The plaque commemorates the 300th anniversary of the Brethren, who began in Schwarzenau, Germany, in 1708. The marker also recognizes the Germantown congregation as the oldest Brethren congregation in America, founded in 1723. In his address, Bach commented on contributions of Brethren in Pennsylvania and the significance of Brethren offering compassion and service to others. ■



Young Center director Jeff Bach congratulates Willard Swartley on receiving the 2008 Dale W. Brown Book Award. Swartley presented a lecture on the book, *Covenant of Peace: The Missing Peace in New Testament Theology and Ethics*, in October 2008.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Crisis of Conscience: Shenandoah Anabaptists During the Civil War**

EMMERT F. BITTINGER, PH.D.

**Thursday, February 26 ■ 7:00 p.m.**

During the Civil War, Brethren and Mennonites in the Shenandoah Valley, the “breadbasket of the Confederacy,” faced a severe crisis. They were under great pressure to support the war not only with supplies and goods but with manpower. How these families met this challenge to their religious convictions and personal safety is the focus of Bittenger’s talk.

Bittenger is a professor emeritus of Bridgewater College and the editor of the six-volume series *Unionists and the Civil War Experience in the Shenandoah Valley*. A graduate of the University of Maryland, he has authored books on Brethren history and articles on family history and a variety of other topics.

### **Three BIG Ts: The Trinity of Text—Tone—Tune**

HEDDA DURNBAUGH, M.A.L.S.

**Sat., March 14 ■ 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

This workshop will examine how the three elements that make up a hymn act upon one another. Participants will first learn to analyze each element separately, and then to apply this understanding to the process of choosing hymns for certain occasions. The material will be taken from both Anglo-American and German-American hymnody, with consideration of the unique natures of the two strains. The workshop will include singing and discussion; participants are invited to bring a favorite hymn.

Cost of the workshop, which includes lunch, is \$10.00, and registration is required by March 6.

Durnbaugh, a native of Austria and long-time resident of the U.S., is a language teacher and translator, and a hymnologist specializing in German and Scandinavian hymnody. She has studied, lectured, and written about the hymnodies of German immigrant groups to America.

■ Thursday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.

#### LECTURE

#### **Crisis of Conscience: Shenandoah Anabaptists During the Civil War**

Emmert F. Bittinger, Ph.D.

■ Sat., March 14, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#### WORKSHOP

#### **Three BIG Ts: The Trinity of Text—Tone—Tune**

Hedda Durnbaugh, M.A.L.S.

■ Thursday, March 26, 6:00 p.m.

#### **Annual Young Center Banquet**

■ Thursday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.

#### DURNBAUGH LECTURE

#### **Adventures in Research: The Amsterdam Archives Project and Documents of Brotherly Love**

James W. Lowry, M.A.

■ Fri., March 27, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

#### DURNBAUGH SEMINAR

#### **Swiss Anabaptists to the Palatinate and on to the New World**

James W. Lowry, M.A.

■ Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.

#### KREIDER LECTURE

#### **Finding Esther: Archaeological Research and Gender Construction at an 18th Century Pennsylvania Swiss/German Farmstead**

Patricia Gobble, Ph.D.

■ Thursday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.

#### LECTURE

#### **Amish Identity and Rites of Passage**

Andy Borella, M.A.

■ Thursday, May 28, 7:30 p.m.

#### LECTURE

#### **Pilgrim Marpeck: Resisting Oppression from Within**

William Klassen, Ph.D.

### **Annual Young Center Banquet**

**Thursday, March 26 ■ 6:00 p.m.**

**(Reception at 5:30 p.m.)**

**Susquehanna Room of Myer Hall**

Socialize with faculty, staff, students, church leaders, and friends of the Young Center and learn about the Center’s activities and programs. Cost of the banquet is \$17.00, and reservations are required by March 16.

### **2009 Durnbaugh Lectures**

JAMES W. LOWRY, M.A.

James W. Lowry is the author of four books, most recently *Documents of Brotherly Love: Dutch Mennonite Aid to Swiss Anabaptists 1635-1709* (Ohio Amish Library, 2007). He has also written articles for publications such as *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* and *Mennonite Life*.

A reception for Lowry will be held in the Susquehanna Room at 5:30 p.m., preceding the Young Center banquet.

### **Adventures in Research: The Amsterdam Archives Project and Documents of Brotherly Love**

**Thursday, March 26 ■ 7:30 p.m.**

**Susquehanna Room of Myer Hall**

Lowry will discuss his work translating records from the Dutch Mennonite archives related to aid Mennonites in the Netherlands gave to Swiss and German Mennonite refugees prior to their migration to Pennsylvania and other places. He will also describe the origins of the Amsterdam Archives project and various unexpected things that happened in the course of the research.

### **Swiss Anabaptists to the Palatinate and on to the New World**

**Fri., March 27 ■ 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

In this seminar, Lowry will describe the course of events of the renewed persecution by the Reformed Church in Switzerland, refugees swamping the small Mennonite communities in Alsace and the Palatinate, financial intervention by the Dutch Mennonites, and finally, the first tricklings of immigration into the New World. The discussion will cover a previously unilluminated period of sectarian history from 1635 through 1709.

Cost of the seminar, which includes lunch, is \$10.00, and registration is required by March 16.



Elizabethtown College

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Finding Esther: Archaeological Research and Gender Construction at an 18th Century Pennsylvania Swiss/German Farmstead**

PATRICIA E. GIBBLE, PH.D.  
KREIDER FELLOW, SPRING 2009

**Tuesday, April 14 ■ 7:00 p.m.**

German and Swiss immigrant farm women in Central Pennsylvania in the eighteenth century had traditional roles of reproduction and homemaking. They also produced commodities for home consumption and retail sale and did farm work that contributed to farm incomes. In contrast, within the gender ideology of that period, they had limited independence and legal rights to property. Gibble will discuss her research into these women's lives, using archaeological data from her excavation at the Schaeffer Farm and documentary evidence.

An adjunct professor at Elizabethtown College, Gibble also conducts archaeology excavations and public programs for historical societies.

### **Amish Identity and Rites of Passage**

ANDY BORELLA, M.A.  
DOCTORAL FELLOW, SPRING 2009

**Thursday, April 23 ■ 7:00 p.m.**

Using a structural-functionalist point of view, Borella will describe how the Amish rites of passage (baptism, weddings, funerals) and the symbolic meanings embedded in them are necessary to insure stability and cohesion in Amish communities. He will also discuss how these rites, especially funerals, maintain the strength and cultural resistance of the Amish.

Borella is a Ph.D. student in anthropological sciences at the University of Turin. He holds master's degrees in political sciences and in anthropological and ethnological sciences.

### **Pilgram Marpeck: Resisting Oppression from Within**

WILLIAM KLASSEN, PH.D.

**Thursday, May 28 ■ 7:30 p.m.**  
**(Reception at 7:00 p.m.)**

Klassen will discuss the life of Pilgram Marpeck, an Anabaptist theologian who lived a life of loyal service to civic government and to Christ. While thousands died for their faith during the Reformation, Marpeck balanced on a tightrope as senior civic engineer and passionate Anabaptist. One of the first to advocate freedom of religion and separation of church and state, he helped lay the foundation of the believers' church.

Klassen is the coauthor, with Walter Klaassen, of *Marpeck: A Life of Dissent and Conformity* (Herald Press, 2008).

The book is a new, extensively researched biography of Marpeck. Klassen is currently adjunct professor and principal emeritus at St. Paul's United College, University of Waterloo, Ontario. He also taught at AMBS.