

Acknowledgements

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Cover: The cover reproduces a painting, “Rembrandt Mennonites on Holiday,” by Don Swartzentruber. It represents the Ex-Mennonite/Near Mennonite continuum in reverse of the chronological norm in which the most assimilated Mennonites are from the most recent times. A 1970’s conservative Mennonite East Coast farm is the setting in the painting. The father shears sheep, mother tends the children, and two boys harvest hot peppers. Four strangers from mid-seventeenth century Amsterdam, fictitious close friends of Rembrandt and his wife, Saskia van Uylenburgh, a Mennonite, visit the farm while on holiday in North America. The painting banters the idea that early European Mennonites were more engaged in the culture of their day and had less interest in separatism than many later North American farmers. This self-induced marginalized family lives “safely” removed from “the World”, unless out-of-town Mennonites come for a visit. *Photo: Kelly Morrow*

Artist Biography: Don Swartzentruber (b.1966) grew-up in a conservative Mennonite community in Greenwood, Delaware. He earned an MFA from Vermont College of Norwich University, later switching to his own studio work and teaching college-level art for over twenty years. Soon after the “Pop-Mennonite” project Swartzentruber started a large sequential art project. This graphic novel titled “Carnival Sage” explores theology with comic art. He lives with his wife and two sons in the community of Winona Lake, Indiana. www.swartzentruber.com