
In Memoriam

Frank H. Epp — A Man Of and For Our Times.

Frank H. Epp, who died on January 22, 1986, at the age of 56, was a man of very many talents. He served as a teacher, journalist, pastor, broadcaster, social activist, historian, professor, and college administrator.

The years of Frank's life were years of very rapid change for Canadian Mennonites; changes in which he was an influential leader and very active participant. As co-founder and editor of the first English language Canadian Mennonite newspaper, *The Canadian Mennonite*, he led in the language changes and addressed new and sometimes controversial issues, but he also retained and propagated a great love and respect for the very rich Mennonite heritage. Contemporaries found the paper informative, inspiring, and sometimes irritating. Those in Mennonite Studies find it a treasure trove of information about Mennonites in transition.

Frank's first published historical work, *Mennonite Exodus*, and the later volumes of *Mennonites in Canada*, were all based on solid and extensive research, and have become standard reference works. His books on the Middle East, and his long and very active involvement in the Mennonite Central Committee Canada, demonstrated a deep concern for world suffering which was rooted in his deep spiritual convictions. He was very much a man of and for our times.

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Henry George Krahn — A Man in Pursuit of Excellence

The Mennonite world mourns the loss of an unusually gifted teacher, scholar and educator, Dr. Henry George Krahn. Henry Krahn died suddenly this past December (1985), while involved in what was one of his passions, planning quality education for Mennonite young people.

Krahn was born "enroute" during the major Mennonite migration from the Soviet Union in 1923. His oft repeated phrase that "Mennonites must be a people who are becoming" is indicative of both his birth and death. For Krahn life was a pilgrimage during which a responsible Christian constantly interacted with new ideas, pushing back the "walls of ignorance." No one could be his colleague, student or friend without

being challenged by his thoughtful consideration of some new concept or interpretation, ever mindful of its broader ramifications.

In his academic pursuits Krahn had two "historical" loves, the early history of China and Renaissance-Reformation history. While seemingly disparate historical interests, he considered both to be representative of the impact ideas can have upon a civilization.

While Henry Krahn may not have been a prolific scholar with his pen (his dissertation being an analysis of the Anabaptist-Reformed dialogues in Strassbourg during the Reformation), he was a superb scholar in the classroom. No student could sit through his courses without being caught up with his infectious zeal in the quest for knowledge. Narrow sectarianism and dogmatic assumptions were foreign to Henry Krahn. He constantly exhibited to all who knew him a rare combination of biblical piety with a fearless openness to new theological concepts.

As a churchman Henry Krahn devoted his life to Mennonite education. In India, he directed the Mennonite Brethren missions schools for six years. In North America he taught history at Fresno Pacific College (ten years) and at the Mennonite Brethren Bible College (eleven years). He was the president of the latter institution for eight years during which he brought to the College a new vision for education which combined denominational education with academic excellence. His counsel, wisdom and stimulation will be missed.

Ken Reddig

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Gerhard Lohrenz — A Man To Remember

Gerhard Lohrenz, born December 13, 1899, in Neu-Schoensee Sagradowka, in the Ukraine, was buried in Winnipeg on February 10, 1986. Although he spent sixty years of his life in Canada, the experiences of his younger years were always with him. He was a good observer and had an unusual memory, tools for which any historian could envy him. He was old enough to remember the golden years of the Mennonite Commonwealth in Russia, and also to experience intensely its sudden and brutal destruction. He knew the Russian and Ukrainian people, their language, customs and emotions, and he sympathized with the poor Ukrainian peasant, even though he had seen this peasant destroy what he loved. He had seen his Mennonite people suffer through the first years of terror in Russia (1914-25), which took such a high toll and then decided to find a new homeland.

These were traumatic experiences which escape us in a rather safe North-American world, but Russia held a kind of spell over Gerhard Lohrenz, and when visits to Russia became possible, he went back seventeen times. His Russian was still very much intact and he understood the

Russian soul so well that inevitably the Intourist guides would fall in love with "the old man" (starichok) who dared to be very direct and demanding where the system failed to provide what it promised, and yet fair and reasonable to every Russian he met. When he stopped travelling, the Intourist guides continued to inquire how the "starichok" was doing in Canada.

And we who did not always like his abrasive side but still were proud to be his friends because we knew him and because he had so much to teach us about the Mennonite experiences in Russia and Canada, we too remember our "starichok" with love for what he was — not always an easy man, but a man of courage who served the Mennonite community well for more than sixty years.

George K. Epp
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