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# Foreword

The first issue of the *Journal* (1983), which included articles on almost all aspects of Mennonite Studies, did not deal with music and singing among Mennonites. Nor did we receive any submissions on music for subsequent issues of the journal. We are thus all the more pleased to begin this issue with a most interesting and informative essay on the outspoken Canadian-Mennonite hymnologist, J. P. Claszen. Wesley Berg has published articles on Russian-Mennonite music before and is the author of *From Russia With Music: A Study of the Mennonite Choral Singing Tradition in Canada* (1985).

The cultural-literary section continues with Al Reimer's article "Innocents Abroad: The Comic Odyssey of *Koop enn Bua opp Reise*," another penetrating analysis of Arnold Dyck's most successful comic characters by a specialist on this Canadian-Mennonite author.

Jeff Gundy, who teaches English at Bluffton College, has written an insightful autobiographical essay on three American-Mennonite poets and their often ambivalent role within the Mennonite world. Catherine Hunter, a senior honours graduate in English at the University of Winnipeg, is the author of an interesting article on Rudy Wiebe's novel *My Lovely Enemy*. The article was prepared as a paper for a "Mennonite Authors" seminar and appears here in a slightly revised version. Peter Pauls, whose translation of Peter Epp's novel *Eine Mutter* is to be published soon, compares in his essay the female narrator in Epp's novel with the female narrator in Rudy Wiebe's *The Blue Mountains of China*.

Next to the historians, sociologists have been the most prolific in their output of articles and monographs on Mennonite Studies themes. Paul Redekop, who teaches Sociology at the University of Winnipeg, has written a valuable article on "The Mennonite Family in Tradition and Transition."

The Prussian-Russian Mennonite story continues to fascinate scholars, particularly the early period which has not been exhaustively researched and which provides valuable clues to later Mennonite history in North- and South-America. In this issue three Canadian historians and an elderly, now deceased, participant in the Russian-Mennonite experience focus on the Prussian and Russian Mennonites.

John Friesen of Canadian Mennonite Bible College takes another look at the Mennonites in Poland, arguing that the Polish connection has to be taken more seriously than heretofore. John B. Toews, well-known to readers of Mennonite journals, provides an interesting document on the Polish Mennonites, "Mennonites in Deutsch Kasun Make Peace, 1881." George K. Epp, the director of the newly established Mennonite Studies Centre at the University of Winnipeg, deals with "Russian Patriotism Among the Nineteenth-Century Russian Mennonites." This

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paper was first presented in 1985 at a symposium sponsored by the Chair in Mennonite Studies. And Bernhard J. Dick, who died earlier this year, writes about his experiences in the *Selbstschutz* in Russia. Written in German, this valuable and interesting document was slightly shortened, translated and edited by Harry Loewen and Al Reimer.

In the creative literature section there are two stories by Mennonite writers. The story "The Courtship of Neetchen," translated by Peter Pauls, is an excerpt from Peter Epp's novel *Eine Mutter*. "The Outsider" ("Er") is a short story included in a collection of stories, *Denn meine Augen haben Deinen Heiland gesehen*, by Jacob H. Janzen (1878-1950). The translator, Elmer F. Suderman, is well-known for his poetry published in Mennonite journals and articles on Mennonite literature.

This issue includes three substantial articles dealing with Anabaptist historiography and new interpretations of Anabaptist characters and themes. Abraham Friesen in his article "Thomas Müntzer and the Anabaptists" provides some interesting and relevant new insights into the relationship between the leader of the Peasants' Revolt and the Swiss Brethren. In "Becoming Anabaptist-Mennonite: The Contemporary Relevance of Sixteenth-Century Anabaptism," J. Denny Weaver continues to wrestle with questions of identity, meaning, roots and tradition. This article, slightly revised for the *Journal*, will be part of the author's forthcoming book *Becoming Anabaptist*, published by Herald Press, Scottsdale, Pennsylvania. In a lengthy historiographical article, James Coggins, who is pursuing graduate studies at the University of Waterloo, writes on "Toward a Definition of Sixteenth-Century Anabaptism," thus contributing to the revisionism debate in Anabaptist studies.

1985 saw the appearance of a major study on the "Kleine Gemeinde" by Delbert F. Plett, a lawyer in Steinbach, Manitoba. In his *The Golden Years: The Mennonite Kleine Gemeinde in Russia (1812-1849)*, Plett differentiates between three groups of Mennonites: "Cultural Mennonites," "Pietistic Mennonites," and the Kleine Gemeinde, which according to Plett was the true Anabaptist church in Russia. In "All that glisters . . .," James Urry of Wellington, New Zealand, has written a probing review article on this book.

This issue concludes with several book reviews and tributes to three well-known Mennonite leaders (Gerhard Lohrenz, Henry Krahn and Frank H. Epp) who died within the last year. Their leadership, encouragement and scholarship will be greatly missed by readers of the *Journal*. Since Al Reimer's new novel, *My Harp is Turned to Mourning*, encompasses a turbulent historical period in the life of Russian Mennonites, we have included two reviews of it, one by an historian and one by a literary reviewer.

The sketches by Arnold Dyck included in this issue, were kindly provided by Hedwig Knoop, Dyck's daughter who lives in the Federal Republic of Germany, and by Margaret Kroeker of Winnipeg. The Men-

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nonite Studies Centre allowed us to use the photographs of these sketches.

Unfortunately, we had to increase our subscription price by \$2.00. We hope readers will understand and continue to support our publication. Without subscribers and generous donors this journal could not exist. Many thanks to all!

Harry Loewen, Editor  
University of Winnipeg