

## Bibliographical Notes

Books listed here may be reviewed later.

Di Brandt. *Jerusalem Beloved. Poems.* (Winnipeg: Turnstone Press, 1995). Paper, 73 pp. This collection grew out of Brandt's visit to Jerusalem in 1991. Hildi Froese Tiessen writes: "In these poems we hear Di Brandt speaking with an eloquent, unwavering voice, of the heartbreak of human devastation and the exhilaration of unbinding old wounds. This is a wonderful, gently forceful collection—the poems full of echoes and incantations, evocatively driven by longing, and linked by a series of delicate narrative threads."

Armin Wiebe. *The Second Coming of Yeeat Shpanst. A Novel.* (Winnipeg: Turnstone Press, 1995). Paper, 300 pp. A sequel to Wiebe's *The Salvation of Yasch Siemens* and *Murder in Gutenthal*, this "is an operatic political cartoon novel of the struggle for Canada's soul. When the Prime Minister declares it is a dark day for Canada, the citizens of Gutenthal, who believe their country's fate is more important than baseball, set out to save the nation from a storm of unwanted referendum questions and foreign take-overs" (from the back cover of the book).

*Collected Works of Erasmus, Vol. 50. Paraphrases on the Acts of the Apostles.* Ed. by John J. Bateman, trans. and annotated by Robert D. Sider (Toronto/Buffalo/London: Univ. of Toronto Press, 1995). Hardcover, 390 pp. \$95.00 (North America/World), £62.00 (UK), \$107.00 (Europe). The *Para-*

*phrases of Erasmus*, of which the Paraphrases on Acts is the fifth volume of *Paraphrases* to be published in this series, gave the Humanist Erasmus an opportunity to expand on the biblical texts, thus spreading the "philosophy of Christ" among readers. The *Paraphrases* were successful and popular and were quickly translated into many languages. The works of Erasmus were eagerly read by the Reformers, including the Anabaptists. Menno Simons expressed his indebtedness to Erasmus, especially the Humanist's writings on pacifism.

P. Travis Kroeker, *Christian Ethics and Political Economy in North America. A Critical Analysis* (McGill-Queen's Studies in the History of Religion) (Montreal & Kingston/London/Buffalo: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1995). Paperback, 201 pp. \$18.95. "In this religious and moral critique of liberalism, Travis Kroeker analyses how religio-ethical discourse is changed when it is translated into the economic policy discourse of North American liberalism. Focusing on influential representatives of contemporary Christian social ethics, he examines attempts to reconcile prophetic religion and public policy. Kroeker argues that in trying to make their theological ethics relevant to economic policy Christian social ethicists have accepted assumptions that are incompatible with theological beliefs. Starting with the Social Gospel movement, he discusses the positions of theologian Walter Rauschenbusch and Canadian politician James Shaver Woodsworth. He then turns to Christian Realism and compares the views of Reinhold Niebuhr with those of Gregory Vlastos, the central figure in the Canadian Fellowship for a Christian Social Order. He also examines recent pastoral letters on the economy by the Canadian and US conferences of Roman Catholic bishops. In conclusion, Kroeker suggests an alternative theological approach based on the classical Christian realism of Augustine that might better address the moral malaise of liberal political economy." (Press release)

Donald R. Fitzkee, *Moving Toward the Mainstream: 20th Century Change Among the Brethren of Eastern Pennsylvania* (Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 1995). Paperback, 348 pp., \$9.95 U.S. This is an important book on how a Mennonite group becomes transformed into a mainstream Evangelical denomination. From the author's Preface: "This book tells the story of a people who were transformed from plain to Protestant. Once known as Dunkers and recognized for peculiar practices such as distinctive dress and trine immersion baptism, the Church of the Brethren during the 20th century traded many symbols of separation for mainstream cultural commitment.... A group that once worshipped in austere meetinghouses later erected magnificent churches with stately steeples. A people who universally rejected the use of force in personal and international relations saw nearly 80 percent of its young men march off to fight in World War II."

Jeff Gundy, *Flatlands. Poems* (Cleveland, OH: Cleveland State University Poetry Center, 1995). Paperback, 77 pp., \$10.00 U.S. This collection of poems by a well-known American-Mennonite poet is a gem. Lucia Cordell Getsi writes: "The only thing flat about this book is in the title—the poems travel deep into their mid-western landscapes and rise to take you somewhere past where you began. Gundy is writing a spiritual journey of the real. And what an intelligent guide this poet is, how much you can trust what he tells you."

Walfred J. Fahrer, *Building on the Rock. A Biblical Vision of Being Church Together From an Anabaptist-Mennonite Perspective* (Scottsdale/Waterloo: Herald Press, 1995). Paperback, 127 pp., \$11.35 Can. The book is an inspiring guide to what it means to be an Anabaptist-Christian church. Alan Kreider writes in the Foreword: "This book will be especially helpful for small groups, leadership teams attempting an inventory of the life of their church, and pioneer Christians trying to establish new congregations on solid foundations."

Elisabeth Peters, *Erzählungen aus dem mennonitischen Leben and Wem Gott will rechte Gunst erweisen* (Winnipeg: Mennonite German Society, 1994). The two paperbacks (186 pp. and 240 pp. respectively) include the author's stories—many of which had been published in Mennonite papers. Those who know the author have come to appreciate her gift of story-telling, both in High German and Plautdietsch. These volumes, beautifully illustrated and bound, are suitable as gifts for young and older readers who still know German.

Kevin James Block, *Without Shedding of Blood* (Winnipeg: Windflower Communications, 1994). Paperback, 185 pp. This novel deals with the war between Canada and the United States in 1812. Ron Dale of the Niagara National Historic Sites writes of this book: "This is such a well researched and personal story, it is almost as if Kevin Block was there." And Al Reimer writes: "Kevin Block is a natural writer. His insight into the struggles of a young man who decides to join the British militia clearly demonstrates his ability to craft a good story. A book definitely worth reading."

*Snake in the Parsonage.* Award-winning poetry by Jean Janzen (Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 1995). Paperback, 73 pp. \$9.95 U.S. This collection includes the poems for which Jean Janzen received the Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. The poems were selected by a panel of poets. Poet Julia Kasdorf writes: "This book is an event

of generosity and grace. With lovely, precise images, Jean Janzen gently restores flesh to spirit and renders sensual pleasures so lush that even in the face of death, 'you have to eat.'" And novelist Rudy Wiebe writes: "Jean Janzen writes our songs, the ductile desires of growing up, of living in this 'new country,' the United States. As you read these poems, you realize they are prayers 'smoldering in your chest'...."

Margarete Ewert, *Bist Du Auch Up To Date? Gedichte für jung und alt*. Privately printed and published (Kelowna, B.C.: Speedy Printing Centre, 1993). Paperback, 120 pp. A collection of humorous poems in "demi-German," with German and English "all mixed up." The "spokespersons" and actors in these poems are not only people, but also animals and plants.

E.J. Furcha, trans. & ed., *The Essential Carlstadt. Fifteen tracts by Andreas Bodenstein (Carlstadt) from Karlstadt*. Classics of the Radical Reformation #8 (Waterloo/Scottsdale: Herald Press, 1995). Hardcover, 449 pp., \$49.95 U.S., \$71.25 Can. These most valuable writings of one of the early Radical Reformers of the 16th century are here available in an excellent translation with copious notes. Students of the Reformation are introduced to the man who dared to oppose his more famous colleague, Martin Luther, and who influenced significantly the early Anabaptists, particularly their understanding of the Lord's Supper. In fact, historian Calvin Pater goes as far as to call Carlstadt "the father of the Baptist movement." Both Professor Furcha and Herald Press are to be commended for producing this important volume.

Harry Loewen, *Keine bleibende Stadt. Mennonitische Geschichten aus fünf Jahrhunderten*. Uebersetzt von Peter Foth (Hamburg: Kuempers-Verlag, 1995). Paperback, 280 pp. DM19.95. This translation into German of Loewen's *No Permanent City. Stories from Mennonite History and Life* (Herald Press, 1993), includes all the original stories, except one, and two new stories. Some of the stories have been slightly revised. Translator Peter Foth is a long-time pastor of the Mennonite Church in Hamburg-Altona. His wife Elke and son Kilian assisted with the translation. See the ad at the back of this issue.