

# HERITAGE REVIEW



VOLUME 21  
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## THE 1560 FROSCHAUER BIBLE

by Edward Kline

In 2010 the Ohio Amish Library had the opportunity to purchase a 1560 edition Froschauer Bible from an auction house in Germany. This Bible was printed and bound in two folio-sized volumes, with 334 pages in the first volume which contains the Pentateuch, the history books, and the Apocrypha, and 221 pages in the second volume which contains the poetical books, the Prophets, and the New Testament. In some cases this edition was bound in one massive volume.

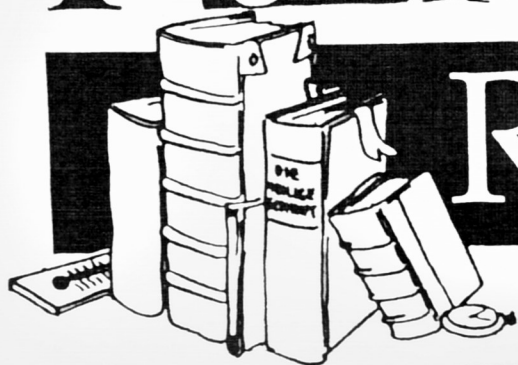
The 1560 edition was the seventh printing of folio-sized (full-sized) Froschauer Bibles, the earlier printings being in 1531, 1536, 1539/40, 1545, 1551, and 1556. During this time period, a few smaller sized editions were also printed.

This Froschauer Bible is special for its hand- colored woodcut illustrations. Over one hundred of these woodcuts were painted in multiple colors by an artist hired to do this work. The work is of excellent quality and must have added considerably to the cost of the Bibles. Although most of the illustrations are only about three inches square, the title pages for both volumes are colored full page. Many of the books of the Bible are introduced by a woodcut at the first chapter. These illustrations often point out the main theme of the book. For example, the woodcut at Psalms 1 shows King David with a harp, and the beginning of the book of Job has an illustration of Job covered with boils and houses burning in the background.

The Heritage Review is an annual publication of the Ohio Amish Library, 4292 SR 39 Millersburg, Ohio 44654. It is intended to provide information, past and present, about the Amish and Mennonites, especially in Ohio. We invite articles and information. Memberships to the Ohio Amish Library are \$20 annually. Single copies of The Heritage Review are available.

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VOLUME 22

July 2013



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### TWO KINDS OF OBEDIENCE

INTRODUCTION by Edward Kline

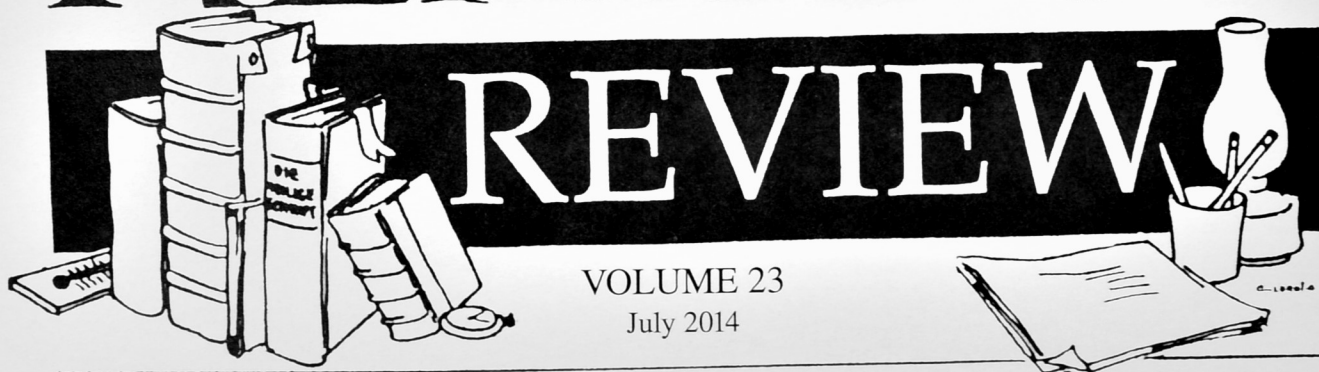
Doctrinal or devotional literature dating back to the early years of the Anabaptist movement (1525-1535) is exceedingly rare. The persecution and oppression of those years made both the writing of such materials difficult and the printing of them hazardous. The best known writing from this period is the Seven Articles of the Schleithem Confession (1527). It is generally accepted that Michael Sattler was the chief editor and genius behind this confession. Others who left writings from this time period are Conrad Grebel, Pilgram Marpeck, and two Hutterites, Peter Riedemann and Peter Walpot.<sup>1</sup>

Michael Sattler provided leadership for the fledgling Swiss Brethren movement at a critical time, when the first leaders were no longer active. Conrad Grebel had died a natural death, Felix Manz had died a martyr's death a month before the Schleithem Articles were written in Feb. 24, 1527, and George Blaurock had been banished from Switzerland.

The Schleithem Articles were written to combat "false teachers" and thus were not comprehensive, but dealt only with the articles of contention. The Articles must have been successful in their purpose because they were circulated and

1. Robert Friedmann, "The Schleithem Confession, and other writings of the Swiss Brethren in a Hitherto Unknown edition," *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, XVI (April, 1942), 84

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### SUPREME TRUST

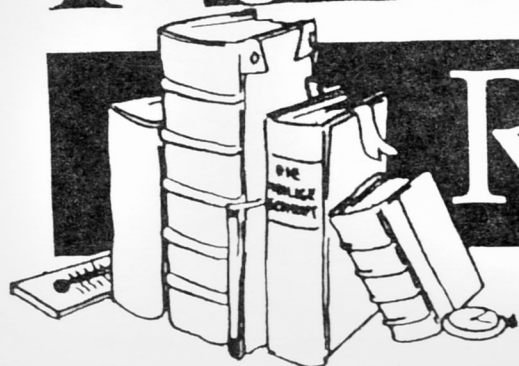
The Ausbund songwriters imprisoned in Passau saw the call to Christian discipleship as one of supreme faith and trust. Regardless of what they were called to sacrifice or suffer, they were willing to venture or risk everything on Christ and his promises. These verses show their dedication to Christ and their faith in overcoming and being faithful. They believed that *"Whoever dies with Him will not perish, but will live with Him in His kingdom, likewise to him will be given a crown of life."* (Ausbund 98:18b)

Whoever wants to be My disciple,  
He must forsake the world,  
In his heart also become pure  
And hate his own life.  
Thereto here also,  
He must venture all his treasures,  
His child and wife, also his own life,  
All must be given to risk. (Ausbund 98:12)

Upon Christ we will venture,  
He is the true cornerstone,  
He can indeed endow us  
With His power alone.  
On the cornerstone is grounded  
The holy Church of God,  
Those who bring Him the offering,  
Prevail with His power,  
And are obedient to Him. (Ausbund 100:9)

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*The Heritage Review* is an annual publication of the Ohio Amish Library, 5798 CR 77 Millersburg, Ohio 44654. It is intended to provide information, past and present, about the Amish and Mennonites, especially in Ohio. We invite articles and information. Membership to the OAL are \$20 annually. Single copies of *the Heritage Review* are also available by contacting the Library staff.

### “A Sixteenth Century Prayer”

Menno Simons<sup>1</sup>

O Lord, I am assured that neither life nor death, neither angels nor principalities, nor powers, neither things present nor things to come, neither height nor depth nor any other creature shall separate us from Thy love which is in Christ Jesus. Yet I know not myself; all my trust is in Thee. Though I have drunk a little of the cup of Thy suffering, yet I have not tasted it to the bottom. For when dungeon and bonds are suffered, when death by water, fire, and sword are threatened, then will the gold be separated from the wood, the silver from the straw, the pearls from stubble.

Then do not forsake me, gracious Lord; for I know that trees of deepest root may be torn up from the earth by violence of the storm, and the lofty, firm mountains are rent asunder by the force of the earthquake. Have not Jacob and Jeremiah, the true examples of endurance, stumbled in Thy way through weakness of the flesh? Therefore, I pray Thee, blessed Lord, according to Thy faithfulness and grace, suffer me not to be tempted above that I am able to bear, lest my soul be made ashamed in eternity.

I pray not for my flesh; I well know that it is subject to suffering and death. For this alone, forsake me not in time of trial, but make a way of escape in my hour of temptation; deliver me of all my need, for I put my trust in Thee. Amen

<sup>1</sup> This prayer that John Horsch printed in *Menno Simons, his Life, Labors, and Teachings* page 75 is from Menno's *Meditation to the 25<sup>th</sup> Psalm*. It is typical of the era where many leaders wrote and printed model prayers. It is most likely done in

1539 which is only three years after Menno became an Anabaptist. He also later produced other prayers that were printed.