

## IN THIS ISSUE

In recent years scholars have uncovered seemingly endless historical evidence of Mennonite collaboration with the Nazi regime of the Third Reich. Collaboration, it appears, was widespread and seemingly universal, as story after story has come to light. How unusual and gratifying, then, to encounter the story of a Mennonite leader and several of his followers in Alsace-Moselle who openly resisted Nazification, and, furthermore, actively promoted non-violent action. In “Krémer against Hitler: A Case of Mennonite Resistance in Alsace-Moselle (1940–1945),” **Stéphane Zehr** relates just such a history. He explores a recently-discovered archival dossier in Metz and documents this “center of radical spiritual resistance to Nazism” among a group of French Mennonites. Zehr guides us through this inspiring story of courage and commitment in the face of implacable opposition, while at the same time informing us of the unique theological interpretations that informed this radical spiritual resistance.

Scholars may well ponder Zehr’s conclusion that Krémer’s remarkable story has remained untold largely because the separatist form of his Mennonite resistance did not fit with the preferred post-Bender narrative of activist “peace theology.” However this matter may be decided, there is no doubt that the story of Krémer’s radical nonviolent resistance—for all its uniqueness—deserves to be told as part of the larger, less edifying tale of positive Mennonite responses to Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich.

In the second article in this issue, “European Amish Historiography (1636/93–1937) and the Montbéliard Church Register,” **Christopher Petrovich** continues his careful and meticulous work on Amish history and thought. The research focus of this article is the *Montbéliard Mennonite Church Register*, edited and translated into English by Joe Springer, and published in 2015 by the Mennonite Historical Society. Highlighting the *Montbéliard Register* may seem an excessively narrow focus, but the *Register* is in fact the center around which the author explores wider implications for telling the story of the Amish in Europe. Following reviews and summaries of current scholarship dealing with the European Amish, Petrovich makes specific “historiographical suggestions” for creating a “fuller picture.” Here he points—although not exclusively—to the information present in the *Montbéliard Register* as a valuable historical resource that deserves wider and more systematic use. The scholarship

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As 2025 approaches, namely the anniversary year of the beginnings of Anabaptism in 1525, Mennonites and Free Church groups in Germany are publishing yearly reflections from 2020 to 2025, inspired by the Anabaptist tradition. The first interpretations were published in translation in the January 2022 issue of the *Mennonite Quarterly Review*, 103–32. The theme for 2020 was “Daring to live maturely: Baptism—Freedom of the Will—Freedom of Religion.” The theme for 2021 was “Daring to Live together: Equality—Responsibility—Autonomy.” As the third major contribution to this issue, **Leonard Gross** has translated eight articles from this second 2021 volume. The reflections of these fellow Free Church members remind us of the varied gifts and challenges we have inherited from five hundred years of a common Anabaptist tradition.

Finally, an unusual and erudite Research Note by **Martin Rothkegel** establishes the exact date of birth for the Anabaptist reformer Balthasar Hubmaier, thanks to a study of a portrait of the “Righteous Joachim,” which survives in the Kunstmuseum Basel. Hubmaier had commissioned this painting earlier in his career, but left it behind when he fled Waldshut in 1525. Text appearing on an early frame of this portrait establishes for the first time the precise dating of Hubmaier’s birth (August 16, 1485). In addition, the story is fascinating for the many details it reveals about the shift from active ecclesial iconography to the iconoclasm of the Reformed traditions. Along the way, we learn more details about this important Anabaptist reformer and martyr.

This issue concludes with several book reviews.

C. Arnold Snyder