Register of the

Wilfried J. Kramer Collection

Collection 188

Center for Adventist Research
James White Library
Andrews University
Berrien Springs, MI 49104-1440
October 2010
Processed by: Denis Kaiser
Scope and Content

This collection contains materials dealing with the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement. The Movement arose as the result of a schism over positions taken by the Adventist Church leadership on Sabbath observance and in committing Seventh-day Adventist Church members to the bearing of arms in military service. After the war a Ministerial Meeting took place at Friedensau in July 1920 with the goal of reconciling the official denomination in Germany with the people in the Reform Movement. At the meeting, in front of two hundred German pastors and representatives of the General Conference, war time German Union leaders Guy Dail, Ludwig Richard Conradi, Heinrich F. Schuberth, and Paul Drinhaus withdrew a statement concerning military service they had made during the war and apologized. The Reformers were informed of this and the next day there was a meeting of the Adventist church leadership with the Reform Adventists. General Conference President Arthur G. Daniells urged the reformers to return to the Seventh-day Adventist church but the Reform Adventists maintained that the church leaders had forsaken the truth and the reconciliation failed. In 1925, at Gotha, Germany, the "Reformers" founded the Church of the Seventh-day Adventists, Reform Movement.

In 1951 the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement had a power struggle within their ranks leading to a division of the Reform Church. One group became the International Missionary Society of Seventh-day Adventists, Reform Movement with headquarters in Mosbach/Baden, Germany. The other group took the name Church of Seventh-day Adventists, Reform Movement with their headquarters in Roanoke, Virginia, USA.

Various offshoot groups arose from the Reform Movement. Already in 1916, based upon a prophecy by Gertrud Kersting a small group of Reformed brethren celebrated the feast of tabernacles. By the end of the year they were disfellowshipped from the Reform Movement. The new movement was called Missionsvereinigung der Siebenten-Tags-Adventisten (Laubhüttenbewegung Sacharja 14:16-19) [Mission Society of Seventh-day Adventists (Feast of the Tabernacles Zech 14:16-19)].

In response to the establishment, by the General Conference, of the Deutsche Union [German Union] a group led by Joseph Bach and Julius Wolz formed the International Mission Society of the Seventh-day Adventists at Bremen, Germany. From among their followers arose the group of Adventists of the Third Part. According to their understanding Seventh-day Adventists constitute the first part of Zech 13:8, 9, the Reform Movement the second part, while they consider themselves as the faithful remnant, the third part. A clear characteristic is their rejection of owning and creating pictures, and their demand of a second tithe for poor and needy people.

Wilfried J. Kramer grew up in the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement, and served as an elder in the church in Sacramento, Calif. In 1974 he left the Reform Church and asked to become a member in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During
the following decades he did a lot of research and writing about the military question in 
Germany during World War I and World War II, the origin of the Reform Movement, the 
split into two reform movements in 1951, and unsuccessful reconciliation attempts. 
Much of that research and the resultant writings are in this collection.

The largest part of this collection was given by Kramer. Another part was given 
by a certain Mr. Kraus. No further information is available on this individual, and the 
materials in what he donated were not of a personal nature. Therefore they were 
merged with the Kramer collection since both collections deal with the same subject, i.e. 
the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement and related movements.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged according to the sources of the materials, i.e. the 
Reform Movement, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Laubhüttenbewegung, and 
the Mission Society of the Third Part. Within each section the materials are divided into 
published and unpublished materials, and they follow a chronological order. In the 
inventory that follows the notation: n.p. means no publisher indicated on the document; 
n.d. means no date indicated on the document.

Provenance

The present collection stems from two sources. First, Wilfried J. Kramer donated 
the largest part of the materials in this collection to the Andrews University Center for 
Adventist Research on January 17, 1997. Second, the other part of the materials in this 
collection was donated by a Mr. Kraus, and his materials have been in the Center since 
the 1980s in all likelihood. No further information is known about that individual. Since 
both collections dealt with the same topic and there was no personal information in the 
Kraus component, both collections were merged in October 2010 when the processing 
was undertaken on the collections. The materials that belonged to the former Kraus 
collection are marked with [Kraus] in the following inventory. All materials are 
individually cataloged and can be searched in the James White Library Catalog.

Use

All users of this collection are required to completer the “Application to Use 
Unpublished Records,” and to observe the regulation specified in the “Patron 
Agreement” and “Researcher’s Code of Conduct.” All records in this collection are 
open and available for research. Citation for this collection:

Box ___, Folder ___, Wilfried J. Kramer Collection (collection 188), Center for 
Adventist Research, James White Library, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI.
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INVENTORY

Writings

[Box 1]

Writings by the Reform Movement

Published Books and Pamphlets

no. 1  Warnung: Offenes Sendschreiben an alle 7. Tag-Adventisten (Cannstatt-Stuttgart: Freiwillige Mission Zion, [1918-1934]) [Kraus].


no. 3  Die Glaubensgrundsätze der Gemeinschaft der Siebenten-Tags-Adventisten Reformationsbewegung und ihre Gemeindeordnung (Würzburg: Generalkonferenz der Siebenten-Tags-Adventisten Reformationsbewegung, 1925) [Kraus].

no. 4  Die Ursachen der Trennung unter dem Adventvolk (Isernhagen: Missionsverlag für Glaubens- und Gewissensfreiheit (O. Welp), [1925-?]) [Kraus].

no. 5  Die Wahrheit über die Reformationsbewegung in der Adventistenkirche: Unsere Erfahrungen vor, während u. nach dem Kriege 1914 in der Adventistenkirche (Hannover-Buchholz: Missionsverlag für Glaubens- und Gewissensfreiheit, 1926) [2 copies Kraus].

no. 6  Muss es eine Reformation in der Adventistengemeinde? Gedanken und Zeugnisse über die seit 1914 eingetretene Reformationsbewegung in der Adventistengemeinde (Hannover-Buchholz: Missionsverlag für Glaubens- und Gewissensfreiheit, 1927) [Kraus].
  
  pt. 1  Heft 1 – *Sollen wir zu leicht erfunden werden?* (1927) [2 copies].
  pt. 4  Heft 4 – *Die Gemeinde–das Licht der Welt* (1928).
  pt. 6  Heft 6 – *Unsere Stellung zu der bürgerlichen Obrigkeit* (1928).
  pt. 7  Heft 7 – *Die Heiligkeit der Gebote Gottes* (1928).
  pt. 8  Heft 8 – *Die Gemeinde Laodizea* (n.d.).
  pt. 9  Heft 9 – *Die Gemeinde Laodizea* (n.d.).
  pt. 11 Heft 11 – *Ein Aufruf!* (n.d.).
  pt. 12 Heft 12 – *Übereinstimmung mit der Welt* (n.d.).
  pt. 13 Heft 13 – *Ein Aufruf an die Gemeinde* (n.d.).

no. 8  *Von der Gesundheitsreform gefallen* (Hannover-Buchholz: Missionsverlag für Glaubens- und Gewissensfreiheit, n.d.) [Kraus].

no. 9  *Erweckung und Reformation unter dem Adventvolk* (Hannover-Buchholz: Missionsverlag für Glaubens- und Gewissensfreiheit, n.d.).


no. 11  *Die Wahrheit: Gesetz und Zeugnis – Laodizea* (Basel: Gemeinschaft der S. T. A. Reformationsbewegung, [1952-?]) [Kraus].


no. 14  *The Truth about the Reform Movement in the Adventist Church: Our Experience Before, During and After the War of 1914 in the Adventist Church*, no. 3 (Kalamazoo, Mich.: Publication of Faith and Religious Liberty Ass., n.d.).
no. 15  *The Truth in the Light of the Sure Word of Prophecy*  
(Kalamazoo, Mich.: Publication of Faith and Religious Liberty Ass., n.d.).

no. 16  *The Facts Revealed: In Defense of Truth*  
(Summer Hill, New South Wales: Religious Liberty Publishing Ass., [194-]).

no. 17  *Revival and Reformation Series*, 9 nos.  
(Sacramento, Calif.: Religious Liberty Publishing Association, n.d.).

| pt. 1 | No. 1 – *The Truth about the Reform Movement in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church*. |
| pt. 2 | No. 2 – *The History of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church: Revival and Reformation Foretold*  
[Kraus]. |
| pt. 3 | No. 3 – *The Remnant and Babylon Identified*. |
| pt. 4 | No. 4 – *The Wheat and the Tares*. |
| pt. 5 | No. 5 – *Organization—Its Place in the Church of God*. |
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no. 18  *Revival and Reformation Series*, 9 nos.  

| No. 1 | *The Truth about the Reform Movement in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church*. |
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no. 19  *Reformation Handbook*  
(Denver, Co.: Religious Liberty Publishing Ass., [195-]).

no. 20  *The SDA Reform Movement: Original and Early Experiences*, Revival and Reformation, no. 14  
(Sacramento, Calif.: Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement, n.d.) [copy 2 Kraus].
no. 21  Adventist Noncombatancy, Past and Present, Candidly Reviewed (Sacramento, Calif.: Religious Liberty Publishing Ass., n.d.).

no. 22  Hans Fleschutz, ed., And Follow Their Faith! In memoriam of those in the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement who died for their faith: Testimonies of faithfulness and steadfastness during Germany’s dark days (Denver, Col.: International Missionary Society of the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement, n.d.) [Kraus].

no. 23  Commenting on the Commentary: An Eyewitness Account (Denver, Co.: International Missionary Society Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement, [ca. 1970]) [Kraus].

no. 24  Der Weg der Adventisten (Jagsthausen: Reformationsbewegung der S.T.A., [c. 1971]).

[Box 2]


no. 26  The Principles of Faith of the Seventh-day Adventist Church “Reform Movement” and Her By-Laws. Reprint of 1925 ed. (Wuerzburg: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists “Reform Movement,” n.d.).


Published Periodicals and Articles

no. 30  Wächter der Wahrheit, no. 1 (1919), [German Union] [copy 2 Kraus].

no. 31  Wahrheits-Wächter, no. 1 (1921), [American Union] [Kraus].


Unpublished Documents

no. 33 Copy of *Monitobul Oficial*, March 5, 1947, 1768 [on Nicolici affair] [Kraus].

no. 34 Documents on the New Zealand Case, Law Suit between Nicolici group and other reformers (various documents, n.p., [1947-1953]), including statements by Ellen and James White on loyalty to government and military Service [Kraus].

no. 35 “Work of Doerschler and Welp in Splitting the Movement” (excerpts from letters showing Doerschler and Welp’s view of the Reform Movement and the Movement’s reaction, [195-]) [copy 2 Kraus].


no. 37 A. Ringelberg, “What have we to expect of the Nicolici Movement since 1951?” (Unpublished manuscript, [c.1952]).


no. 40 Oscar Kramer to the Brethren and Sisters of the 1951 Reform Movement (Sacramento, Calif., 1969).

no. 41 “Statement of Principle” (letter by the International Missionary S.D.A. Reform Movement, Denver, Co., November 3, 1969) [Kraus].

no. 42 Oscar Kramer, “Reformation Study Course: Lessons 1-20” (Unpublished manuscripts, Denver, Co., 1972) [copy 2 Kraus].

no. 43 Oscar Kramer, “Some History and Some Facts About the S. D. A. Reform Movement” (Unpublished manuscript, n.p., [197-]).

no. 44 Oscar Kramer, “Auf dem Zeugenstand: Ereignisse die zu 1951 führten, Personliche Erfahrungen” (Unpublished manuscript, [c. 1978]).
no. 45  “Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement” (Unpublished manuscript, Denver, Co., n.d.) [Kraus].
	no. 46  Antonino Di Franca, Arturo Alva, Gerhard Hunger, Daniel Dumitru, Benjamin Burec, and Davi Paes Silva, “Siedelbrunn and Reisenbach Accords” (Siedelbrunn and Reisenbach, April 24 and September 23, 1991) [2 copies].
	no. 47  M. Mascera to All Members of the Reform Movement Re. Reunification (Mosbach: International Missionary Society, October 31, 1991) [2 copies].
	no. 48  “To the members of the General Conference from the Reformed Seventh-day Adventist Members in [Location of Group],” (Letter, n.p., n.d.).
	no. 49  Steinar and Marianne Myhre, “Unity in Perspective” (Unpublished manuscript, Montreal, Canada, 1994).

Writings by the Seventh-day Adventists

Published Pamphlets


no. 54  Georg W. Schubert, Reformer unter sich (Munich: G. W. Schubert, [1926-1933]) [2 copies Kraus].

no. 55  “... auf daß sie alle eins seien” (Hamburg: Gemeinschaft der Siebenten-Tags-Adventisten in Deutschland, [1965-1980]) [copy 2 Kraus].
Published Articles

no. 56  *Review and Herald*, September 13, 1864, 128 [Kraus].


[Box 3]

Unpublished Documents

no. 60 Letter by Secretary of War, giving orders regarding Joshua B. Ingalls, March 15, 1865 [Kraus].

no. 61 “Company Muster Roll for Joshua B. Ingalls” (Milwaukee, Wisc., 1865) [was detached to service as nurse by order of the president of the USA] [Kraus].

no. 62 Excerpts from the  *Review and Herald* on the draft issue by H. S. Gurney and H. S. G. Jackson (February 7 and 21, 1865) [Kraus].


no. 64 Ellen G. White, “The Triumph of the Remnant Church” (compilation, n.p., n.d.), 221-222 [Kraus].


no. 66 Carl Hoßfeld, “Unversöhnlich” (Würzburg, [1923-1930]).


no. 68 “An Open Appeal to Our Dear Reform Brethren” (n.p., n.d.) [Kraus].

no. 70  Wilfried J. Kramer, “That they all may be one...: An Appeal to Our Brethren in the Seventh Day Adventist Reformed Church” (Unpublished manuscript, Sacramento, Calif., 1978).


no. 72  “Meeting of S.D.A. Church Representatives and Representatives of the S.D.A. Reform Church Held in Reform Church, Sacramento, California, November 17-20, 1980” (Unpublished manuscript, n.p., 1980) [copy 2 Kraus].

no. 73  Holger Teubert, “Die sogenannte Reformationsbewegung: Wirklich Reformation? Handreichung” (Unpublished manuscript, Edling, n.d.); [another copy with some of the pages] [copy 2 Kraus].

no. 74  Holger Teubert, “Die Geschichte der sogenannten Reformationsbewegung der Siebenten-Tags-Adventisten” (Unpublished manuscript, Leimen, [198-]).

no. 75  Ernst Stark and Albert Müller to the Liebe Brüder der Reformbewegung, n.d., Fellbach-Stuttgart [Kraus].

no. 76  Ernst Stark and Albert Müller, “Gottes Prophetische Gemeinde: Wer und wo ist sie? (Fellbach-Stuttgart, n.d.) [Kraus].

no. 77  Wilfried J. Kramer, “Political History of the Seventh Day Adventist Reformed Church and Failed Efforts to Reunify: Reformed Church Pioneers” (Unpublished manuscript, n.p., September 15, 1994).

no. 78  Wilfried J. Kramer, “Comparison Between the Historic Record of the Seventh Day Adventist Reformed Church and the Prophetic Reformation” (Unpublished manuscript, n.p., September 15, 1994).


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<td>“Position Toward Military Service Taken by Seventh-day Adventists During the Civil War”</td>
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<td>89</td>
<td>“Thoughts on Mercy, Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Unity and Peace; and, Misunderstandings and Mistakes Leading to Separation Between the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Reform Churches”</td>
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Writings by the Laubhüttenbewegung

Published Pamphlets

no. 95  Die Gabe der Weissagung (Löwen, Silesia: Missionsvereinigung der S. T. A. [Laubhüttenbewegung], n.d.) [2 copies Kraus].

no. 96  Licht durch die Finsternis (Lüdenscheid: Missionsvereinigung der S. T. A. [Laubhüttenbewegung], n.d.) [Kraus].

no. 97  Heiliger Geist – Gottesmacht (Lüdenscheid: Missionsvereinigung der Siebenten-Tags-Adventisten [Laubhüttenbewegung], n.d.) [Kraus].

no. 98  Unterschiedliche Pflichten im theokratischen und neutestamentlichen Israel (Lüdenscheid: Missionsvereinigung der Siebenten-Tags-Adventisten [Laubhüttenbewegung], n.d.) [Kraus].

Writings by the International Mission Society of the Seventh-day Adventist Third Part

Published Pamphlets

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