Cleveland Donation

On November 8, 2007, the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University received a significant collection of original materials from Adventist pioneer evangelist, Elder E. E. Cleveland. Cleveland and his family personally came to campus to present his personal papers to the Center at a luncheon in his honor. Nearly 100 faculty and friends of Andrews attended the luncheon, hosted by Provost Heather Knight and Center for Adventist Research Director, Merlin Burt. That evening, Cleveland inspired a capacity crowd with his preaching in the Seminary Chapel.

The collection contains nearly 2000 sermon manuscripts, pictures, personal books, audio-visual materials, and other records of his ministry, as well as his wedding Bible signed by Elder Cleveland’s father, with an inscription on how the couple met, got engaged, and married in 1943.

Steven Norman, communication director for the Southern Union of Seventh-day Adventists, helped facilitate this donation. According to Norman, Cleveland lost his wife of 60 years in 2003. He faced his own mortality and wanted his materials to continue to instill ministers with a passion for evangelism, even after he is gone.

Cleveland chose the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University, because it was under the auspices of the General Conference and it teaches Seventh-day Adventist ministers from around the globe, regardless of race. Cleveland loves ministers and wants his records to be available to graduate-level students for their research, professional development and spiritual growth.

Cleveland summed up his ministry in these words: “I have seen God for so long do so much with so little, I now believe He can do anything with nothing, meaning me.”

E. G. White Issues Book

The director of the Center for Adventist Research has been asked by the White Estate Board of Trustees, to serve as editor for a new book on Ellen White issues. During the past few years several books have been published that present varying views on Ellen White’s prophetic ministry. These include such volumes as Graeme Bradford’s Prophets are Human (2004), People are Human (2006), and More than a Prophet (2006), as well as the Standish brother’s The Greatest of All the Prophets (2004). Others include those written by such self-avowed critics as Dirk Anderson’s White Out (2001), Sydney Cleveland’s White Washed (1999) and Dale Ratzlaff’s The Cultic Doctrine of Seventh-day Adventists (1996). Each of these books propose different perspectives on vital fundamental issues such as revelation, inspiration, illumination, hermeneutics, the nature, role, and authority of the prophetic gift, the relationship of the Bible to Ellen White’s writings, and the gift of prophecy in the last days. These volumes together with critical Internet sites are producing confusion for members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

This book of about 300 pages will address vital fundamental issues with contributions from about 20 scholars. Work on the new book began in 2007. In October, twelve chapters were reviewed by the Biblical Research Institute Committee held on the campus of Andrews University. The remaining chapters will be reviewed at the April 2008 meeting to be held in Loma Linda, California. The goal is for this book to be readable, but well-footnoted, and serve as a helpful reference work. It is anticipated that the book will be published in early 2009.
Hiram Craw Diaries

In November and December 2007, the Center acquired through Friends of CAR resources a significant diary collection from a prosperous nineteenth-century Adventist layman named Hiram A. Craw (1829-1911). It is now designated as Collection 268. The diary years range from 1882 to 1906 with a few gaps. Craw lived in Bowling Green, Ohio, during those years and his diaries include daily entries with weather and happenings in his life. They also include frequent references to Adventist meetings and interactions. They give a valuable insight into the day-to-day life of a prominent Adventist farmer.

Craw accepted the Advent message in 1858 and participated in the process of selecting the name Seventh-day Adventist in 1860. There are three letters from Ellen White to Craw—one written in 1899 (Letter 53, 1899) and the other two in 1904 (Letter 103, 1904 and Letter 125, 1904). All three letters are requests for money. In 1899 Ellen White asked Craw to contribute to the work in Australia and in 1904 she requested a low interest or interest-free loan for $2,000 to fund her writing activities and church mission projects. She also appealed to him to contact others who might have means to loan or contribute. Craw responded to Ellen White but declined to contribute. Instead he bought an $8,000 farm. This decision was a disappointment to both Ellen White and Percy T. Magan who had also appealed to Craw.

These valuable diaries deserve careful scholarly attention and will undoubtedly provide new insights into Adventist life and spiritual experience in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Diaries are rare and diaries of Adventist lay-people of the time are even less common. Special thanks are due our friends who provided the resources to acquire this collection.

Audio Archives

The Center for Adventist Research holds in its collection over 8,000 audio recordings. These recording include sermons, other talks or interviews, music concerts, seminars, and various other types of recordings. Most of these tapes have not yet been cataloged. The Center is preserving the analog recordings by transferring them to a digital format. At the same time, a catalog record is created with a five minute preview sound clip.

New Air for the Vault

The vault in the Center for Adventist Research will soon have a new heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) system. From the time the vault was built in 1978, it had less than ideal environmental conditions for the storage of paper. Year round it was poor—too hot and too humid. During the renovation of the Center in 2000 the vault HVAC unit was connected to the campus chilled water circuit. This helped greatly during the summer, but during the winter the humidity continued to go up as did the temperature.

This past fall, a new system to control temperature and humidity was installed. The machinery along with all water and electrical elements are now outside of the actual vault instead of being inside as in the past. The old system was a disaster waiting to happen. We will now be able to provide cooling year round and with cooling comes controlled humidity. This will go a long way to preserve the rare books, periodicals, manuscripts, and other items we keep in the vault.

We want to thank Richard Scott in Plant Administration and Paul Elder in Plant Services for their support and help in this project. We anticipate completion of the last steps in the very near future.
CHANGES IN READING ROOM

The Reading Room at the Center has had some improvements thanks to contributions from Friends of CAR. New oak bookcases were purchased to hold reference materials and locking cases to display the Ellen White library collection. Also, a new cabinet was purchased to hold the audio-visual equipment for patron use. The room was repainted to coordinate colors in the room and some new plants have been added for ambiance. Special thanks to Karen Nash for her interior design guidance.

The arrangement of the Reading Room furniture and displays was changed to improve the visitor experience. Artifacts were placed for optimum viewing and chairs were arranged so as to invite those entering the room to sit down.

Patrons often spend many hours in the Reading Room while doing research. For many years the Center has hoped to make the Reading Room a warmer more inviting environment for research. It is hoped that additional resources will be donated by our friends to further enhance the Reading Room. The Center for Adventist Research is in many ways the face of the University. People come from around the world to see the exhibits, tour the vault, and do research.

REBECCA LIU

Rebecca Liu is a PhD student at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University engaged in New Testament studies. She has a goal to one day build a seminary in China. She has “enjoyed the luxury of the Bible-based, Christ-centered teachings of the professors, and the service-oriented leadership of the university.”

As a graduate assistant at the Center she has been processing donated manuscript collections. Currently she is working on the recent donation by Elder E. E. Cleveland. Each item in the collection is carefully organized into acid-free folders and boxed, recorded in a register, and entered in the James White Library catalog. Because personal collections are one-of-a-kind they are usually kept in the vault. The Center is grateful for all the help its graduate assistants provide.

CONSERVATION ISSUES

In 2004, the Center for Adventist Research set up a modest conservation lab to do basic repair and construct protective enclosures for its various books, tracts, photographs, artifacts, and other items. So far hundreds of “phase boxes” or protective book enclosures have been constructed. Additionally, many other items have been treated by inert transparent material. Careful cleaning is sometimes done and torn paper is repaired with special conservation tape. We are pleased that this work is continuing and appreciate the help of our friends and the support of the University in providing the necessary resources.
Since last summer, activity at the Center has been robust. We have a steady stream of students and scholars doing research. Our outreach activities continue to expand. In September 2007 we had a very successful Seminary Heritage Sabbath at the Battle Creek Historic Adventist Village. Each year the number of attending seminary students and spouses has increased. We estimate that this year over 400 participated. During the summer and fall, I participated in seminars and gave presentations in Germany, Australia, Peru, and various locations in the United States. A fair bit of my time has also been used in preparing a new book on Ellen White issues. This semester is particularly busy since I am teaching three classes for the seminary.

I am pleased that our Center is making progress in organization and service. Katy Wolfer and Steve Sowder have completed the redesign of our photo database so that patrons can now view our pictures more conveniently. Many will appreciate the larger viewable images. The audio digitization project is finally progressing and will be a valuable historical resource for researchers. I am glad that we are also regularizing how we archive the Adventist Internet. It has been a technological challenge to figure out how to best to accomplish this task.

At the end of December, Jim Ford, my associate, completed the re-cataloging work and integration of White Estate books and particularly the Ellen White books. He and Camille Clayton are now beginning a “shelf read” of our books. This is necessary to make sure the books are not misplaced and are properly ordered. It has been over a decade since this was last done. Many seemingly mundane activities are necessary in operating a research center. I need to mention that we have made wonderful progress in cataloging our special collections and completing our Ellen White library project, though much work still remains to be done.

This spring and summer we are preparing for various events including our friend’s dinner in March, “Ellen White and Current Issues” Symposium in April, and Seminary New England Adventist History Study Tour in August.

I want to conclude by expressing particular gratitude to our University president and provost for their support of the Center. This fiscal year we were able to add a part-time cataloging position to at least partially compensate for the loss of a special collections librarian in previous years. The future looks bright for Adventist and Ellen White studies at Andrews University.