

Making History at the Center for Adventist Research

The James White Library at Andrews University made history this summer as two venerable Adventist research centers came together to form the Center for Adventist Research. The Adventist Heritage Center and the Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office at Andrews University existed for decades independent of each other servicing the needs of thousands of students and other researchers on and off campus. Now the two centers share the same service area thereby making research in Adventist materials easier.

The Adventist Heritage Center began in the early part of the 20th century when the EMC Library established a Heritage Room to collect and preserve materials pertinent to the study of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In 1960 the Seminary Library moved to Berrien Springs from Washington, D.C., bringing with it a strong collection of SDA related materials which greatly augmented the Heritage Room collection.

In 1966 Louise Dederen became the first full time curator for the Heritage Room which then consisted of one room occupying about 1,000 ft² on the lower level of the James White Library. Rooms were added as the collection grew. By the 1980's it had been re-named the Adventist Heritage Center, occupying more than 5,000 ft².

The Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office grew out of the Cold War tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union in the 1950s. Anxious to preserve the writings of Ellen White in case of nuclear war, the Estate began to microfilm her letters and manuscripts and store the microfilm at a site far away from Washington. When the Seminary moved to Berrien Springs, the new Seminary building included space for an Ellen G. White center, comprising a small vault and an office/study area (about 500 ft² total). Its director, Hedwig Jemison, secured permission from the White Estate trustees to allow student access to the White letters and manuscripts. In 1982 she

oversaw the move of the Branch Office to the lower level of the James White Library, where it occupied a much larger 2,000 ft² area.

The decision in 1999 to combine the two centers into one area propelled existing plans for a total renovation of the Adventist Heritage Center space. Floor space was doubled to around, 10000 ft². The two facilities share a reading room, lobby area, reception desk, and vault but maintain separate offices and storage. An attractive exhibit space is now available. While sharing space cooperatively, the two organizations remain independent entities.

According to Jim Ford, curator of the Adventist Heritage Center, the integration is logical since the White Estate concentrates on the life and ministry of Ellen White, while the Adventist Heritage Center provides a wealth of material on the church as a whole. The integration of the two makes research more convenient for users. Both centers work hard to make the research process as seamless as possible for the user.

"We see the combined facility as a real benefit to the researcher," said William Fagal, director of the Ellen G. White Estate Branch Office since 1984. "Our two organizations are already benefitting from increased interaction with each other. We believe this is a positive step in the interest of Adventist research."

The Adventist Heritage Center is the premier center for the study of Adventism with material dating from the 1400s to today. It houses more than 30,000 books, 25,000 non-book print items, nearly 2,000 SDA periodical titles, often from the first issue published to the current issue, nearly 10,000 audio-visual titles, 30,000 photographs, and more than 200 distinct manuscript collections.

The White Estate Branch Office has a complete collection of Ellen White's letters and manuscripts, many of which come from the original typing; some contain White's own handwritten corrections and additions. The office also has 20 file cabinets of "document file" material covering a wide range of topics related to

Ellen White and the history of the Church, a question and answer file, a variety of indexes, and hundreds of books by and about Ellen White and many examples of books like those she had in her personal library.

LIBRARY PEOPLE

Wolfhard Touchard is a member and chair-elect of the Michigan Library Association's Marketing and Public Relations Round Table.

After serving for 36 years in the Circulation Department of James White Library (and most recently as Head of the Department of Patron Services), Rebecca Twomley retired from active duty this past summer.

After being peer reviewed, the *Library Primer*, a web-based tutorial developed by Sabrina Pusey (Instruction Librarian, Dept of Information Services), has been selected for inclusion in the Internet Education Project of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Jess Oliver retired October 1 after being director of the Mary Jane Mitchell Multimedia Center (formerly Teaching Materials Center) in James White Library for more than ten years.

The new director of the Multimedia Center is Josip Mocnik. Josip joined the library faculty in 1999 as a cataloger, after completing a professional degree in librarianship at University College, London.

Lauren Matacio (Head, Department of Bibliographic Services) made a presentation entitled "Intellectual Freedom in Seventh-day Adventist Colleges and Universities" at the summer 2000 conference of the Association of SDA Librarians. She is presently a member of the Michigan Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Cynthia Helms (Head, Information Services) has completed four years as editor of *ASDAL Action*, and continues as an assistant editor.

The new head of Circulation services at James White Library is Paul Gregor. Paul worked at James White Library for several years while completing a doctoral degree at the Theological Seminary.

Marily Gane (Head, Department of Periodicals and Coordinator for Off-Campus Library Services) presented a paper entitled "Library Support for Distance Education" at an international conference

of Adventist educators in Washington, D.C., on June 20. Marilyn is chair of a newly formed Committee on Distance Education of the Association of SDA Librarians.

Keith Clouten (Library Director) has been elected to the six-member executive board of the new Michigan Academic Library Council. Keith will represent the interests of independent university and college libraries throughout Michigan.

JWL HOSTS INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY CONFERENCE

The 20th Annual Conference of the Association of SDA Librarians (ASDAL) on the Andrews campus, July 11-16, attracted a record gathering of Adventist librarians, including 25 from international schools. The five-day program included formal papers, business sessions, social functions and tours.

Chair of the JWL Host Committee, Linda Mack, believes that the success of the conference was greatly enhanced by the contribution and participation of librarians from all over the globe. "I personally benefitted from the wealth of interaction with librarians from so many countries and cultures," said Mack. "I believe the international involvement helped to fulfill our mission as librarians at Andrews."

Both JWL librarians and support staff were heavily involved in the success of the conference and the workshops that preceded and followed it. Those who presented advanced workshops were: Keith Clouten, Kathleen Demsky, James Ford, Cynthia Helms, Warren Johns, Linda Mack, Lauren Matacio, Sabrina Pusey, Terry Robertson and Steve Sowder.

Contributor to this issue of UNCLASSIFIED are
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