

Inventory to the Anabaptist History Collection

AR 35

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I. Historical Note

The term "Anabaptist" was applied to a number of dissenting evangelical Christian groups of the sixteenth century by their enemies. The word "Anabaptist" derived from a Greek word, which meant "to re-baptize," and one of the major commonalities of Anabaptists was a denunciation of infant baptism and an affirmation of believer's baptism. (Anabaptists asserted that infant baptism was not mentioned in the Scriptures.) Generally, they objected to the term "Anabaptists," preferring instead to be called "Christians," or "brethren."

The Anabaptist movement took root in Zurich, Switzerland in 1525. Many followers of the movement (chiefly pupils of Ulrich Zwingli) were victims of violent persecutions for decades, as other Christian groups perceived Anabaptist interpretations of adult baptism as radical. Some Anabaptist groups, however, did find refuge in Holland in the seventeenth century. In addition to their insistence on believer's baptism, Anabaptists generally also advocated congressional discipline, supported making the Bible available to all people, and stressed the importance of the Lord's Supper. Though they sought Biblical counsel in the election of persons for governmental leadership, they maintained a generally reserved attitude toward civil government activities and were therefore advocates of church and state separation. The Mennonites are the most closely related Protestant Christian denomination to Anabaptists today.

II. Scope and Content Note

The Anabaptist History Collection consists of .5 linear feet of material located in one six-inch document box. The collection contains materials dating from 1918 to 1977, the majority of which are historical articles on Anabaptists, and some of which are materials describing Anabaptist practices and beliefs. The collection also contains one file of selected bibliographic materials. The Anabaptist History Collection is an artificial collection of materials from the Baptist history file and other sources. It is arranged alphabetically.

III. Folder Listing

- 1.1 Anabaptist Statements About State Authorities
- 1.2 Anabaptists – Dutch
- 1.3 Anabaptists – Switzerland
- 1.4 Beck, Carl. “Anabaptist-Mennonite Beginnings”
- 1.5 Bibliographic Sources – Selected
- 1.6 Estep, William R., Jr. “Anabaptists and the Rise of English Baptists”
- 1.7 Estep, William R., Jr. “A Baptist Reappraisal of Sixteenth-Century Anabaptists”
- 1.8 Estep, William R., Jr. “Our Anabaptist Heritage”
- 1.9 Garrett, James Leo. “Anabaptism: A New Look and a New Appeal”
- 1.10 Hillerbrand, Hans J. “Anabaptism and the Reformation: Another Look”
- 1.11 Kirlman, Ralph Everett. “The Anabaptists”
- 1.12 Klassen, Walter. “The Anabaptist Understanding of the Separation of the Church”
- 1.13 Shurden, Walter B. “Anabaptist Vision Revisited”
- 1.14 Wagner, Gunter. “Conference on Anabaptists, 1525-1975: The Truth Will Make You Free”
- 1.15 Williams, George Huntson. “Studies in the Radical Reformation (1517-1618): A Bibliographical Survey of Research Since 1939”
- 1.16 Zuck, Lowell H. “Anabaptism: Abortive Counter-Revolt within the Reformation”