

LUTHERAN HISTORICAL CONFERENCE

NEWSLETTER

ESSAYS AND REPORTS VOLUME 20

Volume 20 of the LHC Essays and Reports series has now been printed. The volume contains the papers presented at the 2002 biennial meeting at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, under the overall theme "Re-examining Conflict and Cooperation: Implications for Current Understandings of American Lutheranism." Essays appearing in the volume are "The Ecumenical Ministry of Robert J. Miller (1758-1834)" by William P. McDonald; "Why Did He Do It? S.S. Schmucker and the Definite Platform" by Cheryl M. Peterson; "Learning to See, Learning to Answer: Women and Lutheran Higher Education" by L. DeAne Lagerquist; "The Contest for the West: Conflict and Cooperation between the General Synod and the General Council in Home Mission Efforts on the Pacific Coast" by Richard O. Johnson; "The Protestant Controversy and Its Impact" by Mark Braun; "Robert E. Lee and a Battle for Atlanta: A Lutheran Pastor Advances Civil Rights" by Carl Fiken; "The Lutheran Left" by Maria Erling; "Lutherans, Gender and Foreign Policy" by David E. Settje; and "Documenting the Edge" by Paul Daniels.

The books will be mailed to members shortly. Copies are available for \$20.00 plus shipping and handling from Concordia Historical Institute, 804 Seminary Place, Saint Louis, MO 63105-3014, e-mail: chi@chi.lcms.org.

PAPER PROPOSALS SOUGHT

Paper proposals are still being sought for the 2008 LHC Biennial Meeting, to be held at Wagner College, Staten Island, N.Y., October 11-14, 2008, on the theme "American Lutherans Engage the World." The deadline for the proposals is April 20, 2008.

North American Lutherans have maintained many ties to communities outside themselves: through continuing engagement with Lutheran homelands in Europe; through engagement with other religious groups on this continent; and through engagement in mission and ecumenical contacts outside of North America. These forms of engagement might also include the ministries of social service outreach, disaster relief, and work with newer immigrant communities. Paper proposals for this conference should examine some aspect of North American Lutheran history as it pertains to one or more of these three kinds of engagement. The focus will be on the interaction between North American Lutherans and the wider world, and how these interactions strengthened, challenged, diversified, or directed the development of North American Lutheran communities. Paper proposers should include a brief statement of how they envision their papers fitting into the conference theme.

Younger scholars or first-time presenters who have an interest in some aspect of North American Lutheranism are particularly encouraged to submit proposals.

To propose papers, or for additional information, please contact the program chair:

Mark Granquist
Luther Seminary
2481 Como Avenue
St Paul, MN 55108
mgranquist001@luthersem.edu
651-641-3489

Volume 46, No. 1
February 2008

ISSN 0460-0274
<http://luthhist.org>

Inside this issue:

Book review 2

CHI shelving 3

New Resources 3

BOOK REVIEW: *MY WINGS AT SUNSET: LIVING A DREAM*

My Wings at Sunset: Living a Dream, a memoir

by Robert E. A. Lee

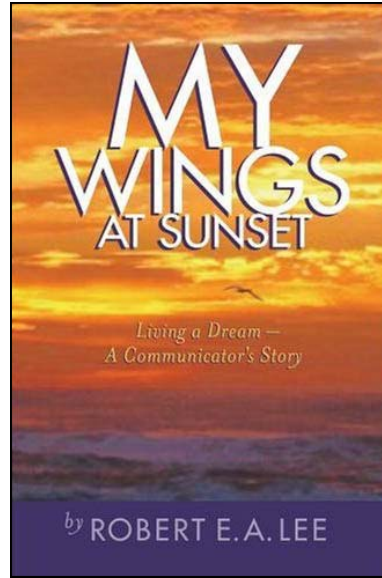
Reviewed by Paul Enger, playwright and former CBS News Writer

As the cover of Lee's book states, these are the emotional, intellectual and spiritual remembrances of one man's full and colorful life. Carrying him from his birth in southern Minnesota to his present writing life in New York, the book is consistently absorbing. However, what sets it apart from most contemporary memoirs is its affirming, Christian message.

Lee devoted much of his career to the Lutheran church, as director of communications for the Lutheran Council in the USA and as head of Lutheran Film Associates. He produced such seminal films as *A Time for Burning*, *Question 7*, and

The Joy of Bach and managed the international distribution of *Martin Luther*. For most of his 40 years serving the Lutheran Church, first in Minneapolis and then in New York City, the author developed broadcast, film, and public relations projects. As a writer, speaker, and producer, Lee became known in ecumenical circles, including both the LCMS and predecessor bodies to the ELCA.

His accomplishments are recorded in this memoir with candor, humor and pride. But he never lets the reader forget that it is his Christian faith that both sustains and enlightens him. He interrupts his narrative at one point to spend an entire chapter on his "Faith-based Life." What I found most inspiring was that he does not preach or sugar-coat his message. Instead, he writes convincingly that "I live by the principle that my faith is not something I chanced upon or swallowed gullibly or earned, but something that comes as a gift from God.



How? I don't understand how. But I have been helped by my mentor Martin Luther who wrote in his sixteenth century catechism, 'I believe that I cannot by my own reason and strength believe, but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel and enlightened me with his gifts.'" (p74)

This is not to suggest that he neglects other aspects of his life. Far from it. He recounts charmingly his Minnesota boyhood, his World War II experience as a U.S. Navy pilot, his meeting with and marriage to the woman who became his wife of many years and whose life and death he reported in a previous book, *Dear Elaine*. Lee also tells about his six children, four daughters and two sons, their multiple achievements, and how important they are in his life. This, too, adds to the book's inspiring feeling. Forget the current vogue in stories about dysfunctional families. This is a family that is loving and close – and very functional.

The title, *My Wings at Sunset*, derives from what Lee calls a "typical 1940s pop-style song that followed us through the years and became a standard in our private family repertoire." (p3) The full lyrics and musical notation are included in the book, plus samples of poetry that Lee has written in recent years, as well as brief biographies of people who have influenced him, his "Gallery of Mentors," as the chapter is entitled. Fittingly, Lee's acknowledgments at the end of the book sum it best: "I save most gratitude for the Lord whom I love and trust. Thank you, dear God." (p176)



In a "gesture of friendship across the Atlantic," a trophy representing the German Film Prize of 1962 for the film, *Question 7*, one of 22 awards won by the film, was transferred a decade later to the American producers by their German counterparts. Dr. Johannes Stuhlmacher of Stuttgart, (right) manager of Matthias-Film presented the award, in the form of a silver band, to Robert E.A. Lee (left), executive secretary of Lutheran Film Associates, who commissioned the movie, and Lothar Wolff, the producer who was formerly affiliated with Louis de Rochemont Associates.

CHANGES AT CHI



The Concordia Historical Institute has completed the installation of a new Spacesaver compact mobile shelving system that increases its capacity for storing archival collections by over 6,500 cubic feet. This alleviates a storage crunch that the Institute has been dealing with for several years. The new system was installed in the Institute's existing building by converting lower level museum exhibit and storage space. The other phase of the Institute's current expansion project is the development of a permanent museum on the history of the LCMS at the church's International Center in Saint Louis. That project is presently in the design phase.

NEW RESOURCES

The American Theological Library Association's project to index meta-data for three older Lutheran journals into the Religion Database (RDB) is complete. Data from the *Lutheran Church Review*, *Lutheran Church Quarterly*, and *Lutheran World Review* were imported, creating a total of 2,547 article records and 110 issue records for the three serials. The records were scheduled for a January release to the vendors who make the RDB available.

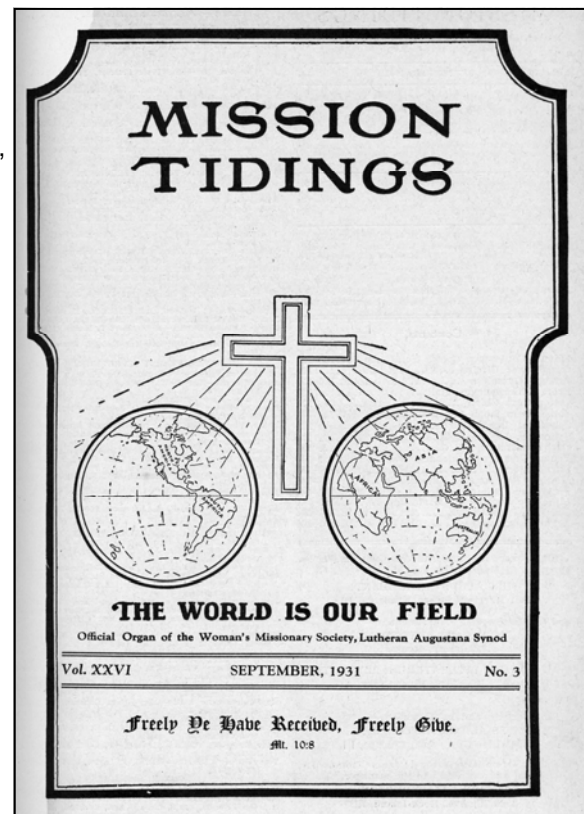
Authority work was performed on all author names, making names consistent with ATLA's authority records whenever they existed. Subject headings were concatenated into numbered keyword strings and put into a general note field. Extended notes were put into a separate field.

The indexing on 3x5 cards had been done some years ago at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and were converted by Karl Krueger at LTSP to Excel files and made available to ATLA.

Through a grant-funded project of the American Theological Library Association, *Missions-Tidning /Mission-Tidings*, the official organ of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Augustana Lutheran Synod has been microfilmed. Published in Swedish and English from 1906-1958, the microfilm consists of 10 reels. In addition, successor publications *Lutheran Women's World* (1959-1960) and *Lutheran Women* (1960-1962) were also microfilmed. For additional information on these publications, see www.atla.com/atla-home.html. An on-line catalog of publications can be found under "Preservation."

Several of the periodicals of women's organizations for the other predecessors of the Lutheran Church in America and The American Lu-

theran Church have been microfilmed through ATLA or from Primary Source Media: www.galegroup.com/psm/.



Joel Thoreson, Editor
Newsletter
Lutheran Historical Conference
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 W. Higgins Rd.
Chicago, IL 60631



BOOK REVIEWS

Those interested in contributing book reviews or wish to suggest a book, please contact David Settje at David.Settje@CUChicago.edu.

Each review should be between 500 and 750 words long, be sent as a MS Word document or in a compatible format, and evaluate specifically the book and its Lutheran content/context.

WHAT WILL THE NEXT LHC NEWSLETTER CONTAIN?

This newsletter will be able to fulfill its intended purpose as a clearinghouse of information for archivists, historians and librarians only if **you** provide material for it.

Please send material for publication to the editor. Items of interest to readers will include notice of research in progress, new appointments, publications,

meetings and celebrations planned or held, bibliographical materials and generally anything of interest to LHC members.

Although all submissions are welcomed, the editor cannot promise to print everything received. The LHC Newsletter is issued four times a year: February, May, August and November. The November issue includes the annual

“Index of Writings in the Field of American Lutheranism.” The deadline for each issue is the 15th of the month prior to each issue. Please send items to:

Joel Thoreson
ELCA Archives
8765 W. Higgins Rd.
Chicago, IL 60631,
FAX: 773-380-2977
Joel.Thoreson@elca.org

FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

Deadline: April 15, 2008